

Written Answers to Questions

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Written Answers to Questions

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 9 May 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Childcare: Financial Support

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the proposed financial support for 8,000 registered childcare places is sufficient to meet the need.

(AQO 5999/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The Bright Start School Age Childcare Grant Scheme aims to create or sustain up to 7,000 school age childcare places in low cost social economy settings. These will begin to address current unmet need for school age childcare services.

We estimate that creating or sustaining 7,000 childcare places could require up to £15 million in grant payments over the next three and half years. However, the actual amount paid will depend on the number and quality of applications received over the three and half years that the Grant Scheme will operate. The School Age Childcare Grant Scheme will be kept under review and its performance will inform future initiatives in this area.

A second Grant Scheme, to create up to 1,000 new rural childminder places, is currently in development. The development process will establish the level of financial support required to deliver the proposed number of childminder places.

Barroso Task Force

Ms Boyle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what steps are being taken to ensure that the work of the Barosso Task Force continues after President Barosso steps down from the Presidency of the European Commission.

(AQO 6001/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: There can be no doubt that we have benefited significantly from the work of the Taskforce since its establishment in 2007.

Its report initially provided a clear roadmap on how to maximise the benefits of European engagement. Through the Commission members of the Taskforce, we have gained access to the key decision-takers in Europe at the highest level and have secured participation of European Commission officials throughout the period in events to promote the interests of the region.

While we cannot assume that the precise architecture of this unique arrangement will remain in place following the departure of President Barroso, we will nonetheless work to ensure that the network of support within the Commission remains active and continues to assist us in promoting our interests in Europe. We will also use every opportunity to acknowledge with incoming Commissioners, the ongoing benefits of the Taskforce and the need for continued support through structured arrangements.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Regulations on Fishing for Baits by Trawling

Mr Milne asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to clarify the regulations on fishing for baits by trawling, particularly the mechanisms by which the nets can be pulled.

(AQW 33062/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Trawling of a bait net is not currently permitted on any inland fishery in my Department's jurisdiction.

Commercial eel fishermen on Lough Neagh raised concerns with my Department regarding the effectiveness of the current legislation on the operation of bait nets. As a result my Department has commissioned AFBI to carry out a research programme, in conjunction with the Lough Neagh Fishermen's Co-operative Society and licensed eel fishermen, to establish if the current regulations are fit for purpose.

In order to take this work forward, my Department will authorise commercial eel fishermen, monitored by AFBI scientists and my protection staff, to trawl bait nets under the provisions of a Permit issued under Section 14 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966.

AFBI will require data to be recorded by the fishermen and after analysis will provide advice to my Department on the effectiveness of the current regulations.

Any changes to regulations will be based on the scientific advice and will strike a balance between the protection of fish stocks and the importance of the commercial eel fishery to communities around the Lough shores and the local economy.

City of Culture Capital Legacy Projects

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the City of Culture capital legacy projects that will benefit from the £2m investment at the Daisyfield and Showgrounds in Derry.

(AQW 33120/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am committed to sport being a key element of the social and economic legacy from City of Culture 2013 which extends across the North West of Ireland.

Legacy projects and plans for investment at the Daisyfield and Showgrounds in Derry are at an early stage of development and a Business Case is currently being developed by Derry City Council which must demonstrate value for money and meet my Department's priorities around promoting equality; and targeting poverty and social exclusion.

I am making a bid to the Executive to secure funding over the 2014-16 financial years to maximise the impact and sustainable legacy of City of Culture. This will include harnessing the transformative power of sport to tackle poverty and social exclusion and improve the lives of people and communities across the North West.

Daisyfield and Showgrounds in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail when the Letter of Offer was issued to Derry City Council for the City of Culture capital legacy projects at the Daisyfield and Showgrounds, Derry.

(AQW 33207/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: As the legacy projects and plans for investment at the Daisyfield and Showgrounds in Derry are at an early stage of development, no Letter of Offer has been issued to Derry City Council.

A Business Case is currently being developed by Derry City Council which must demonstrate value for money and meet my Department's priorities around promoting equality; and targeting poverty and social exclusion.

Department of Education

Schools in North Down: Mobile Classrooms

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools in North Down are using mobile classrooms compared to 2010.

(AQW 33028/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The South Eastern Education and Library Board does not normally hold historic detail in relation to the number of mobile classrooms however in 2009 the Department provided this information. 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
April 2009	34	12	46
April 2014	34	16	50

Pre-School Places: Ballycastle

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education how many children in the Ballycastle area were not offered a pre-school place in the last round of applications.

(AQW 33037/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The North Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that, of the 90 children who applied at stage one of the pre-school application process for a place in a pre-school setting in the Ballycastle area, two remained unplaced at the end of stage one on 4 April.

Places remain available in the area for stage two of the process and parents of unplaced children were invited to submit further preferences by 30 April.

For 2012/13 and 2013/14 admissions 99.8% of children whose parents stayed with the process were offered a funded place in a setting they had requested.

Letters advising the outcome of stage two will be issued on Friday 30 May 2014.

Eco-Schools Project

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the Eco-Schools project.

(AQW 33090/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Programmes such as the Eco-Schools programme play an important role in fostering environmental awareness and action for future generations. The Eco-Schools programme is supported by the Department of the Environment whose mission is to protect and improve the environment in the north of Ireland.

My Department is committed to playing its part in tackling climate change and increasing awareness of environmental issues. This includes incorporating Education for Sustainable Development across all key stages of the curriculum.

The Eco-Schools programme provides one way of delivering this aim.

All five Education and Library Boards have been working with local councils to promote and support Eco-Schools and 1,151 schools are currently enrolled on the programme. In total, 197 schools have been awarded the Green Flag, which demonstrates the highest level of achievement in the programme; 493 schools have achieved a Silver award and 650 schools have received a Bronze award.

Appointments to Public Bodies

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education to detail the community background of the appointments he has made in the last two years to public bodies sponsored by his Department.

(AQW 33093/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The community backgrounds of those I have appointed to public bodies sponsored by my Department in the last two years are as follows:

Community Background	Number
Protestant	11
Roman Catholic	12
Neither Protestant nor Roman Catholic	1
Not Known	2
Total	26

Schools in North Down: Links with Employers

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education which schools in North Down have ongoing links with employers.

(AQW 33142/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education does not hold information on how many schools have ongoing links with employers as this is a matter for individual schools to determine.

Employability is a key theme underpinning the revised curriculum which aims to prepare our young people for all aspects of life and work enabling them to develop as confident and articulate individuals, able to play their full part in society and our economy. I am aware that a lot of excellent business education work and STEM enrichment activity takes place directly between schools and local businesses, some of which have developed into sustainable local relationships.

The contribution of the business sector in helping in the development of our young people and working with our delivery partners is significant both in terms of in-kind staff time and expertise and in providing financial support. I recognise the role of employers is invaluable in providing careers information and advice to teachers and young people in our schools. In my engagement with business and its representative bodies, I regularly encourage them to engage directly with schools, to share their knowledge and expertise.

Pupils Who do Not Have English or Irish as a First Language

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Education how many primary school pupils do not have English or Irish as their first language.

(AQW 33153/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Figures collated from the 2013/14 school census indicated that there are 9,730 pupils in primary schools and preparatory departments (including nursery units and reception) that do not have English or Irish as their first language. This represents 5.7% of the overall primary school population.

Pupils Who do Not Have English or Irish as a First Language

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Education to list the primary schools in each Education and Library Board area which have (i) between 20 and 30; (ii) between 31 and 40; and (iii) more than 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language.

(AQW 33155/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The schools are as follows:

BELB

- (i) Between 20 and 30 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Cliftonville Integrated Primary School
 - Cranmore Integrated Primary School
 - Dundela Infants School
 - Harding Memorial Primary School
 - Ligoniel Primary School
 - St Michael's Primary School, Belfast
 - St Patrick Primary School, Belfast
 - St Teresa's Primary School, Belfast
 - St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Belfast
 - Victoria Park Primary School
- (ii) Between 31 and 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Forge Integrated Primary School
 - Seaview Primary School, Belfast
 - Strandtown Primary School
- (iii) More than 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Avoniel Primary School
 - Botanic Primary School
 - Elmgrove Primary School
 - Euston Street Primary School
 - Fane Street Primary School
 - Finaghy Primary School
 - Hazelwood Primary School
 - Holy Family Primary School, Belfast
 - Holy Rosary Primary School, Belfast
 - Nettlefield Primary School
 - Rosetta Primary School
 - St Anne's Primary School, Belfast
 - St Bride's Primary School, Belfast
 - St Joseph's Primary School, Belfast Holland Drive
 - St Joseph's Primary School, Belfast Slate Street
 - St Malachy's Primary School, Belfast
 - St Mary's Primary School, Belfast Divis Street
 - St Matthew's Primary School, Belfast

- St Paul's Primary School, Belfast
- Stranmillis Primary School

WELB

- (i) Between 20 and 30 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Londonderry Model Primary School
 - St Lawrence's Primary School, Omagh
 - St Oliver Plunkett Primary School, Strathfoyle
 - St Patrick's Primary School, Castleberg
 - St Ronan's Primary School, Lisnaskea
- (ii) Between 31 and 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Enniskillen Model Primary School
 - Gibson Primary School
 - Oakgrove Integrated Primary School
 - Omagh Integrated Primary School
 - St Mary's Primary School, Strabane
- (iii) More than 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Christ the King Primary School
 - Good Shepherd Primary School and Nursery School
 - Holy Family Primary School, Omagh
 - Holy Trinity Primary School, Enniskillen
 - Lisnagelvin Primary School
 - Omagh County Primary School

NEELB

- (i) Between 20 and 30 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Antrim Primary School
 - Irish Society's Primary School
 - Millburn Primary School
 - St Bernard's Primary School, Newtownabbey
 - St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymoney
 - St Mary's Primary School (Glenview)
- (ii) Between 31 and 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:
- Round Tower Integrated Primary School

- St John's Primary School, Coleraine
- St Nicholas' Primary School, Carrickfergus
- St Patrick's Primary School, Rasharkin
- St Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn
- St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor

(iii) More than 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Ballymena Primary School
- Glengormley Integrated Primary School
- Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt
- Mount St Michael's Primary School
- St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena
- St Colmcille's Primary School, Ballymena
- St Comgall's Primary School, Antrim
- St James' Primary School, Newtownabbey
- St Joseph's Primary School, Antrim
- St Malachy's Primary School, Belfast

SEELB

(i) Between 20 and 30 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Brooklands Primary School
- Brownlee Primary School
- Dunmurry Primary School
- Fort Hill Integrated Primary School
- Hollywood Primary School
- Lisburn Central Primary School
- St Bernard's Primary School, Belfast
- St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor
- St Finian's Primary School, Newtownards
- St Ita's Primary School, Belfast
- St Patrick's Primary School, Ballynahinch
- St Patrick's Primary School, Hollywood
- Victoria Primary School, Newtownards

(ii) Between 31 and 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Bangor Central Primary School
- Pond Park Primary School

(iii) More than 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Cairnshill Primary School
- Dundonald Primary School
- Harmony Hill Primary School
- St Aloysius Primary School, Lisburn

SELB

(i) Between 20 and 30 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Dromore Central Primary School
- Hardy Memorial Primary School
- Howard Primary School
- Kilkeel Primary School
- Portadown Integrated Primary School
- St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Keady
- St Jarlath's Primary School, Dungannon
- St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy
- St Patrick's Primary School, Coalisland
- St Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore

(ii) Between 31 and 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Cloughoge Primary School
- Lurgan Model Primary School
- Seagoe Primary School
- St Dallan's Primary School, Warrenpoint
- St Malachy's Primary School, Armagh
- St Malachy's Primary School, Carnagat
- St Patrick's Primary School, Rooney's Meadow
- St Ronan's Primary School, Newry
- Windmill Integrated Primary School

(iii) More than 40 pupils who do not have English or Irish as their first language:

- Armstrong Primary School
- Ballyoran Primary School
- Bocombra Primary School
- Carrick Primary School
- Cookstown Primary School
- Drumgor Primary School
- Dungannon Primary School
- Edenderry Primary School, Portadown
- Hart Memorial Primary School
- Holy Trinity Primary School, Cookstown
- King's Park Primary School
- Millington Primary School

- Mount St Catherine's Primary School
- Presentation Primary School
- Primate Dixon Primary School
- St Anthony's Primary School, Craigavon
- St Brendan's Primary School, Craigavon
- St Clare's Convent Primary School, Newry
- St Colman's Abbey Primary School, Newry
- St Francis Primary School, Lurgan
- St John the Baptist Primary School, Craigavon
- St John's Primary School, Moy
- St Joseph's Convent Primary School, Newry
- St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge
- St Patrick's Primary School Dungannon, Killyman Rd
- St Patrick's Primary School, Armagh
- Windsor Hill Primary School

Source: school census

Note:

- 1 Figures include nursery units, reception and year 1 – 7 classes.

Primary Schools: Foreign National Immigrant Families

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Education how many primary schools have (i) between 20 and 30 per cent; and (ii) more than 30 per cent of their total pupil numbers drawn from foreign national immigrant families.

(AQW 33156/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold data specifically on pupils from foreign national immigrant families. The data used instead to answer this question relates to pupils that do not have English or Irish as their first language.

Figures collated from the 2013/14 school census indicated that there are 25 primary schools (including nursery units and reception) with between 20 and 30 percent of pupils that do not have English or Irish as their first language, and 14 schools with more than 30 percent. There are 839 primary schools and preparatory departments in total.

School Leavers: Further Education

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of school leavers in each constituency who entered Further Education in each year between 2008 and 2012.

(AQW 33162/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Please see the following table.

NUMBER OF SCHOOL LEAVERS WITH A DESTINATION RECORDED AS FURTHER EDUCATION BY CONSTITUENCY OF PUPIL RESIDENCY 2008 TO 2012

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	No.	%								
Belfast East	358	34.4	313	32.1	303	31.7	301	30.0	331	36.1
Belfast North	321	23.2	388	32.4	384	30.6	424	33.6	342	29.7
Belfast South	240	22.2	217	21.3	221	20.7	216	21.6	271	27.3
Belfast West	373	25.9	385	27.3	360	26.5	328	25.3	371	29.3
East Antrim	264	22.6	365	30.4	315	28.0	322	28.6	327	29.7
East Londonderry	432	34.7	369	30.3	415	34.6	410	34.0	482	39.3
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	338	25.5	390	30.4	421	32.4	377	29.1	401	30.0
Foyle	483	29.3	436	26.9	451	30.7	469	29.9	540	35.7
Lagan Valley	298	24.8	316	27.7	304	26.3	361	30.4	372	32.7
Mid Ulster	402	28.9	424	31.8	454	33.5	388	27.0	364	28.1
Newry And Armagh	566	35.8	587	38.4	588	38.2	629	38.5	660	41.8
North Antrim	417	31.2	511	37.4	489	38.8	512	37.6	505	38.3
North Down	340	31.9	372	38.0	338	35.9	324	36.9	377	40.6
South Antrim	448	36.4	457	36.4	456	37.2	396	31.1	462	36.9
South Down	358	22.8	472	32.5	483	32.5	501	32.4	467	31.7
Strangford	420	38.0	399	36.7	467	44.8	486	44.3	462	42.2
Upper Bann	637	40.0	716	44.5	645	42.2	608	40.7	573	38.2
West Tyrone	305	23.6	312	24.7	359	28.2	407	32.3	418	33.4
Missing or Invalid Postcodes	107	27.2	123	37.0	97	33.8	81	35.1	83	34.4

Source: School Leavers Survey

Underachievement within the Controlled Schools Sector

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Education what investment he has made, or intends to make, to address the levels of underachievement within the controlled schools sector highlighted in the recent Community Relations Council Report (Nolan Report) 3rd Peace Monitoring Report.

(AQW 33164/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I welcomed the recent report of the Community Relations Council, which features the educational underachievement of working class Protestant boys, and the debate it has generated.

I have said many times that our education system continues to fail too many young people. The attainment gaps are simply unacceptable and I am working hard to tackle this inequality wherever it exists.

In March, I announced changes to the way schools are funded by redistributing funding to target schools with high numbers of pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and I have injected a further £10 million specifically targeting social deprivation into school budgets from April 2014.

Additional funding is being made available to specific programmes to address educational underachievement in schools. These include £15.56million over three years on the Delivering Social Change programme to provide additional teaching support to pupils at risk of underachievement; £2million over the next two academic years for a literacy and numeracy Continuing Professional Development Key Stage 2/3 project; and an additional £500,000 per annum over three years to further support Area Learning Communities develop effective approaches to improving literacy and numeracy levels amongst disadvantaged pupils.

I have also targeted substantial resources towards disadvantaged communities through a number of programmes. These include the Sure Start programme, the Community Education Initiatives Programme and the Extended Schools and Full Service programmes. I am also funding the Greater Shankill Partnership Board through the West Belfast (Shankill) Community Project and the Community Education Initiatives Programme to provide educationally focussed support to children resident in the area, this funding is approximately £120,000 per year for two years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

International reports tell us that we need to have a socially balanced school system to enable all pupils to perform better. However, while some schools persist in the use of academic selection, we will be unable to achieve this.

There are also wider societal issues to be addressed that education authorities and schools cannot tackle on their own.

Temporary Classrooms: East Londonderry

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 32823/11-15, what steps he will take to reverse the increase in temporary classrooms in schools in the East Londonderry constituency.

(AQW 33169/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I do not have any targets or timescales for reducing the number of temporary classrooms in the schools estate in the East Derry constituency. I must utilise all means at my disposal to ensure the capital infrastructure is in place to support the educational needs of pupils. This may include the provision of good quality modular buildings as a way of addressing accommodation deficiencies within a relatively short timescale.

I would emphasise that statutory approvals such as planning and building control require modular accommodation to be provided to the same building performance standards as that of permanent builds.

I would add that in considering projects for inclusion in any major capital investment programme the undue reliance on temporary accommodation within schools is taken into account.

Euston Street Primary School

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Education what additional support he is offering Euston Street Primary School to take the school beyond the Intervention Stage.

(AQW 33185/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When a school enters the Formal Intervention Process it is the responsibility of the school's Board of Governors to prepare and implement an action plan to address the areas for improvement identified by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). In taking this work forward the school will be supported by the local Education and Library Board and, in the case of catholic maintained schools, the CCMS.

In the case of Euston Street Primary School, a team of Belfast Education and Library Board officers (BELB Support Team) has worked with the school to prepare and agree an action plan which has been submitted to the Department for quality assurance by the ETI. The BELB Support Team will also support the school in implementing the action plan covering the three areas for improvement identified in the inspection report – raising standards; learning and teaching; and leadership and management.

In addition to the support being provided by the BELB Support Team there is potential for the school further to improve the quality of education provided, through its participation in a number of programmes. These include Achieving Belfast and a parenting programme and maths recovery programme provided through the BELB. The school has also been provided with an additional teacher funded through the Delivering Social Change Programme.

The school is also registered to participate in the SEN CPD Literacy project from September 2014 and is participating in the Certificate of Competence in Educational Testing (CCET) Pilot both of which are being funded by the Department.

The school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement identified in the inspection in November 2013 will continue to be monitored by ETI. A follow-up inspection will take place within 12 to 18 months of the original inspection.

It is hoped that, through the work taken forward by the school staff and the Board of Governors, supported by the BELB, the quality of provision will have improved by the time the follow-up inspection takes place.

Schools: Shared Designation

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education to outline the minimum criteria which must be met before a school can be designated as shared.

(AQW 33186/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There are no plans to designate a school as 'shared'.

The Programme for Government 2011-15 includes commitments to substantially increase the number of schools sharing facilities and to ensure all children have the opportunity to participate in shared education programmes by 2015.

Consequently all schools should be engaged in shared education.

Gortnagarn and Tyrcur Primary Schools in County Tyrone

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education whether, before closing Gortnagarn and Tyrcur Primary Schools in County Tyrone, he will model, cost and consider options to retain a sustainable rural school in that area through pooling resources between both of these schools and Dunmullan Primary School.

(AQW 33291/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Planning of the maintained and controlled schools' estates falls to the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Education & Library Boards, respectively. It is for CCMS and the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) to bring forward proposals for the schools concerned.

Any significant change in the character or size of a school is governed by the statutory Development Proposal (DP) process. A pre-publication consultation exercise must be carried out before a decision is taken by the Managing Authority on whether or not to proceed with publication of a DP. Should the decision be to publish, there follows a further two-month consultation period.

The process concludes when I make my decision, taking account of all relevant issues and comments received.

I note that no DP has yet been published for any of these schools. I would suggest that the schools' Boards of Governors actively engage with CCMS and WELB. Should innovative solutions be brought forward, I will consider them in the context of the best educational interests of the pupils.

Department for Employment and Learning

University of Ulster, Magee: Additional Places

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether the 1000 additional places at the University of Ulster, Magee will be available by 2015.

(AQW 33041/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): Since taking office I have been able to allocate an additional 652 undergraduate places to the University of Ulster and the University has undertaken to deploy the places at its Magee campus. Meeting the One Plan 1,000 additional place target depends on funding being made available to my department. As I have stated before, I am committed to achieving the One Plan target of 1,000 additional places at Magee by 2015 and I will take every opportunity to seek additional resources in order to bring this about.

Day Care Provision

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning when the transitions inter-departmental working group, which was established to address gaps in day care provision, will meet parents and carers in East Antrim.

(AQW 33044/11-15)

Dr Farry: The transitions interdepartmental working group is considering gaps in the provision of post school services for young people with a severe learning disability.

The group, which my Department is chairing, plan to meet with stakeholders, including parents and carers, as part of its work within the next 4 weeks.

Careers Services

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he has had any discussions with his counterparts in the rest of the UK on the introduction of legislation for the provision of a statutory duty for careers services.

(AQO 6055/11-15)

Dr Farry: On 31st March I announced details of the review of careers which my Department is conducting jointly with the Department of Education. The terms of reference for the review, which will report later in the year, include a commitment to consider the need for a statutory duty for careers services.

My officials through the Four Countries Careers Policy Forum have had some discussions on this matter. This dialogue will continue as part of the careers review and include Ministerial discussions as required.

I plan to raise the issue with my Ministerial colleagues at our next meeting in June.

Further and Higher Education

Mr McAleer asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on his efforts to widen further and higher level education in rural areas.

(AQO 6043/11-15)

Dr Farry: I am committed to ensuring that further and higher education opportunities are available to all who have ability, regardless of their background or location.

Further Education Colleges offer a varied education curriculum which people can access through their main campuses and network of approximately 500 community outreach centres. My Department offers a range of incentives to encourage participation in rural areas. These include a Home to College transport scheme for full-time students under 19 years. For students over 19, means tested college hardship funds and further education awards can provide a student up to £3,500 per annum in addition to assistance with childcare costs.

I support the delivery of higher education in the further education colleges to provide local opportunities for people, including those already in the workforce, to obtain the higher level skills which will benefit the local economy and society. Since December 2011, I have approved an additional 377 full-time higher education places in the colleges.

There are also around 6,500 part-time higher education enrolments. My Department does not place a cap on part-time higher education places, which provides a very viable route into higher education in rural areas.

In Graduating to Success, my Department's strategy for Higher Education, I am committed to making higher education more accessible by offering wider geographical access. My Department, in co-operation with the higher and further education sectors, is developing pilot schemes for the creation of university bases at two further education colleges.

This will provide the opportunity for higher education students to undertake distance learning with access to university materials and resources they need on a planned basis. The pilots will take place in the 2014/15 academic year and, subject to the outcome of a review of the pilots, other colleges will provide access to university resources in subsequent years.

Irish-Speaking Community

Ms Ruane asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department meets the needs of the Irish speaking community.

(AQO 6045/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department is committed to meeting the needs of all its clients. To facilitate those clients who wish to conduct business in Irish, my Department adheres to the requirements of the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages.

Charter signatories are obliged to report regularly on their level of compliance with the Charter to a Committee of Experts. The Northern Ireland contribution, including that of my Department, forms part of the wider United Kingdom compliance report and is compiled by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

As part of its commitment to the Charter, my Department has Codes of Courtesy in place, which outline our offering to customers who wish to conduct their business in Irish. This includes providing written correspondence in Irish where the correspondent has communicated in Irish to the Department and published materials can be translated into Irish if requested.

In addition, my Department can make available interpreters to facilitate face-to-face meetings as well as having available an Irish voicemail phone service.

Further Education colleges currently deliver a range of Irish language courses, including short courses and accredited courses, such as GCSE and A-Level. In addition, four colleges list their mainstream Irish language provision on the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's Líofo website.

Higher Education courses are currently being delivered through the medium of Irish at Queen's University, the University of Ulster and St. Mary's University College. Courses include a Diploma in Irish Language, Bachelor's Degree in Irish Language, Master's Degree in Irish Translation and an Irish Medium Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

University of Ulster: Shared Campus

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what consultation he has had with the University of Ulster regarding the creation of a shared and neutral environment on the Jordanstown campus.

(AQO 6044/11-15)

Dr Farry: Departmental officials have been informed by the University of Ulster that it is currently developing a good relations policy, in conjunction with the Students Union. The policy will cover a number of areas including political expression, culture, language and dress code and will apply across all its campuses.

The Good Relations Working Group and the Students' Union are due to meet this month to agree the policy.

The Equality Commission NI advises that, although in a number of contexts an employer will have set dress requirements for staff, such requirements are not normally the practice in further and higher educational settings. However colleges and universities will wish to ensure that students are advised of the commitment to a welcoming environment and that any policies which place restrictions on clothing are proportionate, reasonable and capable of justification.

The Equality Commission recommends that service providers, including universities and colleges, aim to ensure that their premises are a welcoming and harmonious space for both workers and students alike, that everyone is treated with dignity and respect and that people are encouraged to be, and are, respectful and tolerant of all cultures and identities.

University of Ulster: Veterinary College

Ms McCorley asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the proposed establishment of a veterinary college within the University of Ulster.

(AQO 6046/11-15)

Dr Farry: The University of Ulster has proposed the establishment of a school of veterinary medicine and surgery at its Coleraine campus. The university is currently preparing an economic appraisal to support its proposal and until this is complete I am not in a position to give an assessment. The expectations are that the university will complete this work and submit a full appraisal in the coming months.

Student Finance

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how section 3 of the PN1 application for student finance in 2014/2015 complies with the Belfast Agreement in terms of the rights of people to be identified and accepted as Irish citizens.

(AQO 6047/11-15)

Dr Farry: Northern Ireland domiciles may apply for student support: tuition fee loans or student contribution charge, maintenance grants, maintenance loans and special support allowances, to attend designated Higher Education courses in Northern Ireland, Great Britain or the Republic of Ireland.

Provided the student would ordinarily be resident in Northern Ireland on the first day of the first academic year of their course, and that they have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands for the previous three years, they may apply.

Section two of the PN1 application form asks the student to provide their Nationality details and students can declare themselves and apply for student support irrespective of whether they indicate their nationality as British or Irish.

I can also confirm that an acceptable identification document to submit with the application form would include a United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland passport, a birth certificate, adoption certificate or Biometric Residence Permit.

The amount of student support a Northern Ireland domicile will receive is not affected by whether they state they are British or Irish.

Section three of the PN1 application form is devoted to Residency, which is a complex area of student finance eligibility and legislation. Certain students who do not fall within the definition set out earlier in my answer may be entitled to student support.

The use of terms such as UK national, European Union national and European Economic Area national are pivotal to assessing the eligibility and calculation of student financial support.

The questions contained in Sections two and three of the PN1 application form taken together are to ensure a Northern Ireland student with a Republic of Ireland passport will receive their entitlement to both tuition fee and maintenance support whereas Republic of Ireland students as EU nationals are entitled by EU law only to tuition fee support.

Apprenticeships

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what steps he intends to take to encourage small and medium sized enterprises to engage with apprenticeship schemes.

(AQO 6048/11-15)

Dr Farry: In January 2014, I published the interim report and consultation on the review of apprenticeships, which comprises 32 proposals which offer the potential to fundamentally reshape our skills landscape, putting employers at its heart.

Small businesses account for approximately 98% of total businesses within Northern Ireland. Given the business structure of our economy, it is important, therefore, that such businesses are supported and incentivised to engage comprehensively with apprenticeships, to ensure that our future model achieves our aspirations and ambitions in supporting economic growth and prosperity.

The proposals were subject to a 12 week consultation which finished recently. The responses will be used to help inform final policy proposals for apprenticeships, for full implementation in 2016.

In the interim period, my Department will be piloting a range of interventions and support, aligned to the final policy proposals, to test a range of concepts to help ensure we have the right support for businesses, including small and medium sized enterprises to employ apprentices. Informed by international best practice, this may include:

- a central service to promote and support apprenticeship provision;
- expansion of apprenticeships across a greater range of sectors and occupations; and
- a range of incentives to support employers, particularly SMEs and micro businesses, to participate in apprenticeships.

Consideration will also be given to the following interventions:

- upfront payment on apprentice start up and achievement;
- Apprenticeship Training Agencies/Group Training Agencies/Shared Apprenticeship Schemes;

- over training with larger employers training more apprentices than they need to meet the needs of the supply chain;
- Public/Private Partnerships; and
- incentives and interventions to encourage greater participation.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Hydraulic Fracturing: Tamboran

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given her statement to the Assembly on 15 October 2013 that hydraulic fracturing was a novel and controversial issue and was a matter for the Executive as a whole to decide on, why her Department awarded Tamboran an extension to their licence terms without first seeking Executive approval.

(AQO 6056/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The five year Initial Term of Tamboran's Petroleum Licence has not been extended.

My Department has granted an amendment to the work programme in Part 1 of the Licence to allow Tamboran to complete necessary technical work, before they decide whether or not they wish to drill an exploration well.

The administration of petroleum licensing is a matter for DETI. There is no requirement to bring to the Executive an amendment to a Petroleum Licence.

No licence for fracking has been issued.

Any hydraulic fracturing will require planning permission and an Environmental Impact Assessment.

It is in the best interests of the Northern Ireland economy to find out the extent and value of our natural resources.

Cerberus Capital Management

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline any discussions she has had with Cerberus Capital Management and others on the development of sites covered by the loans included in their recent purchase of the National Asset Management Agency property loan portfolio.

(AQO 6066/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have not met or had discussions with Cerberus Capital Management.

Energy Infrastructure

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how the £2.9 million of financial assistance from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme for the Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency energy project will help towards finding a cost-effective solution for our energy infrastructure.

(AQO 6065/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Interreg supported Storage Platform for Integration of Renewable Energy project seeks to identify cost effective and efficient energy storage on a domestic, commercial and utility scale.

Any research that may ultimately assist businesses ensure their own security of energy supply as well as decrease their overall costs is to be welcomed.

On a utility scale Compressed Air Energy Storage offers a potential additional energy technology to complement the Northern Ireland Executive policy objective of forty percent renewable power generation.

InvestNI: Research and Development Spend

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding is allocated by Invest NI to assist companies with research and development.

(AQO 6064/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI offers a wide range of R&D schemes designed specifically to help companies of all sizes and all stages of their development to engage in R&D activities.

Invest NI has a Programme for Government target to support three hundred million pounds of investment in R&D.

As at September 2013, Invest NI's most recently published figures, it has supported two hundred and seventeen million pounds of investment in R&D during this current Programme for Government, and is clearly well on target to meet and potentially exceed its PfG target.

Single Electricity Market

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she has participated in the discussions leading to the newly drafted proposals for the high level design of the Single Electricity Market.

(AQO 6067/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department's remit is energy policy, not the design of markets. Proposals for redesign of the Single Electricity Market to meet the objectives of integration with other European markets have been brought forward by the Single Electricity Market Committee. My Department and the Department for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the Republic of Ireland, developed the governance arrangements under which this work is proceeding. Both Departments will implement, as required, any legislative requirements to underpin new market arrangements.

Harland and Wolff

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what financial support her Department provides to Harland and Wolff.

(AQO 6068/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Harland and Wolff has received no financial assistance from Invest NI in the last three years.

Sprucefield Retail Park

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of Intu Properties plc becoming the new owners of Sprucefield Retail Park, for her assessment of the opportunities to secure investment and create jobs at this location.

(AQO 6069/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Policy responsibility for the Retail Sector cuts across at many Departments. While my Department is not directly involved in retail I welcome all opportunities which promote investment in the local economy and which support sustainable job creation and economic growth.

Department of the Environment

Planning Application E/2013/0093/F

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment whether planning application E/2013/0093/F includes the use of any fracking or hydraulic fracturing as part of the application.

(AQW 33116/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): Planning application E/2013/0093/F seeks permission for the temporary works of drilling an exploratory borehole to approx 2700m depth to investigate underground strata for hydrocarbon exploration under DETI license PL3/10 issued to Rathlin Energy Ltd. The application also includes road widening of the Kilmahamogue Road and ancillary site works.

The application does not propose high volume unconventional hydraulic fracturing.

However at the extended testing phase, should the operator have difficulty obtaining the natural flow of the gas/oil, a conventional hydraulic stimulation fracture may need to be conducted.

Conventional hydraulic stimulated fracture is distinctly different from unconventional shale gas fracturing.

A shale gas fracking operation is multiple fracking zones over a significant length through a horizontal section in the shale requiring a significant amount of equipment, water and high pressure.

By comparison conventional hydraulic stimulation has been common practice in the industry over many years and would only be carried out if the oil or gas production rate was poor during previous flow tests.

A conventional hydraulic stimulation test would likely be done over a small interval circa 2365m to 2480m depth which is the prognosed depth of the lower carboniferous sandstone.

The volumes of fluid to be used (115 cu m) may be compared to those specified by the European Commission in their definition of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (1000 cu metres per stage or 10,000 cu. m. per well) to which the recent recommendation paper on the 'Exploration and production of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) using high volume hydraulic fracturing in the EU' (Jan 2014) applies.

Following a review of this aspect of the scheme DOE Planning Officials are content that this development constitutes a conventional borehole and is not for the unconventional exploration of hydrocarbons, neither does it propose to use any unconventional testing techniques

The Department is currently in the process of reviewing the additional information and screening the proposal against the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2012 for an Environmental Impact Assessment requirement. The application will be subject to the full scrutiny of the environmental and planning process and at this time no decision on the planning application has been taken.

As the Minister responsible for the environment, my position is clear. Granting permissions relating to unconventional fracking operations will take place only when it has been supported by very strong evidence that indicates that fracking is safe for public health and the environment. Given the scale of ongoing worldwide research, I believe it would be reckless and irresponsible to do otherwise.

Ards Borough Council: Exploris

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the procedures in place to ensure that approvals for additional support for Exploris are finalised by the Executive, given that the deadline imposed by Ards Borough Council is the end of May 2014.

(AQW 33191/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I remain committed to my department funding all reasonable costs associated with running the seal sanctuary. I have circulated a draft paper seeking Executive views on the proposed business

case for the future development of Exploris. The Executive is aware of the end of May time frame in respect of Ards Borough Council.

Moorland

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has a record of moor land. **(AQW 33227/11-15)**

Mr Durkan: My Department does not have a record of moorland as it is not a technical term used in environmental legislation. It is often used to refer to unenclosed land in the uplands that includes a range of different habitat types.

My Department has an inventory of a range of upland habitats defined using terminology set out in Biodiversity Priority Habitats or Habitats Directive Annex I habitats, including Upland Heathland, Blanket bog and Montane Heath which lies within areas broadly defined as moorland but which may include priority habitats. A copy of this can be obtained by contacting the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on 02890 569 637.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Civil Servants: Redundancy

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many Civil Servants have been made redundant in each of the last 5 years.

(AQW 32459/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The number of civil servants who have been made redundant in each of the last 5 years is provided in the table below:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number made redundant	2	0	153	261	134

These figures include two Voluntary Exit Schemes; 508 staff left the Northern Ireland Prison Service and 39 Planners left the Department of the Environment. The other three redundancies during the five year period were outside of DOE and the Northern Ireland Prison Service Voluntary Exit Schemes.

Owners of Empty Residential Properties

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether there is any rate relief or other financial support available for the owners of empty residential properties.

(AQW 33054/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: There are a number of exclusions from rates that apply to owners of empty residential properties. They each provide 100% relief and only one of them is time bound i.e. newly built homes that have never been occupied.

The following exemptions are automatic:

- rateable capital value under £20,000;
- a newly built home that has never been occupied.

If the date the property was first shown on the valuation list or completed is between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2012, the exclusion period is 42 months (the exclusions came in to operation and were first applied from 1 October 2011).

If the date the property is first shown on the valuation list or completed is after 31 March 2012, the exclusion period is 12 months.

The following exemptions are not automatic and have to be claimed:

- the empty home cannot be legally occupied;
- the empty home cannot be occupied due to the actions of a public body;
- the empty home is a listed building;
- the empty home is an historic monument;
- the owner is the personal representative of a deceased person;
- the owner is subject to a bankruptcy order;
- the owner is a trustee under a deed of arrangement;
- the owner is a company in administration;
- the owner of a property is a liquidator;
- the owner is the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission;
- the owner(s) are in care (nursing home, residential care or hospital);
- the owner(s) are in detention;
- the owner(s) have made a successful application to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive under the terms of Special Purchase of an Evacuated Dwelling (SPED) scheme.

Stormont Estate: Dogs on Leads

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the rationale for requiring dogs to be on leads at all times in the Stormont Estate.

(AQW 33135/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Stormont Estate Management Team have been experiencing problems with free running and unsupervised dogs. In order to address this and make the Estate a welcoming place for all visitors to appreciate and enjoy, a large fenced area just off the Prince of Wales Avenue has been allocated for dogs to exercise off lead. In all other areas they are required to be on lead and under control.

Vacant Office Space: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the amount of vacant office space in the North Down constituency.

(AQW 33141/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: My Department does not hold the information requested.

Regulation of Legal Services

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in relation to the regulation of legal services, what mechanisms exist to compel any solicitor to provide a breakdown of costs to their clients when issuing a bill for services rendered.

(AQW 33251/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Article 71D of the Solicitors (NI) Order 1976, as amended, provides that a solicitor's bill will be sufficient in form if it contains a reasonable statement or description of the services rendered, with a lump sum charged there for, together with a detailed statement of disbursements. However, the court or the taxing master can by order require a detailed bill to be provided.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Western Health and Social Care Trust Staff: Pay

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 32546/11-15, (i) how many Western Health and Social Care Trust staff were not paid correctly on 25 April 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 33007/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): At this moment in time, HSC payroll statistics for April are being reviewed and final information is not available on the number of staff and their breakdown by grade who were not paid correctly on 25 April 2014 in the Western HSC Trust and how many of those may be due to a repeat of the situation where staff were not paid correctly on 27 March 2014. I can confirm that all HSC Trusts have had some staff who did not receive their correct salary on 25 April 2014.

Whilst the vast majority of staff in the HSC have been paid correctly, there have been problems for some staff in receiving the correct pay and expenses, particularly in relation to allowances rather than basic pay. In addition a system issue regarding national insurance contributions has emerged at the start of the new tax year and work is ongoing with the supplier to ensure it is fixed and that there is no reoccurrence of this problem.

The anomalies have resulted in the requirement to implement a range of measures to improve matters – this includes running additional payment cycles to make good any underpayments and where this has not addressed the problem (for example hardship), then emergency payments can be issued. The April pay run was supplemented by an additional payroll cycle with payments reaching staff accounts on 2 May 2014 or 6 May 2014. Additionally, my Department has approved further expert support for the HSC payroll functions over the coming months. This will provide additional resource to help with the familiarisation of the new HRPTS system and will also help payroll staff and managers develop solutions to staff queries.

I have requested that the BSO and HSC Trusts take all necessary steps to redress any loss experienced by staff. Therefore, if staff have suffered losses (e.g. bank charges and failed direct debits) as a result of not receiving net pay and allowances as expected, 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 should be agreed between staff and the HSC employer.

Western Health and Social Care Trust Staff: Pay

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to Western Health and Social Care Trust staff not receiving their correct salary on 25 April 2014. whether this is as a result of a repeat of the situation where staff were not paid correctly on 27 March 2014; and if so, how this error occurred, given that he stated that a range of measures had been taken to address the situation.

(AQW 33008/11-15)

Mr Poots: At this moment in time, HSC payroll statistics for April are being reviewed and final information is not available on the number of staff and their breakdown by grade who were not paid correctly on 25 April 2014 in the Western HSC Trust and how many of those may be due to a repeat of the situation where staff were not paid correctly on 27 March 2014. I can confirm that all HSC Trusts have had some staff who did not receive their correct salary on 25 April 2014.

Whilst the vast majority of staff in the HSC have been paid correctly, there have been problems for some staff in receiving the correct pay and expenses, particularly in relation to allowances rather than basic pay. In addition a system issue regarding national insurance contributions has emerged at the

start of the new tax year and work is ongoing with the supplier to ensure it is fixed and that there is no reoccurrence of this problem.

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Alcohol and Drug Dependency

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent addressing alcohol and drug dependency in each Health and Social Care Trust area, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 33015/11-15)

Mr Poots: Due to the disproportionate cost involved, it is not possible to disaggregate the amount of funding specifically allocated towards addressing alcohol and drug dependency by each Trust area in each of the last ten years.

Approximately £8 million is allocated each year through my Department's mental health services budget towards statutory addiction treatment services, delivered by Community Addiction Teams based in all five Health and Social Care Trust areas.

A further £8 million per year is allocated by my Department under the cross-departmental New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 towards prevention, education, early intervention, and treatment and support initiatives aimed at tackling alcohol and drug misuse in Northern Ireland.

Plain Packaging for Tobacco Products

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions his Department has had with Her Majesty's Government and the devolved health departments on the issue of plain packaging for tobacco products.

(AQW 33021/11-15)

Mr Poots: DHSSPS officials meet regularly with their counterparts from the Department of Health (London) and the other Devolved Administrations through the Four Nations Group on Tobacco Control. Recent discussions have focused on standardised packaging and the potential for any regulations on this issue to be made on a UK-wide basis, subject to Ministerial agreement.

Following publication of the Chantler review into the impact of standardised packaging on public health on 3 April, the Department of Health (London) announced plans for further public 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 my agreement, in principle, 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 Northern Ireland 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.

Payroll Systems in the Health Service

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he will address the issue of payroll systems in the Health Service; and for an explanation for the cost of the system and the delay in its implementation.

(AQW 33032/11-15)

Mr Poots: All the Trusts have introduced the new Human Resources, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence (HRPTS) system over the last year and whilst the vast majority of staff in the HSC have been paid correctly, there have been problems for some staff in receiving the correct pay and expenses, particularly in relation to allowances rather than basic pay. In addition a system issue regarding national insurance contributions has emerged at the start of the new tax year and work is ongoing with the supplier to ensure it is fixed and that there is no reoccurrence of this problem.

I am extremely concerned that some staff have not received their pay correctly. I have requested that the BSO and Trusts take all necessary steps to redress any loss experienced by staff and to ensure that lessons are learned for the future.

I would also note that the BSO and Trusts have already implemented a range of measures to improve matters – this includes running additional payment cycles to make good any underpayments and where this has not addressed the problem (for example hardship), then emergency payments have also been used.

Additionally, my Department has approved further expert support for the HSC payroll functions over the coming months. This will provide additional resource to help with the familiarisation of the new HRPTS system and will also help staff develop solutions to staff queries.

The approved capital expenditure for implementation of the new Human Resources, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence (HRPTS) system is some £21.1m. Whilst all HSC bodies are currently on the new system, implementation delays occurred due to the need for successful completion of the user acceptance testing (UAT) phase of the project, successful operation of related system interfaces and an elongation of implementation plans, in order to better support the roll out to individual Trusts.

Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment System

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether a review of, or a replacement for the Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment system is planned.

(AQW 33033/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment (SOSCAR) system was introduced in the early 1990s and continues to exist as the main electronic records repository for Social Services.

While there is not an on-going formal 'review' of the system, it has been subject to continuous development since its implementation, taking account of advances in information technology.

In line with the Transforming Your Care Recommendation 94 (the introduction of a single robust community information system), work is on-going in each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts, in conjunction with the Health and Social Care Board and Business Services Organisation, to continue to improve information storage and retrieval systems to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Nursing Homes: Admissions

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what direction he has given to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust in relation to the admission of full-time residents to (i) Pinewood Nursing Home, Ballymena; and (ii) Roddens Nursing Home, Ballymoney.

(AQW 33035/11-15)

Mr Poots: The non admission policy, currently in place in a number of Health and Social Care Trusts, is currently being reviewed by the Health and Social Care Board. The HSC Board is also in the process of analyzing responses to the recent consultation document "Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People". I will consider the Board's review of admission policies alongside the final consultation report when I receive it in the early summer.

New Build for Castle Tower Special School

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 32657/11-15, whether his Department will financially support this proposal.

(AQW 33038/11-15)

Mr Poots: The decision regarding the installation and financial support for a hydrotherapy pool at Castle Tower Special School is one for the Education sector.

The Northern HSC Trust understands that the Department of Education are planning for the new build Castle Tower Special School in Ballymena to include a hydrotherapy pool.

The Health and Social Care Board currently commission the Northern Trust Physiotherapy Service to deliver physiotherapy, which includes hydrotherapy, in Beechgrove School, which is part of the Castle Tower Campus.

Presently, the Northern Trust provide a total of 27.5 hours of physiotherapy to children who benefit from hydrotherapy. This comprises both physiotherapy and physiotherapy assistant hours.

The Trust's Physiotherapy Service will continue to offer this level of support if the decision is made to build a new pool.

Consultant-Led Maternity Unit at the Causeway Hospital

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is security of tenure for the consultant-led maternity unit at the Causeway Hospital.

(AQW 33045/11-15)

Mr Poots: The provision of services at the Causeway Hospital is a matter for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust; however, the Trust has advised me that it has no plans to change the current maternity service provided in the Causeway Hospital.

Health Service Staff: Pay

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff within the Health Service are paid in Euros; and for what reason.

(AQW 33050/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that all Health Service employees are paid in sterling.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: Fampridine

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what engagement his Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence regarding their clinical review on the use of fampridine to increase mobility in Multiple Sclerosis patients.

(AQW 33060/11-15)

Mr Poots: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is a Non Departmental Public Body tasked with producing national guidance on good clinical practice and the cost-effective use of NHS resources in England. On 1 July 2006, the Department established formal links with NICE whereby all Clinical Guidelines and Technology Appraisals published by the Institute from that date would be reviewed for their applicability to Northern Ireland (NI) and, where appropriate, endorsed. This arrangement has ensured access to up-to-date, independent, professional, evidence-based guidance on

the value of health care interventions. The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) commissions MS drug treatments in line with these NICE guidelines.

Fampridine is currently not under consideration within the NICE Technical Appraisal work programme. In instances where there is no explicit advice from NICE the HSCB takes into consideration guidance issued by other recognised appraisal bodies. In this context it should be noted that the use of this therapy is not recommended for use by the Scottish Medicines Consortium and the NHS England Commissioning Board recently issued its Commissioning Policy in April 2013 advising that this therapy would not be routinely funded for use within its licensed indication.

In these circumstances I would not expect to see this treatment routinely commissioned in Northern Ireland.

Sarcoma Cancer

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any research projects related to the sarcoma family of cancers which have already received funding from his Department; and whether he has any plans to make funding available for research into the causes and treatment of sarcoma.

(AQW 33065/11-15)

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, including sarcoma, 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

Slievemore Nursing Unit in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the decision to allow 18 statutory care homes to remain open is extended to Slievemore Nursing Unit in Derry; and whether further admissions can be made to the unit.

(AQW 33073/11-15)

Mr Poots: Slievemore Nursing Unit is not a statutory residential care home and therefore was not subject to the regional residential home process and subsequent consultation on the Health and Social Care Board document "Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People".

The Western Health and Social Care Trust advise that the current staffing levels meet the assessed needs of the patients currently in Slievemore.

Slievemore Nursing Unit in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether staffing levels have been reduced at Slievemore Nursing Unit in Derry.

(AQW 33074/11-15)

Mr Poots: Slievemore Nursing Unit is not a statutory residential care home and therefore was not subject to the regional residential home process and subsequent consultation on the Health and Social Care Board document “Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People”.

The Western Health and Social Care Trust advise that the current staffing levels meet the assessed needs of the patients currently in Slievemore.

Health and Social Care Trusts Staff: Pay

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Health and Social Care Trusts had staff who did not receive their correct salary on 25 April 2014.

(AQW 33079/11-15)

Mr Poots: At this moment in time, HSC payroll statistics for April are being reviewed and final information is not available on the number of staff and their breakdown by grade who were not paid correctly on 25 April 2014 in the Western HSC Trust and how many of those may be due to a repeat of the situation where staff were not paid correctly on 27 March 2014. I can confirm that all HSC Trusts have had some staff who did not receive their correct salary on 25 April 2014.

Whilst the vast majority of staff in the HSC have been paid correctly, there have been problems for some staff in receiving the correct pay and expenses, particularly in relation to allowances rather than basic pay. In addition a system issue regarding national insurance contributions has emerged at the start of the new tax year and work is ongoing with the supplier to ensure it is fixed and that there is no reoccurrence of this problem.

The anomalies have resulted in the requirement to implement a range of measures to improve matters – this includes running additional payment cycles to make good any underpayments and where this has not addressed the problem (for example hardship), then emergency payments can be issued. The April pay run was supplemented by an additional payroll cycle with payments reaching staff accounts on 2 May 2014 or 6 May 2014. Additionally, my Department has approved further expert support for the HSC payroll functions over the coming months. This will provide additional resource to help with the familiarisation of the new HRPTS system and will also help payroll staff and managers develop solutions to staff queries.

I have requested that the BSO and HSC Trusts take all necessary steps to redress any loss experienced by staff. Therefore, if staff have suffered losses (e.g. bank charges and failed direct debits) as a result of not receiving net pay and allowances as expected, 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 should be agreed between staff and the HSC employer.

Admissions to Statutory Residential Homes

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 25912/11-15, (i) when the Southern Health and Social Care Trust will recommence permanent admissions to statutory residential homes, including Crozier House; and (ii) when Skeagh House will reopen.

(AQW 33086/11-15)

Mr Poots: The non admission policy, currently in place in a number of Health and Social Care Trusts, is presently being reviewed by the Health and Social Care Board. The Board is also in the process of analyzing responses to the recent consultation document “Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People”. I will consider the Board’s review of admission policies alongside the final consultation report when I receive it in the early summer.

As you are aware Skeagh House was evacuated on 27 March 2013 as a result of a landslip and associated risk. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust have advised that a date for reopening Skeagh House can't be considered as the site is subject to an ongoing engineering assessment. The Trust are keeping the situation under review pending advice from the Engineers and Legal Advisors.

Cancelled Surgical Procedures

Mrs Dobson asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of surgical procedures cancelled by each Health and Social Care Trust, in each month of the last three years, due to the unavailability of Intensive Care beds.

(AQW 33179/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department holds information on the reasons for cancelled operations from April 2012 onwards. The number of surgical operations cancelled by each Health and Social Care Trust, in each month of the last two years, due to the unavailability of Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit beds is given in the table below.

Month	HSC Trust					Northern Ireland Total
	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	
Apr-12	0	0	1	0	0	1
May-12	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jun-12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug-12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sep-12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct-12	0	0	1	0	1	2
Nov-12	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dec-12	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jan-13	0	2	0	2	0	4
Feb-13	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mar-13	0	0	0	0	3	3
Apr-13	0	0	4	2	0	6
May-13	0	1	1	1	0	3
Jun-13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-13	0	0	1	0	0	1
Aug-13	0	0	1	0	1	2
Sep-13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct-13	0	0	3	1	0	4
Nov-13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec-13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-14	0	0	1	1	0	2
Feb-14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-14	0	0	0	0	0	0

'Who Cares? The Future of Adult Care and Support in Northern Ireland' Consultation

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Who Cares? The Future of Adult Care and Support in Northern Ireland consultation, including the action his Department is taking to progress it.

(AQW 33233/11-15)

Mr Poots: The six month consultation on the discussion document "Who Cares? The Future of Adult Care and Support in NI", concluded on 15 March 2013. The Department received 185 responses and over 600 people attended public meetings and focus group events held to facilitate engagement. A report analysing the consultation responses was published on the DHSSPS website on 14 August 2013 and can be accessed at the following link: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/who_cares_consultation_analysis_report.pdf.

"Who Cares?" was the first of a three stage process to reform adult care and support. My Department is currently taking forward the second stage, which will see the development of proposals for reform, taking into consideration the issues raised during the Who Cares? consultation. These proposals, which will be subject to full public consultation, will extend both to changes to the type of support that should be available and how those services are funded.

Department of Justice

Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland: Reporting Restrictions

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32496/11-15, whether this will be extended to other non-sexual allegations/charges in which reporting restrictions and/or anonymity orders have been granted.

(AQW 33009/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): Since 6 February 2014, the Lord Chief Justice's Office has reviewed all reporting restrictions and anonymity orders made by the courts.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Anti-Social Behaviour Orders have been (i) sought; and (ii) granted at Dungannon Court in each of the last two years to date, broken down by (a) Crown Court; (b) Magistrates Court; and (c) Youth Court.

(AQW 33010/11-15)

Mr Ford: The most up-to-date statistics from the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service show that there have been no applications for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order and no Anti-Social Behaviour Orders made at the Crown Court, Adult Magistrates' Court or Youth Magistrates' Court in Dungannon during either 2012 or 2013.

Night Custody Officers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what disciplinary action was taken against senior staff and management who approved and monitored the policies and arrangements for Night Custody Officers on duty at the time of the death in custody of Colin Bell.

(AQW 33012/11-15)

Mr Ford: This information has been withheld as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

Reoffending by Prisoners

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice to detail the rates of reoffending by prisoners in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 33016/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice does not hold a continuous series of reoffending information for the period in question. However, in 2011, reoffending rates were provided for the Department of Justice's Consultation on a Review of Community Sentences. In this paper the one-year reoffending rate for those adults discharged from prison or the YOC into the community during 2007 was reported as 38.1%.

My Department is currently revising the methodology used to calculate reoffending analysis, bringing it more in line with established methodology in England and Wales. This new series will begin by producing one year reoffending information for a cohort of offenders given a community disposal or released from custody during the 2010/11 financial year. It is anticipated that this information will be published in Summer 2014, and annually thereafter.

PSNI Service Medal

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32873/11-15, when Royal Assent for the PSNI service medal will be sought.

(AQW 33019/11-15)

Mr Ford: Royal approval will be sought for the proposal to create a PSNI service medal upon successful conclusion of the following steps: completion of the ongoing review of the proposal by the Police Service of Northern Ireland; support of the revised proposal by the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Department of Justice, the wider policing family and the Secretary of State; and, finally, approval from the Honours and Decorations Committee.

Animal Welfare Legislation

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the review of the implementation of Animal Welfare legislation, as agreed by the Assembly on 31 March 2014.

(AQW 33025/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development has given a commitment to review the implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, and I have given my full co-operation and support to that review.

The terms of the review are currently being developed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and my officials will support the review as required.

Desertcreat College Development

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice what lessons have been learned in relation to procurement following the events surrounding the proposed police and fire training facility at Desertcreat, and what changes have been, or will be, made.

(AQW 33052/11-15)

Mr Ford: The procurement process for the Northern Ireland Community Safety College is still underway. While difficulties were encountered during the preferred bidder stage, the Programme Board remains committed to the development of the college at Desertcreat and is currently re-evaluating the project to ascertain how best to move this forward.

The current procurement process includes the option to seek tenders from the five shortlisted companies on a price only basis, a pre-determined option available where the preferred bidder process is not successfully concluded.

The Programme Board will reflect on any lessons learned from the experience of this project to inform the way forward and, as appropriate, seek to disseminate this learning to wider procurement exercises.

Voluntary Redundancy Package

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 32729/11-15, to quantify the financial amounts involved in the voluntary redundancy package.

(AQW 33058/11-15)

Mr Ford: As indicated previously the amounts paid were not enhanced and reflected the normal compensation payment due under the pension arrangements. The information requested is personal to the post holder under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Night Custody Officers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why there has been a disparity in the case of the death in custody of Colin Bell, given that there was considerably more than the one night custody officer on duty at the time in question with eight officers recommended for dismissal but later reinstated and to detail why this option was not made available to the prosecuted night custody officer.

(AQW 33100/11-15)

Mr Ford: Following on from the internal disciplinary procedures which recommended that staff under investigation following the death in Custody of Colin Bell should be dismissed, an arrangement to convene an Independent Panel to consider the appeals of these staff was made in agreement with the Prison Officers Association, Northern Ireland Prison Service Senior Management and the Labour Relations Agency. The Independent Panel heard all the appeals, including that of the prosecuted Night Custody Officer. There was, therefore, no disparity.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) have been handed down per court division in each of the last five years to date; and of these, how many have (i) never been breached; (ii) been breached once; and (iii) been breached more than once, broken down by the date the ASBO was imposed and when thereafter any breach occurred.

(AQW 33102/11-15)

Mr Ford: The number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders made, split by County Court Division and calendar year is presented in Tables 1 to 5 below. The tables also contain information on the number of individuals that were given an ASBO and the number of these individuals that (i) never breached an ASBO (ii) breached an ASBO on one occasion and (iii) breached an ASBO on more than one occasion.

TABLE 1: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS MADE DURING 2009¹

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Belfast	9	8	1	2	5
Londonderry	0	0	0	0	0
Antrim	9	8	1	1	6
Fermanagh and Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Armagh and South Down	2	2	1	1	0
Ards	6	6	2	2	2
Craigavon	3	3	1	1	1
Total	29	27	6	7	14

TABLE 2: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS MADE DURING 2010¹

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Belfast	7	7	6	0	1
Londonderry	0	0	0	0	0
Antrim	8	8	5	0	3
Fermanagh and Tyrone	2	2	1	0	1
Armagh and South Down	3	3	2	1	0
Ards	6	5	1	3	1
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0
Total	26	25	15	4	6

TABLE 3: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS MADE DURING 2011¹

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Belfast	13	12	9	0	3
Londonderry	0	0	0	0	0
Antrim	2	2	0	1	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Armagh and South Down	2	1	1	0	0
Ards	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	1	1	1	0	0
Total	18	16	11	1	4

TABLE 4: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS MADE DURING 2012¹

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Belfast	4	4	2	1	1
Londonderry	0	0	0	0	0
Antrim	5	4	2	1	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh and South Down	0	0	0	0	0
Ards	3	3	3	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	11	7	2	2

TABLE 5: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS MADE DURING 2013^{P1}

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Belfast	4	4	4	0	0
Londonderry	1	1	0	1	0
Antrim	1	1	1	0	0
Fermanagh and Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0

Court Division	Number of ASBOs made	Number of individuals given an ASBO	Number of individuals who never breached an ASBO	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO once	Number of individuals who breached an ASBO more than once
Armagh and South Down	0	0	0	0	0
Ards	2	2	2	0	0
Craigavon	3	3	3	0	0
Total	11	11	10	1	0

Source: Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS)

P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change

1 Breaches presented in the tables may relate to an ASBO made in a previous year.

Identification of the time intervals between the granting of an ASBO and subsequent breaches of an ASBO would incur a disproportionate cost.

Legal Aid Bill

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he will give further consideration to percentage costs being built into cases where Legal Aid has been granted in an effort to off-set the overall Legal Aid bill, similar to the case as detailed in the Northern Echo on 8 April 2014 in which following conviction a youth was sentenced to a nine month referral order, as well as paying £85 costs plus a £15 victim surcharge.

(AQW 33103/11-15)

Mr Ford: I do not propose at this stage to give further consideration to percentage costs being built into cases where legal aid has been granted, but I will keep the position under review. In my response to your earlier question, AQW/28637/11-15, I indicated that enforcing the payment of further costs would come at a cost to the fund which is currently unknown.

The High Court has ruled recently that, where a defendant defaults in the payment of a monetary penalty he must be given the opportunity to attend a hearing to make whatever representation he considers appropriate when imprisonment is being considered. Where a defendant has insufficient funds to pay for his own representation at this hearing he would be entitled to legal aid. In many cases the cost of representation at the hearing could significantly outweigh the amount to be recovered.

Night Custody Officers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, following the sentencing of a former night custody officer for misconduct in public office in relation to the death in custody of Colin Bell and given the remarks of His Honour Judge Patrick Lynch QC at Craigavon Crown Court, particularly on “systemic failures” within the Northern Ireland Prison Service and that other prison staff failed to notice the inmate making a ligature; and given that former night custody officer had been due to work a twelve hour shift in the observation pod with no allowance for a break and having never previously monitored the safer cell and received an “inadequate briefing” about Colin Bell’s circumstances, to explain why no other staff were made amenable and clarify the reason for the lack of consistency in terms of equitable treatment amongst prison staff.

(AQW 33163/11-15)

Mr Ford: I would refer the Member to the response I provided to AQW/33100/11-15.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Anti-Social Behaviour Orders have been imposed on youths/juveniles at Dungannon Court in each of the last two years to date.

(AQW 33172/11-15)

Mr Ford: There have been no Anti-Social Behaviour Orders made for a youth at Dungannon Court during either 2012 or 2013.

Department for Regional Development

Car Parking Charges: VAT

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Regional Development whether car parking charges are inclusive of VAT.

(AQW 33026/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): I can confirm off-street car parking charges are inclusive of VAT, while on-street parking charges are not subject to VAT.

Sewerage Infrastructure in Millisle

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on when works will commence on new sewerage infrastructure in Millisle; and to outline the reasons for the delay.

(AQW 33085/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Subject to all necessary statutory approvals being obtained and the satisfactory completion of all necessary lands and procurement procedures, construction of the new works will commence in early 2015 and finish in early 2016.

The commencement of construction work has been delayed by the requisite legal negotiations and site purchasing processes taking longer than anticipated. This is due to the preferred site's shoreline location and the need to satisfy the interests of the two existing landowners, Ards Borough Council and Crown Estates, in respect of title, conveyancing and leasing arrangements. Work is taking place with the landowners to effect the purchase as soon as is practicable to enable the project to be progressed to construction as soon as possible.

Department for Social Development

Single Carers

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development what consideration has been given to single carers in terms of benefit entitlement, given that they have limited availability for work.

(AQW 33057/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): Carers may claim either Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support depending on their circumstances and the extent of their caring responsibilities.

Jobseeker's Allowance

To qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), people must be unemployed, must normally be available for work as well as actively seeking work and enter into a Jobseeker's Agreement. Being available for work means a person must be willing and able to take up a job offer immediately, although carers may be allowed up to 48 hours to make any necessary arrangements.

Jobseekers who make a claim for JSA will be asked to set out their pattern of availability. This states the particular hours and days a person is willing to work and will be recorded in their Jobseeker's Agreement. Normally Jobseekers must be available for a minimum of 40 hours in a week, however, Jobseekers with caring responsibilities can restrict the number of hours work they are available to a minimum of 16, but must show they still have reasonable prospects of obtaining work within these restrictions.

Income Support

Lone parents, with a child aged under 7, can claim Income Support without having to be available for work. Once the youngest child turns 7 they will then have to claim JSA instead and they must then satisfy the labour market conditions for receiving it, including being available for work.

A person who is a full-time carer, i.e. providing care for 35 hours per week, for someone who is receiving either Attendance Allowance or the higher or middle rate of Disability Living Allowance can claim Income Support. They may also claim Carer's Allowance which will entitle them to an additional amount of Income Support known as a carer premium. The carer premium is intended to provide carers with additional financial support where they have given up the opportunity of full-time paid employment to take on a caring responsibility which entails providing care for 35 hours per week.

Welfare Arrangements: IT System

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how many jobs would be created in the development, maintenance and operation of a Northern Ireland IT system delivering the current welfare arrangements.

(AQW 33068/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No estimate has been made to date of how many jobs would be created in the development, maintenance and operation of a Northern Ireland IT system to deliver the current welfare arrangements.

Welfare Arrangements: IT System

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development what expense his Department has incurred in developing an IT system to continue to deliver the current welfare arrangements.

(AQW 33069/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has not incurred any expense to date in developing an IT system to continue to deliver the current welfare arrangements.

Welfare Arrangements: IT System

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how soon an IT system to deliver the existing welfare arrangements could be operational.

(AQW 33070/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No estimate is currently available of the timescales required for the specification, procurement, development and testing for an IT system to deliver the existing welfare arrangements to be operational.

Welfare Arrangements: IT System

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how much is paid annually to utilise UK wide IT system delivering welfare reform; and what is the projected amount in the next five years.

(AQW 33071/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is currently recharged on a monthly usage basis by the Department for Work and Pensions to utilise UK wide IT systems for welfare delivery. In the 2013/14 Financial Year the annual charge totalled £15.475M. The annual recharge for each of the next 5 years has not

yet been determined as this will involve usage of a mixture of legacy and new IT systems. A number of these new systems will have been developed in support of the reforms introduced by the Welfare Reform Act (GB) 2012. All future financial charges will still be the subject of negotiations with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Welfare Arrangements: IT System

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development what experience exists within his Department of large scale procurement of IT systems; and what arrangements have been put in place in advance of securing a bespoke Northern Ireland IT system for welfare delivery.

(AQW 33072/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Whilst my Department has experience of procurement and implementation of IT systems, this does not include the procurement of IT systems of the scale necessary to deliver social security benefits. Northern Ireland has and continues to rely on IT systems provided by the Department for Work and Pensions in accordance with the Concordat between that Department and the Department for Social Development. No arrangements have been put in place for securing a bespoke Northern Ireland IT system for welfare delivery.

Factory Girls Sculpture in Harbour Square, Derry

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister for Social Development for update on the Factory Girls sculpture in Harbour Square, Derry.

(AQW 33081/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department recently awarded funding of £14,797 to the artist to redesign the sculpture and £24,570 to the City Council of Londonderry to appoint an Integrated Design Team to undertake the design for the surrounding Public Realm works. The artist will work closely with the Integrated Design Team. It is anticipated that RIBA Stage D designs for the full scheme will be completed by 31 December 2014. At that stage the City Council of Londonderry will submit an application for planning permission. It should be noted that since the construction works are unlikely to commence by 31 March 2015, by which time the Department's urban regeneration powers and budgets will have transferred to local government, it will be a matter for the new local authority covering Londonderry to decide whether the project proceeds to construction.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the volume of tenants' deposits registered through the Tenancy Deposit Scheme in each month since its launch in 2013, broken down by council area.

(AQW 33117/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details the total number of deposits secured with the three tenancy deposit scheme administrators in each of the last 12 months. The Department does not hold the information broken down by council area.

April 2013	May 2013	June 2013	July 2013	Aug 2013	Sept 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	March 2014	Total
799	1171	1349	1587	1812	2424	2298	1541	1177	1257	1530	1683	18,628

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.

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