

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 13 June 2014

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

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Sugden, Ms Claire (East Londonderry)
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Weir, Peter (North Down)
Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 13 June 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Cost of the Colliers International Report

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the cost of the Colliers International report into the peace building and reconciliation centre at the Maze/Long Kesh site, broken down by (i) visitors assessment; (ii) marketing strategy and plan; and (iii) other costs.
(AQW 33503/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The Strategic Investment Board costs for the Colliers International Visitor Assessment report and the Marketing Strategy and Plan are detailed in the table below:

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD – COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL REPORT COSTS

Visitors Assessment £28,950+VAT	Marketing Strategy and Plan £29,179.56+VAT	Other costs £N/A
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Strategic Investment Board

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the agreed work programme for the Strategic Investment Board for each of the last five years.
(AQW 33506/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Details of the agreed work programme for the Strategic Investment Board for each of the last five years are available as part of the Strategic Investment Board's annual Corporate and Business Plan, copies of which are published on the SIB website (www.sibni.org) at http://www.sibni.org/index/about_sib/available_information/who_we_are_information.htm.

Information on SIB business activities for any given year is also published in the Annual Review and Accounts/Financial Report, copies of which are also available at http://www.sibni.org/index/about_sib/available_information/what_we_spend.htm.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Submission of Single Farm Payments

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she has submitted proposals to the Executive on the distribution of Single Farm Payments; and if not, to detail when they will be submitted.
(AQW 33750/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): I have already announced a significant number of important CAP reform decisions relating to payment entitlements, eligible

land, active farmers, greening, the Regional Reserve, the Young Farmers' Scheme, the Redistributive Payment, the Small Farmers' Scheme and capping. However, a small number of key decisions remain to be taken.

As I have stated on several occasions, the allocation of almost €2 billion of taxpayers' money over the remainder of this decade has to be done carefully, wisely and fairly. We need to be mindful not just of the distribution of CAP support, but of the potential bureaucratic burdens and risks we create in whatever choices we make.

Given the importance of these remaining decisions, it is right that they be agreed by the Executive. Political discussions are ongoing in relation to the remaining key issues and it is my intention to bring my final proposals on these issues to the Executive in the coming weeks.

I am, of course, mindful of the 1 August 2014 deadline to notify the EU Commission of our implementation plans and it is my intention that we will have an agreed CAP Pillar I structure before that date.

Single Farm Payment That Remains Unpaid

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total Single Farm Payment that remains unpaid; and the amount that has been denied in the current year.

(AQW 33757/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The total amount of Single Farm Payment that remains unpaid for the 2013 scheme year is £1,048,684. Claims can remain unpaid due to probate proceedings, businesses failing to supply required information such as bank account details and disputes between businesses. In most cases, payments can be made when businesses supply the necessary information.

The amount that has been denied, due to penalties applied under scheme rules, in the 2013 year is £1,205,990 from a total budget of £265.25m.

Single Farm Payments

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the impact assessment completed on farm incomes and viability in the event of the default position becoming operative in respect of Single Farm Payments on 1 August 2014.

(AQW 33758/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The default position for implementation of CAP reform from 1 January 2015 is a single region model with a uniform payment per hectare under both the Basic Payment and Greening Payment Schemes. Any deviation from this default position needs to be notified to the EU Commission by 1 August 2014.

During the public consultation on 'Policy Options Arising from the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (Pillar I Direct Payments)', my officials undertook and published significant analysis on the potential impacts of a redistribution of direct payments on farm income.

The data in Tables 1 and 2 (Annex A) show the impact on farm incomes of a flat rate payment regime. The analysis is based on information from the annual Farm Business Survey, which is used to assess Farm Business Income (a measure of the return to unpaid labour and the capital invested in a farm business) for businesses above 0.5 standard labour units across a range of farm types.

A move to flat rate support regime from 2015 would significantly reduce incomes on all farm types except for sheep (SDA) and mixed cattle and sheep (SDA) when compared with the status quo. The risk of significant adverse consequences arising from the immediate adoption of a flat rate payment regime is highest in the beef sector, where incomes tend to be lowest. However, difficulties could also arise in the inherently more profitable dairy sector, especially if it were to coincide with a period of falling producer milk prices.

There would be other impacts on farm businesses, such as a sudden change in cash flow, which are not fully articulated by an analysis of farm incomes. It should also be noted that the analysis does not allow for any offsetting actions and adjustments at individual farmer or aggregate level (i.e. it is a static analysis rather than a dynamic analysis). Of course, the possible extent of such adjustments in the very short term would probably be very limited.

I have stated previously that I am very mindful of the deadline of 1 August 2014 for decisions to be notified to the EU Commission and it is my intention to seek Executive agreement on an appropriate CAP Pillar I payment regime in advance of that date.

ANNEX A

TABLE 1: IMPACT OF MOVING TOWARDS FLAT RATE PAYMENTS (SINGLE REGION) ON AVERAGE FARM BUSINESS INCOME BY FARM TYPE (2011/12 DATA)

Farm Type	2011/12 Farm Business Incomes (£)	Single Region Flat rate from 2015 (£)	% Change
Dairy (SDA)	43,000	40,500	-5.8%
Dairy (DA)	54,100	48,500	-10.4%
Dairy (lowland)	70,900	60,000	-15.4%
Sheep (SDA)	26,200	41,300	57.6%
Beef (SDA)	18,800	13,700	-27.1%
Mixed Cattle & Sheep (SDA)	28,900	32,200	11.4%
Cattle & Sheep (DA)	24,400	15,000	-38.5%
Cattle & Sheep (lowland)	19,400	11,100	-42.8%
Mixed	53,000	45,800	-13.6%
General Cropping	48,000	43,500	-9.4%
Pigs & Poultry	37,500	35,300	-5.9%
Cereals	27,300	23,100	-15.4%
All Types	35,000	30,000	-14.3%

TABLE 2: IMPACT OF MOVING TOWARDS FLAT RATE PAYMENTS (SINGLE REGION) ON AVERAGE FARM BUSINESS INCOME BY FARM TYPE (2012/13 DATA)

Farm Type	2012/13 Farm Business Incomes (£)	Single Region Flat rate from 2015 (£)	% Change
Dairy (SDA)	24,200	21,800	-9.9%
Dairy (DA)	24,000	19,000	-20.8%
Dairy (lowland)	34,300	24,400	-28.9%
Sheep (SDA)	18,300	31,800	73.8%
Beef (SDA)	12,200	7,500	-38.5%
Mixed Cattle & Sheep (SDA)	15,100	18,100	19.9%
Cattle & Sheep (DA)	12,600	5,000	-60.3%

Farm Type	2012/13 Farm Business Incomes (£)	Single Region Flat rate from 2015 (£)	% Change
Cattle & Sheep (Lowland)	12,200	4,800	-60.7%
Mixed	44,700	37,600	-15.9%
General Cropping	66,800	64,000	-4.2%
Pigs & Poultry	31,900	29,000	-9.1%
Cereals	38,900	33,500	-13.9%
All Types	20,100	15,600	-22.4%

Data from Farm Business Survey for all farms > 0.5 standard labour units.

Outlaw of the Practice of Beak Trimming of Poultry

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department has any plans to outlaw the practice of the beak trimming of poultry.

(AQW 33817/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Beak trimming of poultry here is permitted in The Welfare of Animals (Permitted Procedures by Lay Persons) Regulations 2012. It can only be performed on chicks under 10 days old in order to prevent feather pecking or cannibalism, and can only be carried out by a person who has been provided with suitable and sufficient information, instruction and training so that they are qualified to perform the procedure.

My Department is working with the Beak Trimming Action Group, which includes representatives from industry, welfare groups and scientists, to find ways to manage flocks of birds without the need to beak trim. Defra is currently funding a peer reviewed research study on this issue and the results of this pilot study will feed into their evidence review in 2015, with a view to banning beak trimming of laying hens in 2016. Other similar research is also being undertaken in Scotland.

I will consider what action is appropriate here in light of developments in Britain and elsewhere.

Extend and Strengthen Broadband Services in West Tyrone

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the steps her Department is taking to extend and strengthen broadband services in West Tyrone.

(AQW 33858/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Within the overall list of 7,539 broadband 'not spots' there are a number of West Tyrone post codes included. Details of the proposed intervention area for the NI Broadband Improvement Project (NIBIP) were published on the DETI website for both basic (2Megabits per second) and superfast (24 Megabits per second or more) at the commencement of the procurement process.

http://www.detini.gov.uk/nibip_postcodes_-_basic__3_oct_2013__.pdf

(http://www.detini.gov.uk/nibip_postcodes_-_superfast__3_oct_2013___-_.pdf)

Responsibility for broadband provision within the north of Ireland and the publication of information relating to the BDUK project comes under the remit of DETI.

BT is presently undertaking a detailed survey and design exercise based on this intervention area which utilises an engineering model employed in other areas of Britain and accepted by BDUK as a credible and practical methodology.

This exercise is complex, taking account of a number of factors including technical feasibility, quality of existing infrastructure in the area, reasonable costs, number of anticipated customers etc.

DETI is working with BT and BDUK to make the outcomes of the survey and design process available as soon as possible and while there has been progress, due to the complexity involved, it is taking longer than anticipated to complete.

As I'm sure you are aware I am mindful of the public interest in this project and what areas are likely to benefit and I will continue to request this information from DETI and BT as a matter of urgency. However, it is important that the material published is as accurate as possible.

Illegally Dumped Livestock Carcasses

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what financial assistance her Department is offering to councils that remove illegally dumped livestock carcasses.

(AQW 33859/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Disposal of animal carcasses is required under Regulation EC 1069/2009 Articles 13 & 21 and subsequently the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2001. DARD is the Competent Authority for the implementation of these regulations.

The responsibility for the disposal of fallen animals lies with the occupier of the premises or the person considered by DARD to be in charge of the premises.

Where a carcass is dumped on private land, wherever possible the owner of the animal will be identified and held responsible. If ownership cannot be proven, responsibility for disposal rests with the landowner.

Where a carcass is dumped elsewhere, including on public land or highways, and ownership of the carcass cannot be ascertained, responsibility for disposal rests with the local authority. DARD, through the local Divisional Veterinary Office, can assist the district council wherever possible to try and establish ownership of the carcase on a case by case basis, but no financial assistance is offered.

Single Farm Payment Claims

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for a breakdown of the (i) number; and (ii) percentage of Single Farm Payment claims that were submitted online, broken down by council area, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 33880/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The numbers of Single Applications submitted online to my Department, by District Council area, for each of the last three years are provided in the table below.

District Council Area	2012 all	2012 online	Online %	2013 all	2013 online	Online %	2014 all	2014 online	Online %
Antrim	1021	233	22.82	1009	251	24.88	809	409	50.56
Ards	1033	208	20.14	1035	194	18.74	798	312	39.1
Armagh	2606	711	27.28	2597	290	11.17	2095	767	36.61
Ballymena	1937	440	22.72	1910	492	25.76	1473	642	43.58
Ballymoney	1068	562	52.62	1050	530	50.48	866	555	64.09
Banbridge	1717	432	25.16	1697	432	25.46	1340	492	36.72
Belfast	51	14	27.45	46	10	21.74	26	11	42.31
Carrickfergus	179	19	10.61	176	19	10.8	128	21	16.41
Castlereagh	100	24	24	98	19	19.39	60	22	36.67
Coleraine	1122	257	22.91	1108	262	23.65	896	392	43.75
Cookstown	1829	337	18.43	1827	246	13.46	1555	829	53.31
Craigavon	958	263	27.45	951	204	21.45	707	296	41.87
Derry	700	138	19.71	696	179	25.72	577	213	36.92
Down	1818	290	15.95	1817	342	18.82	1487	530	35.64
Dungannon	2467	199	8.07	2451	183	7.47	2055	457	22.24
Fermanagh	4157	367	8.83	4134	378	9.14	3480	687	19.74
Larne	739	70	9.47	733	97	13.23	625	145	23.2
Limavady	876	147	16.78	887	176	19.84	762	321	42.13
Lisburn	1402	388	27.67	1369	411	30.02	1028	469	45.62
Magherafelt	1950	278	14.26	1943	290	14.93	1612	658	40.82

District Council Area	2012 all	2012 online	Online %	2013 all	2013 online	Online %	2014 all	2014 online	Online %
Moyle	798	458	57.39	799	462	57.82	711	469	65.96
Newry & Mourne	3310	854	25.8	3283	733	22.33	2865	1064	37.14
Newtownabbey	422	40	9.48	406	52	12.81	293	60	20.48
North Down	141	18	12.77	140	21	15	107	27	25.23
Omagh	2881	623	21.62	2866	693	24.18	2448	1002	40.93
Strabane	1590	479	30.13	1586	499	31.46	1351	662	49
None Associated	1064	210	19.74	1026	215	20.96	705	246	34.89
Grand Total	37936	8059	21.24	37640	7680	20.4	30859	11758	38.1

Windfarm Development Project

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the Windfarm Development Project.

(AQW 33894/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Previously the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) supported Forest Service to examine opportunities for obtaining better value for money from the forest estate. As part of a 2009 "Market Sounding" exercise carried out by Forest Service it asked industry for "innovative and optimal suggestions on how to best sweat the existing asset base ... assisting in delivering value for money to NIFS". This exercise helped identify and prioritise the opportunities to be considered in a Commercialisation Plan and this work was taken forward in a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) in June 2010. A conceptual Outline Business Case (OBC) followed. This document remains in draft format.

In January 2014 Forest Service appointed a Wind Energy Development Manager (seconded from SIB). He is presently revising and taking forward this previous work. This involves a range of multi-disciplinary issues from looking at how best to address community benefits and engagement to technical site assessments and financial analysis. As this analysis is ongoing I am not in a position to say which sites, if any, my Department propose to take forward.

In the 2014-15 Forest Service Business Plan my Department has said it will publish a procurement strategy for the exploitation of opportunities for wind farm development on the Forest Service estate. At that point there will be more clarity regarding the nature of Forest Service involvement in wind energy.

Common Agricultural Policy Issue

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on how she is addressing the Common Agricultural Policy issue which could impact low land farmers in North Down.

(AQW 33914/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The current reform of the Common Agricultural Policy will have a significant impact not just in North Down, but on farmers right across the north. I continue to work towards delivering a fair outcome that will balance the needs of all farmers.

I have already announced a significant number of important CAP reform decisions relating to payment entitlements, eligible land, active farmers, greening, the Regional Reserve, the Young Farmers' Scheme, the Redistributive Payment, the Small Farmers' Scheme and capping. However, a small number of key decisions remain to be taken.

As I have stated in response to similar Assembly Questions, the allocation of almost €2 billion of taxpayers' money over the remainder of this decade has to be done carefully, wisely and fairly for all farmers. We need to be mindful not just of the distribution of CAP support, but of the potential bureaucratic burdens and risks we create in whatever choices we make.

Given the importance of these remaining decisions and the impact on local farmers, it is right that they be agreed by the Executive. Political discussions are ongoing in relation to the remaining key issues and it is my intention to bring my final proposals on these issues to the Executive in the coming weeks.

Common Agriculture Policy Reform Decisions

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she plans to progress the final Common Agriculture Policy reform decisions, including the transition period, by urgent procedure; and if so, to detail how the procedure will be conducted.

(AQW 34007/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have already announced a significant number of important CAP reform decisions relating to payment entitlements, eligible land, active farmers, greening, the Regional Reserve, the Young Farmers' Scheme, the Redistributive Payment, the Small Farmers' Scheme and capping. A small number of key decisions remain to be taken.

As I have stated in response to similar Assembly Questions, the allocation of almost €2 billion of taxpayers' money over the remainder of this decade has to be done carefully, wisely and fairly for all farmers. We need to be mindful not just of the distribution of CAP support, but of the potential bureaucratic burdens and risks we create in whatever choices we make.

Given the importance of these remaining decisions and the impact on local farmers, it is right that they be agreed by the Executive. Political discussions are ongoing in relation to the remaining key issues and it is my intention to bring my final proposals on these issues to the Executive in the coming weeks. I shall seek Executive agreement by the most appropriate means available to me at that point in time.

Ownership and Control of Lough Neagh

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when the report on the ownership and control of Lough Neagh will be published.

(AQW 34016/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Report of the Cross Departmental Working Group on Lough Neagh was published on 5 June 2014 and can be viewed on the Department's web site at:

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/potential-for-bringing-lough-neagh-into-public-ownership.doc>

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Cathaleen's Fall Dam: Elver Kill

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether a substantial elver kill took place at Cathaleen's Fall Dam on the River Erne recently; and if so, for assessment of why this happened and what action is being taken to rectify the situation.

(AQW 33391/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): During an inspection by Electricity Supply Board (ESB) staff of eel collection boxes at the Cathaleen's Falls facility at Ballyshannon on 22nd April 2014, approximately 100kgs of dead elvers were discovered.

When my officials were made aware of this matter, they immediately contacted Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and investigations are ongoing into how the incident occurred. My Department is working closely with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), IFI and ESB, to formalise protocols to ensure that this situation does not arise in future.

I am most concerned at this incident and have written to Mr Fergus O'Dowd TD, Minister of State at the Department of Energy, Communications and Natural Resources, to express my concerns and for the appropriate action to be taken against ESB.

European Council Regulation: Eel Management Plans

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the amount of funding her Department will draw down to implement the 2007 European Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel and associated eel management plans; and (ii) how the funding has been allocated.

(AQW 33394/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) Since 2009, the Lough Neagh Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd. (LNFCS) has invested a total of £1,796,000 in elver restocking, of which they have successfully claimed £1,078,000 under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) programme (£539,000 from EFF and £539,000 from DCAL).

- (ii) The restocking of elvers into Lough Neagh is a critical element of the Neagh/Bann Eel Management Plan and DCAL has agreed to provide assisted funding to the LNFCs to help ensure elver recruitment is maintained at an acceptable level. DCAL successfully applied to DARD for assistance from the EFF. The maximum amount of grant aid payable under EFF is £750,000 which represents up to 30% of total eligible project costs (£2,500,000). DCAL will endeavour to match-fund EFF funding. The maximum grant payment in any one financial year therefore will be 60% of eligible project costs up to £500,000 and the period of grant aid will not exceed 5 years.

Elver Kill at Ballyshannon in April 2014

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the extent and cause of the elver kill at Ballyshannon in April 2014; and (ii) when the elver trap boxes had last been checked before the kill was discovered.

(AQW 33518/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) An incident occurred at the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) facility at Ballyshannon on 22 April 2014 in which approximately 100kg of elvers were reported dead. Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is currently investigating the matter and it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the possible cause at this time.
- (ii) The IFI investigation will establish the facts of the matter and this will be made public in due course.

Department of Education

Stock of Uniforms and Sports Gear

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education what action he is taking to ensure that clothes retailers are able to stock uniforms and sports gear for all types of schools.

(AQW 33529/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The wearing of a school uniform in the north of Ireland, as in the south of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, is not governed by legislation but falls to schools to determine. The Department of Education issued guidance on school uniforms to all schools here in March 2011 which advises that schools should ensure that their school uniform policy is fair and reasonable, in practical and financial terms, and should have regard to their duties under relevant equality and other legislation.

The guidance makes it clear that the Department expects Boards of Governors (BoGs) to give a high priority to cost considerations when designing their uniforms. Schools were further advised to ensure that their uniform is widely available in High Street shops and other retail outlets, and internet suppliers rather than from an expensive sole supplier.

Whilst I recognise that the daytoday management of schools, including school uniform policy, is a matter for school Principals, subject to any directions that might be given by the BoGs, I consider that it is of particular importance that schools adhere to the guidance on school uniforms so that pupils or their families do not feel excluded from being able to apply to or attend a particular school due to the cost of a uniform.

Consequently, I wrote to all schools on 27 September 2012, reminding BoGs of their responsibilities in relation to the guidance, with particular reference to the core considerations outlined in paragraph 2.1 of the Circular, emphasising that Governors should ensure that regard is given to the guidance when drawing up their school uniform policy.

I also wrote to the Office of Fair Trading in January 2014 to register my concern about the continued use of restrictive practices in the supply of school uniforms and to enquire about the OFT's plans to

take action to address this matter or to undertake further research on such arrangements. Whilst the OFT advised that there were no plans at that time to carry out further work in this sector I understand that a copy of my correspondence has been passed by the OFT to the recently established Consumer and Markets Authority (CMA).

You may also wish to note that I have asked my officials to review potential further actions which might be taken forward to address the high cost of some school uniforms and I will be giving further consideration to this matter over the coming months.

Drumragh Integrated College

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education whether he will publish the guidance he received from departmental officials following the court ruling on his approach to the development proposal by Drumragh Integrated College, on the application of his duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education under Article 64 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

(AQW 33733/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Court has provided a ruling in this case. Legal opinion provided in relation to the case is privileged and will not be published.

Article 64 of the Education Reform

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the guidance issued to departmental officials on the application of his duty under Article 64 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, to detail who, apart from his officials, has had access to this guidance, given his statement of 15 May 2014 in response to the court ruling on his approach to the development proposal by Drumragh Integrated College that no objections to the guidance had been received.

(AQW 33734/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The guidance formed part of the evidence put before the Court, and could be accessed by all the parties involved in the Judicial Review.

No objections to the guidance were received from Drumragh Integrated College, or their Counsel.

Cost to Date of the Education and Skills Authority

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education what has been the cost to date of the Education and Skills Authority.

(AQW 33754/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Skills Authority (ESA) has not yet been established therefore it has incurred no cost. The member may be referring to the Education and Skills Authority Implementation Team (ESAIT) and associated costs within my Department.

The total cost of expenditure from 2005 to 31 March 2014 is £18.145m. Since the 31st March, 2014, the ESA Implementation Team has been reduced to a core team and retained as an integral part of DE. The team has been redirected largely onto work necessary to make education administration compatible with local government reform. Work on ESA has ceased.

Controlled Sector Schools Built Over the Last Five Years

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many new controlled sector schools have been built over the last five years.

(AQW 33782/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following table lists those controlled schools that have been built over the last five years.

Controlled	Completed
Ashfield Girls, Belfast	2009
Ballinderry Primary School	2009
Glendhu Nursery	2009
Orangefield Primary School, Belfast	2009
Pond Park Primary School, Lisburn	2009
Ravenscroft Nursery	2009
Templepatrick Primary School	2009
Towerview Primary School	2009
Boys Model Belfast	2010
Girls Model Belfast	2010
Grosvenor Grammar School, Belfast	2010
Lisbellaw Primary School	2010
Lisnagelvin Primary School	2010
Banbridge Academy	2011
Whitehouse Primary School, Newtownabbey	2011
Magherafelt Primary School & Nursery School	2012
Magherafelt High School	2012
Taughmonagh Primary School	2012
Tor Bank School, Belfast	2012

Maintained Sector Schools

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many new maintained sector schools have been built over the last five years.

(AQW 33783/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following table lists those maintained schools that have been built over the last five years.

Maintained Schools	Completed
De La Salle College Belfast	2009
Drumragh Integrated College Omagh	2009
St Catherine's College Armagh	2009
St Peter's Primary School Cloughreagh	2009
St Joseph's Primary School Carryduff	2010
St Patricks & St Brigids Primary School Ballycastle	2010
St Mary's Primary School Portglenone	2010
Scoil na Fuisseoige	2012

Maintained Schools	Completed
St Oliver Plunkett Forkhill	2012
St Mary's Primary School Newcastle	2012
St Joseph's Primary School Madden	2012
St Columba's Primary School Straw	2012
St Colman's Primary School Lambeg	2012
Dromintee Primary School	2012
Coranny/ Cornagague Primary School	2012
Carrick Primary School Warrenpoint	2012

Teaching Civics in the School Curriculum

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what provision is made for teaching Civics in the school curriculum.

(AQW 33786/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education has no plans to increase the teaching provision of Civics in schools.

Civics is embedded in Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) in primary schools, and Local and Global Citizenship in post-primary schools. Both subjects contribute to the curriculum objective of developing the young person as a contributor to society and have been statutory elements of the revised curriculum since 2007.

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and 2 there is a focus on building relationships in the school and community, respect for diversity and how to respond to conflict. Pupils' learning experience of PDMU at primary school provides a foundation for developing their skills, knowledge and deeper understanding of Local and Global Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4.

At Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Local and Global Citizenship aims to prepare pupils for playing an active role in society. Knowledge and understanding are covered under four key concepts: Diversity and Inclusion; Equality and Social Justice; Democracy and Participation; and Human Rights and Social Responsibility.

A GCSE qualification is available at Key Stage 4 in Learning for Life and Work and Local and Global Citizenship is a GCSE component module.

Increase in the Teaching Provision of Civics in Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans he has to increase the teaching provision of Civics in schools.

(AQW 33787/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education has no plans to increase the teaching provision of Civics in schools.

Civics is embedded in Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) in primary schools, and Local and Global Citizenship in post-primary schools. Both subjects contribute to the curriculum objective of developing the young person as a contributor to society and have been statutory elements of the revised curriculum since 2007.

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and 2 there is a focus on building relationships in the school and community, respect for diversity and how to respond to conflict. Pupils' learning experience of PDMU at

primary school provides a foundation for developing their skills, knowledge and deeper understanding of Local and Global Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4.

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A GCSE qualification is available at Key Stage 4 in Learning for Life and Work and Local and Global Citizenship is a GCSE component module.

Ratio of Per Pupil Expenditure in Each Education Sector

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education to detail the current ratio of per pupil expenditure in each education sector.

(AQW 33795/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Schools are not funded on a ratio basis. The Department does not hold information on costs per pupil at individual school or school sector levels.

Year One Pupil Places in North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many children in North Down have yet to receive a primary one place.

(AQW 33837/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The South-Eastern Education and Library Board advises that as at 4 June 2014, there are three children in the North Down area who remain unplaced, one from Donaghadee, and two from Bangor (one of whom was a late applicant).

Draft Elective Home Education Policy

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education whether any consultation events for the draft Elective Education Policy have been advertised (i) in the local press; (ii) on radio; and (iii) television.

(AQW 33839/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards (the Boards) have prepared guidance which reflects their legislative responsibilities in the area of the education of children other than at school including those who are educated at home and they are currently consulting on this guidance.

The Boards have advised that they did not advertise consultation events for the draft home education guidance document in local press, on radio or on television but have adopted a range of methods to facilitate engagement and consultation with all those who have an interest in home education. For example, each Board has written to the parents of all children who have notified them that they are presently electing to home educate their children and also to other key stakeholders to advise of the consultation exercise.

Each Board's Consultation Strategy document details the range of activities through which the Boards will actively seek to engage with those who have an interest in home education. This is published on each Board's website alongside their draft guidance and the Boards will also make this available in various formats upon request.

I would note that as part of that Board's consultation I have made clear that I expect the Boards to ensure engagement with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible including young people and their families and to ensure also that the feedback they receive is considered very carefully in reviewing the draft guidance.

I will wish to review each Board's guidance once it has been subject to consultation and reviewed and refined in response to the engagement that has taken place.

Admission Criteria for Enrolment into Primary Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans his Department has to standardise admission criteria for enrolment into primary schools.

(AQW 33852/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Statutory responsibility for setting admissions criteria rests with the Board of Governors of the primary school concerned and reflects the particular priorities they wish to use when considering applications for admission to their school. My Department does not have a role in this other than to offer guidance.

Working in close collaboration with the five Education and Library Boards, my Department conducted a series of workshops during September 2013 for representatives of primary schools and their Boards of Governors, to provide advice on best practice when formulating their admissions criteria for the 2014/15 school year.

This training was scheduled to assist schools in reviewing the criteria they wished to be included in booklets for parents, which are published by the ELBs in November each year. All primary schools were invited to attend. School feedback on the events was positive and attendance of oversubscribed primary schools was good.

The guidance given to primary schools at the workshops, and the training materials, was published on the Department's website and a link sent to all primary schools by the end of September 2013.

Any move to standardise admissions criteria would require consultation, legislative amendment and the agreement of the Assembly. There are no current plans to introduce such legislation.

Dunclug High School Operating on a Split Site Basis

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education whether the North Eastern Education and Library Board has approached him in relation to the possibility of Dunclug High School operating on a split site basis following permission being given for it to increase its numbers.

(AQW 33854/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have not been approached by the North Eastern Education and Library Board in relation to the possibility of Dunclug High School operating on a split site basis following permission being given for it to increase its numbers.

Enniskillen Collegiate and Portora Royal School

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Education whether he has any plans to review the process for developing the proposals for Enniskillen Collegiate and Portora Royal School, given the concerns raised in the local community.

(AQW 33890/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Western Education & Library Board and the Fermanagh Protestant Board of Education, the bodies responsible for planning for Enniskillen Collegiate and Portora Royal School, brought forward the proposals to amalgamate the schools through the Development Proposal (DP) process.

This process is statutory and governs any and all proposals involving significant change to a school or schools. The process involves consultation before a decision is taken on whether or not to proceed with publication of a proposal and a further two-month public consultation following publication of a DP. It is only after this consultation is complete that I take my decision on the proposal, taking account of all relevant issues and the comments received.

This affords all interested parties the opportunity to offer their views on the proposal before any decision is taken.

The DPs for amalgamation of Enniskillen Collegiate and Portora Royal School were published on 14 May 2014 and the consultation period ends on 14 July.

Suitable Alternative for Pupils from Ballee Community High School

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education what measures have been put in place to ensure that all the current pupils from Ballee Community High School are placed in a suitable alternative by September 2014.

(AQW 33891/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I would refer the Member to my answer to AQW 33732/11-15, tabled by Paul Frew MLA and published in the Official Report on Friday 6 June 2014.

School Closures: New School Uniforms

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education what financial assistance is available to parents who have to buy new school uniforms because their children's school has been closed.

(AQW 33892/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Financial assistance is available through the Education and Library Boards' (the Boards) Clothing Allowance Scheme (the Scheme) to support families on low incomes with the costs of school uniforms. Parents may apply through their Board for assistance under the Scheme provided they meet the relevant eligibility criteria. My Department has allocated £5.4 million to fund the Clothing Allowance Scheme in 2014/15.

My predecessor, Caitríona Ruane, extended the scheme here to cover primary school uniforms with effect from the 2009/10 academic year and introduced the Working Tax Credit criterion in 2010/11 for primary age pupils to help address the pressures felt by low income families. I also announced last year that the Working Tax Credit criterion will be extended from September 2014 so that the same eligibility criteria for uniform grants applies to primary and postprimary pupils. This means that from September 2014 postprimary pupils from lower income families will be supported with access to this benefit in the same way as primary pupils.

The current levels of assistance are as follows:

Primary School	£35.75
Post-Primary/Special School under 15	£51
Post-Primary/Special School over 15	£56
Post-Primary/Special School PE	£22

Elective Home Education

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education how his expectation of engagement with stakeholders by the Education and Library Boards on Elective Home Education will be obtained if the said consultation has not been advertised in local newspapers.

(AQW 33907/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards (the Boards) have prepared guidance which reflects their legislative responsibilities in the area of the education of children other than at school including those who are educated at home and they are currently consulting on this guidance.

The Boards have advised that they did not advertise consultation events for the draft home education guidance document in local press, on radio or on television but have adopted a range of methods to facilitate engagement and consultation with all those who have an interest in home education. For example, each Board has written to the parents of all children who have notified them that they are presently electing to home educate their children and also to other key stakeholders to advise of the consultation exercise.

Each Board's Consultation Strategy document details the range of activities through which the Boards will actively seek to engage with those who have an interest in home education. This is published on

each Board's website alongside their draft guidance and the Boards will also make this available in various formats upon request.

I would note that as part of that Board's consultation I have made clear that I expect the Boards to ensure engagement with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible including young people and their families and to ensure also that the feedback they receive is considered very carefully in reviewing the draft guidance.

I will wish to review each Board's guidance once it has been subject to consultation and reviewed and refined in response to the engagement that has taken place.

Teachers' Voluntary Redundancy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education when his Department will approve or reject the voluntary redundancy package offered to teachers in voluntary grammar schools.

(AQW 33911/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department is not offering a voluntary redundancy package to teachers in schools.

Pupils' Alternatives to Ballee High School

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education to detail the admission criteria for pupils attending Ballee High School who have been informed that (i) Cullybacky High School; (ii) Dunclug High School; (iii) Parkhall High School; and (iv) Cambridge House Grammar School are alternative options.

(AQW 33918/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Admissions criteria of schools are formulated by the Board of Governors of the individual school concerned. These are published by the relevant Education and Library Board for schools in their area in booklets for parents and can be viewed on their websites. The admissions criteria of the schools you refer to can be viewed on the North-Eastern Education and Library Board's website at <http://www.neelb.org.uk/parents/enrolment-transfer/> (then select "Post Primary School Booklet 2014").

Teachers' Voluntary Redundancy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education when his Department approved or rejected the voluntary package offered to teachers in each (i) maintained sector; and (ii) controlled sector school in 2014.

(AQW 33934/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department is not offering a voluntary redundancy package to teachers in schools.

Teachers' Voluntary Redundancy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the impact on school timetables of the delay in approving or rejecting the voluntary redundancy package offered to teachers in voluntary grammar schools.

(AQW 33935/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department is not offering a voluntary redundancy package to teachers in schools.

Home Tuition for Children with Long Term Illnesses

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education what requirements are placed on Education and Library Boards to provide home tuition for children who are unable to attend school due to long term illness.

(AQW 33955/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Education and Library Boards (ELBs) operate their Home Tuition services as part of their legal responsibility under Article 86 (1) of the Education (NI) Order 1998, to provide 'education otherwise than at school' (EOTAS) for 'those children of compulsory school age who by reason of

illness, expulsion or suspension from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them'.

Article 86 (2) of the Education (NI) Order 1998 provides a similar enabling power permitting, but not requiring, the extension of EOTAS services to children above compulsory school age.

It is an operational issue for each ELB to decide how it meets its legal obligations, and exercises its powers, in this matter.

Freedom of Information Requests

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of Freedom of Information requests he has received in each of the last three financial years; and of these, how many have been considered under Section 12 of the Environmental Information Regulations, rather than the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

(AQW 33989/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The numbers of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received in the Department of Education for each of the last three financial years are as follows:

11/12 Financial Year	213
12/13 Financial Year	183
13/14 Financial Year	229

During this period, no cases were considered under Section 12 of the Environmental Information Regulation 2004.

Department for Employment and Learning

Youth Employment Scheme Placements

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 33212/11-15, to confirm if Youth Employment Scheme placements who were in place prior to the revised guidance being issued on the 8 May 2014, utilised for canvassing for a political party.

(AQW 33607/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): In response to your questions above I can confirm that from the launch of the Youth Employment Scheme July 2012 until 6th May 2014, four political parties (DUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein and UUP) have provided a total of six placements under the Work Experience element of the Scheme. I can confirm that none of these employers indicated canvassing as part of the placement activity provided to my Department.

Staff guidance for the Youth Employment Scheme was revised on 8th May 2014 to bring it into line with the Departments Steps to Work programme. This will ensure that staff in Jobs & Benefits offices and Jobcentres who have responsibility for the delivery of the Scheme will advise employers that placements should not involve canvassing for political parties.

Youth Employment Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 33212/11-15, to outline why his Department issued revised guidance to the Youth Employment Scheme program on the 8 May 2014.

(AQW 33608/11-15)

Dr Farry: In response to your questions above I can confirm that from the launch of the Youth Employment Scheme July 2012 until 6th May 2014, four political parties (DUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein and UUP) have provided a total of six placements under the Work Experience element of the Scheme. I can confirm that none of these employers indicated canvassing as part of the placement activity provided to my Department.

Staff guidance for the Youth Employment Scheme was revised on 8th May 2014 to bring it into line with the Departments Steps to Work programme. This will ensure that staff in Jobs & Benefits offices and Jobcentres who have responsibility for the delivery of the Scheme will advise employers that placements should not involve canvassing for political parties.

Benefits of the Condition Management Programme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the benefits of the Condition Management Programme.

(AQW 33710/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Condition Management Programme (CMP) is a person-centred, work-focused rehabilitation programme. The key aim of the programme is to help and support people with health related barriers to employment to progress towards and make a successful return to work.

Clients referred to CMP present with both physical and mental health difficulties and the vast majority are unemployed. This, in turn, impacts negatively on their confidence, self-esteem and mood. Almost 60% of CMP referrals present with a mental illness as their primary condition.

The programme, which is delivered by healthcare professionals on behalf of the Department for Employment and Learning, is helping many of these individuals to improve their health and well-being, as well as make a positive move towards employment.

On completion of CMP, participants understand more about their health condition and how it can be positively managed. It also actively encourages people to consider work as a means of ongoing health recovery and provides the individual with a number of strategies to help them deal with their own condition.

During the 2013/14 year, of the 1,211 people who participated on CMP, 98% indicated a positive attitude towards work and training as a result. There has also been a number of telephone surveys carried out with participants six months after they completed the programme. On average, 20% had made a successful transition into paid employment, whilst others had progressed into employment programmes or vocational training courses.

Some of the specific feedback from individuals included: greater confidence about seeking work and the prospect of remaining in work; less fear about their illness as they would now recognise the early signs of a relapse or worsening of the condition and therefore would be more able to take appropriate, timely steps to address the problem or seek appropriate help.

Funding for the Condition Management Programme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much funding his Department provided to the Condition Management Programme in each of the last three years; and to detail the budget for this year and proposed budget for next year.

(AQW 33711/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the last three years, the Department for Employment and Learning has provided the following level of annual funding to the Condition Management Programme (CMP):

2011/12	£3,964,000
2012/13	£3,750,000
2013/14	£3,500,000

In November 2013, following extensive, but ultimately unsuccessful negotiations with the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) regarding a proposed partnership approach to the funding and management of this health and employment programme, I took the decision to continue my Department's support for the CMP at existing funding levels (£3.5m) for the 2014/15 financial year.

I can confirm that it would be my intention to continue funding the Condition Management Programme beyond this financial year. However, given the many priorities and pressures within the Employment Service at this time, the level of funding available from my Department for the CMP will be reduced to £2.5million for 2015/16.

Officials from my Department's Disability Employment Service will be meeting with each of the CMP teams over the next month to discuss the implications of the reduced funding, as well as proposals to ensure that the programme has a greater focus on measurable employment outcomes.

In the meantime, if the DHSSPS or other interested stakeholders are willing to make a financial contribution to the funding of the programme, my officials, and of course, the respective CMP management staff, would be very happy to discuss the options and potential benefits thereof.

Increase in the Teaching of Civics

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the provision available to increase the teaching of civics in Further Education Colleges.

(AQW 33775/11-15)

Dr Farry: While my Department sets the strategic direction for the further education sector, individual colleges are responsible for designing a curriculum offer to meet the needs of learners and employers in their areas. Decisions on courses offered are driven by the level of demand locally and it is the responsibility of individual colleges to meet the needs of learners and employers in a cost effective way that ensures best use of public money.

While course availability is a matter for colleges, I can confirm that there is no taught subject available in "Civics". However, colleges are involved in a range of activities related to the area of civic responsibility.

For example, in Belfast Metropolitan College, the Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) 'Threshold Project' within the School of Community Education and Life Skills has delivered the accredited OCN course 'Introduction to Aspects of Citizenship' to a cohort of young people who are disaffected from education and training and who are furthest from the labour market. This project is part of the implementation of the Department's Pathways to Success strategy. The college is also running a new qualification focusing on how students with learning difficulties understand their role as citizens of the City of Belfast.

In 2012/13, across all colleges, there were 250 enrolments on a range of Level 2 and 3 Diploma Courses in Public Services. These courses offer a module in 'Citizenship, Diversity and Public Services', which is part of the students' main programme of learning and an integral part of the course.

Studies of Politics Modules

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students in the further education sector have studied politics modules, in the last ten years.

(AQW 33776/11-15)

Dr Farry: From the Further Educational Statistical Record (FESR) it is not possible to determine how many students have studied politics 'modules' within the Further Education sector. However, information is available for those students on accredited courses that have been assigned as 'Politics' as the sector subject area. The data indicates that there were 3,651 students who studied accredited courses in politics between 2003/04 and 2012/13.

Individuals have been calculated within each academic year therefore the same individual may appear in multiple years.

Health Issue or Disability: Employment Refusals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what redress or action can be taken by applicants, in the public and private sectors, who have been refused employment due to a health issue or disability.

(AQW 33825/11-15)

Dr Farry: Individuals who believe that they have experienced unlawful discrimination in connection with a recruitment process on the grounds of a disability can seek redress by making a claim to an industrial tribunal.

A health issue, however, does not necessarily legally constitute a disability.

This is a complex area of the law and an individual may wish to seek advice from the Equality Commission or obtain independent legal advice.

Universities Classed as a Public Body

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether his Department classifies universities as a public sector body.

(AQW 33848/11-15)

Dr Farry: The public sector is defined by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) by reference to the European System of Accounts 1995 in accordance with EU requirements. Classification as public or private sector depends on who controls the general corporate policy of the body concerned. Universities are classified by ONS as private sector bodies.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what departmental support is available to ensure people with a disability who wish to enter the workforce due to welfare reforms are not refused employment posts due to their disability or health issues; and whether guidance on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is issued to all potential employers.

(AQW 33879/11-15)

Dr Farry: Through its Disability Employment Service (DES), the Department for Employment and Learning provides a range of programmes and services to assist people with disabilities find and keep employment. These include:

- Workable (NI)
- Access to Work (NI)
- Work Connect
- Job Introduction Scheme
- Condition Management Programme
- Occupational Psychology Service

The Department also works in close partnership with a range of disability organisations to assist and support people with a disability to gain the skills and experience to help them obtain employment.

Specifically, over the past two years, officials from DES have worked with the local disability sector and a number of employers to secure ring-fenced recruitment and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This partnership support model with employers has resulted in successful job outcomes for the target group.

The programmes and services currently being offered by the Department will not be impacted upon by the introduction of Welfare Reforms, and therefore disabled clients will continue to receive the full range of support available to them.

With respect to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, all employers in Northern Ireland are subject to the statutory obligations and duties as stipulated within this well established and widely accepted piece of legislation. My Department does not issue guidance to all employers regarding DDA as information is readily available from a number of sources, including websites, public bodies, advice centres, and the local disability organisations.

Instead, my Department will continue to work with employers and disability support organisations to go beyond what is required under DDA, and to ensure that people with disabilities are provided with the individual help and support that they require to enter the labour market, and once this has been achieved, to help them remain and progress within their chosen occupation.

Disability Employment Strategy

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 32165/11-15, to detail (i) how the Disability Employment Strategy is being developed; (ii) when public consultation on the Strategy will take place; and (iii) what events have taken place, or are planned, in East Antrim with consultees to develop the Strategy.

(AQW 33925/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Disability Employment Strategy is being developed in close partnership with the local disability sector.

My Department fully recognises the role that the sector have to play in helping to achieve the key objective of this new strategy, which is to assist as many disabled people as possible to find, sustain and retain paid employment.

A strategic working group, including a number of representatives from disability organisations, was established at the outset, and has been working collectively since then. The working group is in the process of finalising the draft consultation document, which is now scheduled for issue in September 2014. This will initiate the period of formal public consultation, during which time, people from throughout Northern Ireland will be invited and encouraged to provide an input.

In order to inform the discussions thus far, a number of engagement events have been facilitated by the Department. Five large regional events were part of this exercise, and the strategic working group deliberately targeted a mix of those people with a disability who have or do use existing services, and those who, up until now, have not done so. One of the events took place at the Action Mental Health premises in Antrim and another took place at NICVA in North Belfast. Travel arrangements were organised through the local disability organisations and both of these locations would have been accessible for people from the East Antrim area.

The feedback from all involved, especially the disabled participants, has been overwhelmingly positive and all of the events were very well attended. The discussion and contributions at the events have been very useful and constructive, and these will be reflected within the consultation document.

Following on from the consultation process, it is intended that the Disability Employment Strategy will be launched in April 2015.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the (i) incoming; and (ii) outgoing correspondence that she, or her officials, have received from organisations in relation to hydraulic fracturing and/or unconventional oil and gas, since the beginning of 2013, including (a) the

date of the correspondence; (b) the subject of the correspondence; and (c) the name of the individual in the organisation that made contact.

(AQW 29587/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The following table lists the (i) incoming and (ii) outgoing correspondence that DETI received from organisations in relation to hydraulic fracturing and/or unconventional oil and gas, since the beginning of 2013, including (a) the date of the correspondence and (b) the subject of the correspondence. The name of the organisation is provided in column (c) but in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 the name of the individual in the organisation that made contact is not named.

i) & ii) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence	(a) Date of Correspondence	(b) Subject	(c) Name of Organisation
Correspondence Cases			
Fermanagh District Council	10 May 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	Fermanagh District Council
Department of the Environment (DOE)	8 August 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	DOE
DOE	8 August 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	DOE
DOE	8 August 2013	Petroleum Exploration near the Giant's Causeway	DOE
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) to Department of Agriculture and Regional Development (DARD)	2 September 2013	Petroleum Exploration near the Giant's Causeway	DETI to DARD
DARD	1 October 2013	Fracking	DARD
DETI to DARD	8 October 2013	Fracking	DETI
Enterprise Trade Investment (ETI) Committee Requests			
ETI Committee	6 June 2013	Potential Petroleum Licence for CHx LLC	ETI Committee
Invitations			
Royal Irish Academy	14 March 2013	Discussion on fracking	Royal Irish Academy
Development Media Workshop	19 April 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	Development Media Workshop
Submissions to the Minister			
Fermanagh District Council	5 April 2013	Shale Gas Regulators' Forum (SGRF)	Fermanagh District Council
Correspondence received by DETI Private Office			
Development Media Workshop	30 March 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	Development Media Workshop

i) & ii) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence	(a) Date of Correspondence	(b) Subject	(c) Name of Organisation
Lagan Valley Greens	3 April 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing Licences	Lagan Valley Greens
South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association	22 April 2013	Petroleum Licence PL1/13	South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association
Loughshore Care Partnership	22 April 2013	Petroleum Licence PL1/13	Loughshore Care Partnership
DETI reply to Lagan Valley Greens	25 April 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing Licences	DETI
Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network	25 April 2013	Petroleum Licence PL1/13	Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network
DETI reply to South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association	26 July 2013	Petroleum Licence PL1/13	DETI
DETI reply to Loughshore Care Partnership	26 July 2013	Petroleum Licence PL1/13	DETI
DETI reply to Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network	26 July 2013	Petroleum Licence PL1/13	DETI
Friends of the Earth	18 December 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	Friends of the Earth
DETI reply to Friends of the Earth	13 January 2014	Hydraulic Fracturing	DETI
General Correspondence			
Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd	11 March 2013	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland programme of research - NB this email was marked "Commercial in Confidence"	Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd
DETI reply to above	11 March 2013	EPA Ireland programme of research - NB this email was marked "Commercial in Confidence"	DETI reply to above
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to DETI	23 August 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	DECC to DETI
Minerals and Petroleum Branch (MAPB) reply to above	27 August 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	MAPB reply to above

i) & ii) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence	(a) Date of Correspondence	(b) Subject	(c) Name of Organisation
MAPB follow-up to above	9 September 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	MAPB follow-up to above
Golder Associates Annual Professional Lecture – invitation issued to Geological Survey Northern Ireland (GSNI) & Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI)	22 October 2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	GSNI & HSENI attended the Lecture at the University of Ulster, Belfast Campus on 5 November 2013
DECC to DETI	25 October 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	DECC to DETI
MAPB to DOE	30 October 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	MAPB to DOE
DOE reply to above	30 October 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	DOE reply to above
Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) email re above	31 October 2013	SGRF - Shale Gas Roadmap	NIEA email re above
HSENI to DECC re above	31 October 2013	SGRF - Shale Gas Roadmap	HSENI to DECC re above
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) to DETI re above	4 November 2013	Public Health Impact Shale Gas	DHSSPS to DETI re above
MAPB to SGRF members re above	6 November 2013	Public Health Impact Shale Gas	MAPB to SGRF members re above
DECC to SGRF members re above	28 November 2013	DECC	DECC to SGRF members re above
MAPB to SGRF members re above	5 December 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	MAPB to SGRF members re above
DETI to DECC re above	6 December 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	DETI to DECC re above
DECC to DETI re above	9 December 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	DECC to DETI re above
DETI to DECC re above	9 December 2013	Shale Gas Roadmap	DETI to DECC re above
MAPB to SGRF members re above	13 January 2014	Shale Gas Conference	MAPB to SGRF members re above
Environmental Information Regulations Requests and Freedom of Information Requests			
Researcher, Green Party	15 February 2013	Minutes of the meeting of the Shale Gas Regulators' Forum	Researcher, Green Party

i) & ii) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence	(a) Date of Correspondence	(b) Subject	(c) Name of Organisation
DETI to Researcher, Green Party re above	30 May 2013	Minutes of the meeting of the Shale Gas Regulators' Forum	DETI
DETI Press Office Media Enquiries			
Name of Organisation	Date Enquiry Received	Subject	Date of Reply
Impartial Reporter	09/01/2013	Financial benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing to local community	11/01/2013
Fermanagh Fracking	31/01/2013	Hydraulic Fracturing	n/a
Financial Times	11/03/2013	Shale drilling permits	14/03/2013
BBC NI Spotlight	18/03/2013	Hydraulic Fracturing licences	19/03/2013
Tyrone Courier	28/03/2013	Hydraulic Fracturing licences	29/03/2013
BBC NI Newslines	23/04/2013	CHx LLC licence applications	23/04/2013
Community Telegraph	26/04/2013	Response to anti-fracking petition	29/04/2013
Tyrone Courier	26/04/2013	CHx LLC licence applications	29/04/2013
BBC NI Newslines	03/05/2013	CHx LLC licence applications	03/05/2013
Daily Mirror	12/06/2013	Comment on Hydraulic Fracturing content in BBC 'Town' programme	12/06/2013
Irish Independent	10/09/2013	Consent for Tamboran exploration wells	13/09/2013
Impartial Reporter	18/12/2013	Evergreen Resources Hydraulic Fracturing sites	18/12/2013
Mid-Ulster Mail	13/01/2014	Request for details of licences for shale gas exploration in Cookstown District Council or Dungannon District Council area	27/01/2014

On-Farm Renewable Energy Projects

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether NI Electricity has the capacity to manage the 30 on-farm renewable energy projects as envisioned by Assured Asset Energy Ltd, in terms of connection to the grid and cost.

(AQW 33738/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The ability of the grid to accommodate individual renewable electricity projects is a matter for NIE and will be determined by a number of factors including the size and electricity export requirements of the generating station, the amount of renewable energy already connected or committed to connect, and the capacity of the primary substation to which it is connected.

Renewable Energy Projects

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what overview and lead is being taken within government to ensure that renewable energy projects can be commissioned at tenable costs because of the inability of the NI Electricity infrastructure to cope and the resulting connection charges.

(AQW 33740/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department has put in place the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to incentivise the generation of renewable electricity through renewable obligation certificates. Support delivered through the NIRO means that we are on target to meet the Executive's Programme for Government target of 20% renewable generation by 2015.

The price paid to obtain connections from NIE are cost reflective and must be met by developers. Departing from this principle, for example, to provide further investment in the distribution network could impact on customers' bills. Determining this balance is a matter for the Utility Regulator, taking into account its statutory duty to work in the interests of all customers.

My Department attends the Regulator-led Renewables Grid Liaison Group which also includes industry and NIE representation. NIE has been exploring options for increasing the grid's ability to accommodate small scale renewable generators without substantial grid investment. This work is ongoing.

Visitors to Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the target of 4.2 million visitors in 2014 has been achieved; and to detail how many have visited Strabane.

(AQW 33760/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The key Programme for Government (PfG) targets on tourism for 2014 relate to the 2014 calendar year and outcomes will not be known until spring 2015.

Interim milestone targets were set for 2013 which were to increase visitor numbers to 4.1 million and visitor revenue to £637million by 31 December 2013. Official Statistics recently released by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) show that these targets were achieved. Visitor numbers for 2013 were 4.1 million with total visitor expenditure of £723million.

The 2014 targets are to increase visitor numbers to 4.2 million and visitor revenue to £676million. Our focus has been to grow visitor spend faster than visitor numbers and therefore, importantly, increase spend per visitor.

Based on these latest figures we are currently on track to achieve both the PfG targets for 2014 and our long term goal to make tourism in Northern Ireland a £1billion industry by 2020.

Regarding visitor numbers to Strabane, the latest NISRA tourism statistics at Local Government District level relate to average figures for the years 2011 and 2012. These figures which were published on 13 December 2013 estimate that the Strabane District Council Area received a total of 36,000 overnight visits in 2011/12. Further detail on the statistics at Local Government District level can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/tourism_statistics_by_local_government_district_2011-2012.pdf?rev=0

Investment to the Strabane/Lifford Border Region

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she is working with her Irish Government counterparts on the North South Ministerial Council to attract investment to the Strabane/Lifford border region through InterTradelreland.

(AQW 33761/11-15)

Mrs Foster: As a cross border body InterTradelreland's remit is not to attract investment to individual areas but to exchange information, carry out research and enhance the capabilities of companies.

Commercial Investment to the Strabane Area

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the lack of commercial investment to the Strabane area.

(AQW 33762/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In the five year period 2008/09 – 2012/13 Invest NI made 284 offers of support totalling over £5million of assistance. This support has contributed towards approximately £30million of investment in the Strabane District Council area and has promoted 481 new jobs.

Most notably this included an announcement by Allstate to seek to locate 100 jobs at its Strabane site as part of a wider expansion across its Northern Ireland operations.

In addition, during the last financial year Invest NI also offered support to O'Neill's International Sports Company Limited totalling £322 thousand to undertake a £3million expansion project which, when fully implemented, will create a further 61 jobs in the area. Invest NI's Jobs Fund programme has also continued to prove beneficial in the area, helping to support a £2million investment by Frylite Limited which will bring a further 19 jobs to Strabane.

In February 2011 Invest NI acquired 43 acres of land at Melmount Road, Strabane for the purpose of developing a new business park to enhance the economic infrastructure within the Strabane Council area. Upon completion of the first phase of construction work in the development of Strabane Business Park, 16 acres of serviced land was released in support of economic development within the Council area.

There are currently six recorded interests from companies in respect of locating to the Park. Whilst it can take some time for expressions of interest to convert to actual sales and investment, this is a pleasing level of interest so far. Invest NI continues to proactively market this land to potential investors, both indigenous and foreign direct to encourage further investment in the Strabane area. However, ultimately the final location decision rests solely with the investor and they choose their location based on many factors including availability of skills, the location of other businesses operating in a similar industry and infrastructure.

I am keen to ensure the progress demonstrated by these announcements is maintained and would encourage all local stakeholders to work together to maximise opportunities for investment.

Tourism Jobs Based in the Strabane Area

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what share of the 40,000 tourism jobs are based in the Strabane area.

(AQW 33763/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The latest Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) tourism statistics at Local Government District level were published on 13 December 2013 and relate to average figures for the years 2011 and 2012. The bulletin includes information on employee jobs within Tourism Characteristic Sectors from the 2011 Northern Ireland Census of Employment. These figures show that there were 553 such jobs in the Strabane District Council Area in 2011.

Further detail on the statistics at Local Government District level can be accessed via the following link: http://www.detini.gov.uk/tourism_statistics_by_local_government_district_2011-2012.pdf?rev=0

Revenue Generated from Tourism in the Strabane Area

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the revenue generated from tourism in the Strabane area, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 33764/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The latest Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) tourism statistics at Local Government District level relate to average figures for the years 2011 and 2012. These figures which were published on 13 December 2013 estimated that tourism expenditure in the Strabane District Council Area for 2011/12 was £7 million.

Further detail on the statistics at Local Government District level can be accessed via the following link: http://www.detini.gov.uk/tourism_statistics_by_local_government_district_2011-2012.pdf?rev=0

Gran Fondo Stage Event

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the work her Department has carried out to secure a Gran Fondo stage event following the success of the Giro d'Italia 2014; and (ii) whether the Mourne will be included in the plans for any future event.

(AQW 33864/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) As an event the 2014 Giro d'Italia Big Start captured the imagination. It is being hailed as a resounding success. As a result of our investment there will also be long term benefits in terms of our economy, tourism and interest in cycling. People will now come to ride the Giro stages in our beautiful countryside, including the Mourne.

My Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), has entered into negotiations with the event organisers to secure Northern Ireland as a venue for an official Giro sportive event currently known as The Gran Fondo. This includes the development of a Full Business Case and Economic Appraisal, which NITB is hoping to complete in the next month.

- (ii) If successful in securing The Gran Fondo, as with The Giro d'Italia Grande Partenza, the final race route will be a matter for the event organisers.

Giro d'Italia Website Hits

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the number of hits on the Giro d'Italia website when the event was in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 33903/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The official Giro d'Italia website (www.gazetta.it/giroditalia/2014) is owned and operated by RCS Sport Italy and is not affiliated to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB). NITB does not have access to information regarding their website.

Discovernorthernireland.com hosted a suite of Giro related pages before and during the event. From 8 May 2014 to 11 May 2014, the pages received 136,906 page views. This accounted for 54% of pages viewed on the website during above dates.

From 1 January 2014 to 11 May 2014 the Giro d'Italia pages on discovernorthernireland.com supported 420,054 page views.

In addition, Discover Northern Ireland Giro Start 2014 social media messages were seen by 10,655,455 people across Facebook, Twitter & YouTube, and generated 337,463 engagements.

NITB's Giro related videos received 164,000 views in total.

Petroleum Licence to CHx Industrial LLC

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she plans to bring the decision to issue a petroleum licence to CHx Industrial LLC to the Executive.

(AQW 34005/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I would refer the member to the answer I gave to a previous priority AQW 27613/11-15.

Department of the Environment

Unregulated Minerals Extraction in Lough Neagh Special Protection Area

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has awarded any contracts to any of the operators of the unregulated minerals extraction taking place in Lough Neagh Special Protection Area for the supply of sand for use in publicly funded plans or projects.

(AQW 32562/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): The Department has not awarded any contracts for the supply of sand to any operators who may be extracting minerals from Lough Neagh Special Protection Area.

Delays in Providing Planning Approval for New Poultry Sheds

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment whether he is aware of the frustration felt by the local poultry industry at delays in providing planning approval for new poultry sheds; and whether he has had discussions with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development regarding this issue.

(AQW 33513/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Last year, I created a dedicated planning team to deal specifically with applications for poultry houses in order to support and facilitate developments in the agri-food industry. The aim of this team is to reduce processing times for poultry house planning applications. The team, whilst dealing specifically with applications for Moy Park poultry houses across Northern Ireland, also provides advice and support to Area Offices dealing with other poultry house applications.

In processing applications for poultry houses, expert advice from consultees, including NIEA, must be sought to enable full consideration of any potential environmental impacts. This consultation process can result in requests for additional information which can prolong the application process, and I can understand how this may lead to frustration. However I need to be clear that whilst I support a planning system that engages proactively in delivering timely planning decisions, I must also ensure that this is not at the expense of our environment.

Poultry litter has high phosphorus content and can contribute to the phosphorus surplus of local agriculture. We therefore need to ensure that adequate control measures are in place to mitigate any potential associated environmental impacts before making a decision on a planning application. This includes screening of proposed broiler farms by NIEA prior to the submission of applications to give an indication of any potential environmental impacts and location suitability. During the planning application process the applicant is required to provide information, for consideration, detailing the manner in which the chicken litter resulting from a proposal is to be utilised. This is to satisfy my Department that the proposal will not result in an unacceptable impact on the environment.

I have not met with the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development on this matter, but I am aware of engagement at official level.

Commitments Given by Predecessor at the Community Benefit Summit

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the commitments given by his predecessor at the Community Benefit Summit in June 2013, including agreeing to implement a

number of actions and then reconvene again in September 2013, whether he will review what has been achieved to date; and revisit his answer to AQW 33188/11-15.

(AQW 33674/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I will be meeting officials to review the recommended actions and what has been achieved to date in the very near future. Following this, I propose to reconvene a further Summit as and when I consider it appropriate to do so.

Renewable Energy Projects

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of his support for the renewable energy project launched through the Assured Energy Asset Ltd Fund, how delivery can be achieved if NI Electricity does not have the capacity to manage the 30 on-farm renewable energy projects as envisioned by Assured Asset Energy Ltd, in terms of connection to the grid and cost.

(AQW 33739/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As Minister of the Environment, I support and encourage renewable energy projects that can have a positive impact on the environment and the economy, and I encourage the efficient processing of any such planning applications.

I am aware that there can be significant issues in relation to grid connection for renewable energy projects, however, responsibility for grid connection, including capacity and associated costs, rests with NIE and is outside of the planning process and my Department's responsibilities.

Public Service Vehicles (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1985

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 33599/11-15, whether his Department will undertake to update the Driver and Vehicle Agency's senior staff's assertion and interpretation of this matter for future reference for their meetings with service providers.

(AQW 33751/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I am content that my officials are providing consistent and appropriate guidance as to the Department's interpretation of Article 49 of the 1985 Regulations. A copy of my response to this question and to AQW 33599/11-15 has been copied to officials in the relevant policy and operational teams.

Process Utilised to Inform People of a Planning Application

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the process utilised to inform people within the vicinity of a planning application that they can input into a consultation process.

(AQW 33756/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department has a statutory requirement to advertise an application for planning permission in at least one local newspaper circulating in the area and on the Department's website. In addition, the Department currently has a non-statutory policy of sending neighbour notification letters to occupiers of premises who are most likely to be affected by a proposed development. I consider neighbour notification an important element of the planning system which should be continued after the transfer of powers to local councils.

I recognise that improvements can be made in this area, which is why I am proposing that neighbour notification be made a statutory requirement once new legislation comes into operation in April 2015, when the majority of planning functions will move to councils.

On 28 May 2014, I launched a 12 week consultation on proposals for planning reform and its transfer to new councils where I am seeking views on the improvements I intend to introduce to planning. The proposals for a statutory neighbour notification process are included in this consultation.

Freedom of Information Response on 17 April 2014

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 33508/11-15, (i) to explain the disparity in this answer with a recent Freedom of Information response on 17 April 2014 which detailed a total of £129,988 spent on research and the report into draft speculation for wheelchair accessible taxis; (ii) what other research or reports of this nature on this matter have been funded by his Department; and (iii) what was the cost to his Department of this research.

(AQW 33766/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The reports completed for my Department by Integrated Transport Planning (ITP) related to, amongst other matters, a revised specification for Wheelchair Accessible Taxis. They did not relate to the introduction of single tier licensing, which was the subject matter of AQW 33508/11-15. I can confirm that the £129,988 was the cost of the work undertaken by ITP.

No other reports on either single tier licensing or Wheelchair Accessible Taxis specifications have been funded by the Department.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Shared Education: Funding

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has been asked by the Minister of Education to provide additional funding for the facilitation of shared education projects since May 2011.

(AQO 6290/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): Shared education funding and projects can take different forms. For example, as well as capital funding for shared education campuses, there can be resource funding aimed at enabling individual, separately located schools to engage in sharing services and facilities.

My Department received several bids from the Department of Education relating to shared education funding. Of course, the provision of any additional funding to a department would be a decision for the Executive to make, subject to a recommendation from me.

A number of shared education bids are currently being considered with the UK Government under the Economic Pact announced in June 2013. These include funding for Lisanelly Shared Education Campus and a number of Integrated Primary Schools.

The Shared Education Campuses Programme is a key commitment under the Together: Building a United Community Strategy which aims to identify up to ten potential shared campus type projects. In January this year the Minister for Education called for expressions of interest in this Programme, and I understand he will make an announcement shortly regarding those selected to proceed in planning. No bids have been made in this regard.

I understand the Department of Education is also planning a programme of enhanced shared education amongst schools to be part-funded under Delivering Social Change. This will need to be considered by the Executive against competing priorities.

Civil Service Estate: Unoccupied Buildings

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel which unoccupied buildings are part of the Civil Service Estate.

(AQO 6297/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: At present the unoccupied buildings in the Northern Ireland Civil Service Office Estate managed by the Department of Finance and Personnel are:

Ballyclare Community Benefits Office, Hillhead Road, Ballyclare; Rosepark Workshop, Newtownards Road, Belfast;

2b Portaferry Road, Newtownards; and

35/39 Bridge Street, Ballymena.

Energy Efficiency

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the success of programmes to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings.

(AQO 6292/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I can only answer the question in relation to Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Office Estate for which my Department has responsibility. Energy consumption of this Estate equates to 4% of the total Northern Ireland public sector consumption. Energy efficiency programmes for all other public buildings are the responsibility of the Department which manages those buildings.

A three year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2011-14 for the Office Estate has been completed and an updated Plan covering 2014-17 will be published shortly. Both Plans identify three primary mechanisms by which energy consumption can be reduced:

- reduction in the footprint of the Office Estate;
- capital investments in energy efficiency measures and equipment; and
- behavioural change of staff occupying the Estate.

Steps taken so far to improve energy efficiency include:

- the implementation of recommendations from comprehensive energy surveys;
- the implementation of Display Energy Certificate (DECs) recommendations;
- voltage optimisation pilot projects; and
- providing premises officers with limited access to Building Energy Management System (BEMS).

Energy consumption data has shown that in first year of the 2011-14 Office Estate Energy Efficiency Plan, a 3.5% reduction in energy consumption was achieved and assessment of the following two years indicates that the Department is on track to meet the combined 2011-14 plan target of 10% energy reduction (approximately 9,500 megawatts hours (Mwh)).

Rate Relief: Shop Windows

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what consideration he has given to changing the current rate relief for shop windows in vacant retail space.

(AQO 6293/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I am currently looking at a proposal put forward by representatives of the Buttercrane Shopping Centre in Newry to allow the commercial use of window displays in otherwise vacant shops, without triggering a liability to pay the occupied rate. This came up at a meeting I held last month.

On the face of it, it strikes me an innovative measure worth trying, if it helps arrest the decline in some of our shopping centres and high streets.

There are practical issues, however, that need to be addressed to ensure it is effective and would not lead to widespread abuse or disadvantage to other businesses in the vicinity. Furthermore, there are issues for Land and Property Services who would be charged with administering and policing such a scheme.

As the Member may be aware, the use of window displays in otherwise vacant shops for non-commercial use is currently disregarded for rating purposes. This was a temporary measure introduced

in the 'economic downturn' and the legislative provisions are due to expire on 31st March 2015. Unfortunately, to extend and enlarge this power would require a further bill to be taken through the Assembly.

I have asked my officials, however, to consider the case for including such a measure in a Rates Amendment Bill, which is already scheduled for next year.

Rate Relief: Amateur Sports Clubs

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the proposed Private Member's Bill on rate relief for community amateur sports clubs.

(AQO 6294/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I cannot support the proposed Private Member's Bill at this time. I have no objection to the Assembly considering measures to further assist community amateur sports clubs, alongside all the other priorities we face. I am concerned, however, with shortcomings in the Member's research; shortcomings that the DFP Committee has already identified and which the member has agreed to address.

This is about engaging with the business community on the issue because some of these clubs directly compete with pubs, restaurants and even hotels. Indeed, it is worth noting that a State Aid case has been lodged recently with the European Commission regarding the preferential treatment of CASCs in relation to business rates in the rest of the UK.

This being the case, it would be unwise to proceed with such a measure until the outcome of the state aid case is known, as otherwise it would pose a risk of infraction on my Department.

It is also worth mentioning that I would be willing to look at introducing enhanced relief for unlicensed clubs and take this through a Rates Amendment Bill which is scheduled for next year, as a safer alternative to the Private Members Bill proposals. And that would also ensure parity of treatment with community halls.

RRI Borrowing

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the recent Northern Ireland Audit Office report on Reinvest and Reform Initiative borrowing, to outline the Executive's future borrowing strategy.

(AQO 6295/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I have written to Executive colleagues setting out my proposals for a future borrowing strategy and these proposals are currently being considered by the Budget Review Group.

The draft strategy sets out the costs of borrowing and highlights two ways in which future borrowing may be capped to ensure that borrowing remains affordable going forward.

If agreement is reached in the Executive on this borrowing strategy, I plan to include details in future Budget documents.

Corporation Tax

Mr Sheehan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the preparations for the proposed devolution of Corporation Tax powers.

(AQO 6296/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Government will make its decision on whether to devolve responsibility for corporation tax in the autumn - with an announcement to be made no later than the 2014 Autumn Statement.

The Government has previously indicated that if it did decide to devolve responsibility for the rate of corporation tax in the autumn, then a stand-alone Bill would be introduced in the normal way with the aim of it becoming law before the prorogation of Parliament prior to the 2015 General Election.

This is a very tight timescale and the First Minister and deputy First Minister have previously highlighted the need for an early decision to the Secretary of State.

In the meantime, officials continue to engage with their Treasury counterparts on preparatory work with respect to the development of the proposed technical design of a devolved regime.

This will inform the content of the necessary legislation and follows on from the previous work by the Joint Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy.

Public Sector Reform

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what engagement he has had with his Executive colleagues on public sector reform.

(AQO 6298/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Since February 2014 I have been engaged in a series of bi-lateral meetings with my Executive colleagues. To date I have completed ten of the eleven scheduled meetings.

These meetings have covered a generic agenda on Reform together with separate departmental specific items as appropriate. The generic agenda included:

1. Rationale for public sector reform;
2. The role of Public Sector Reform Division (PSRD);
3. Strategic review of public sector reform in NI; and
4. Proposed governance of public sector reform.

The meetings have provided the opportunity to promote the role and responsibilities of PSRD and highlight the need for PSRD to work collaboratively with departments, business areas and frontline staff, as a catalyst and an enabler for reform.

Ongoing work on reform evident within many departments has been recognised and assurance provided that no additional reform activities will be undertaken without the agreement of the respective Minister(s) and the final outcome of any analysis, including implementation plans, will be subject to the agreement of the relevant Minister(s).

Equal Pay: Outstanding Claims

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on any discussions his Department has had on outstanding equal pay claims.

(AQO 6299/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: With regard to valid claims submitted following the Abdulla ruling on behalf of former staff who have now left the Northern Ireland Civil Service, my Department has had a number of discussions with relevant parties leading up to my agreement to the settlement terms which are now being implemented. At the end of May, 346 former NICS staff have been paid their settlements and others are in progress.

With regard to PSNI/NIO staff, I refer the member to AQO 6287/11-15.

June Monitoring Round

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what bids his Department is making as part of the June Monitoring round.

(AQO 6300/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: My Department is submitting a bid for £3.6m current and £40m capital to take forward a number of the recommendations made in the NI Executive's Asset Management Strategy.

Budget 2015-16

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the timeline for producing the Executive's 2015-2016 budget.

(AQO 6301/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Executive would ideally need to have a final 2015-16 Budget in place by Christmas this year. To allow for public consultation this means we would need to publish a draft Budget by September.

In December last year I sought the Executive's agreement to formally commence the 2015-16 Budget process. However, my proposals have not been endorsed and time is now pressing. I have therefore asked my officials to prepare a draft Budget position over the summer, which I intend to present to the Executive in early September.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

South West Acute Hospital and Altnagelvin Area Hospital

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consultations took place between the Public Health Agency, the Health and Social Care Board and the Western Health and Social Care Trust over the use of the facilities at (i) the South West Acute Hospital; and (ii) Altnagelvin Area Hospital.

(AQW 33658/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): I understand that that the facilities to which you refer are maternity facilities. I can confirm that Western Health and Social Care Trust has been engaged in on-going discussions with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) in respect of assuring that the Trust provides safe maternity services in line with the medical staffing infrastructure and is committed to providing safe maternity services in both its acute hospitals in line with my Department's Maternity Strategy 2012-2018.

It is the Trust's intention to maintain its current service model to meet the standards outlined in the Maternity Strategy.

Services Currently Available to Cancer Patients

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the services currently available to cancer patients in (i) West Tyrone; and (ii) the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 33703/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust is responsible for providing services in West Tyrone. Cancer patients in the West Tyrone area have full access to all of the cancer services in Altnagelvin Area Hospital, which is an acute hospital and one of Northern Ireland's designated cancer units. Outreach chemotherapy is provided for some types of cancer at the Tyrone County Hospital.

At Altnagelvin Hospital cancer services are provided in a purpose built facility within the new South Wing and consist of:

- Inpatient ward - combined haematology and oncology, with 14 beds operational 7 days a week 24 hours a day;
- Chemotherapy suite with 17 chairs and 4 treatment rooms operational Monday to Friday;
- Outpatient clinic with 9 consultation rooms operational Monday to Friday 0800 – 1700.

The unit has seven multidisciplinary tumour teams:

- Lung – Linked to South West Acute Hospital (SWAH) and the regional cancer centre in Belfast;
- Colorectal – Linked to SWAH;
- Upper GI – Linked to SWAH and the regional cancer centre in Belfast;
- Breast – Linked to SWAH;
- Urology – Linked to the Northern HSC Trust and the regional cancer centre in Belfast;
- Gynaecology – Linked to SWAH and the regional cancer centre in Belfast;
- Haematology - Linked to the Northern HSC Trust

In addition the Western HSC Trust continues to make progress on the radiotherapy development project. It is planned that a new radiotherapy unit will be fully operational at Altnagelvin Hospital by summer 2016.

Post-Project Evaluations that are Currently Overdue

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail each post-project evaluation that is currently overdue, including the date on which the evaluation was due and the reasons for the delay.

(AQW 33720/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department completes a large number of Post Project Evaluations. The following post project evaluations relating to DHSSPS projects are currently shown as overdue on DFP's database:

Project Title (Type of Expenditure)	PPE Due	Reason/s for Delay
Provision of Adult Mental Health Crisis Service -Gransha Hospital (Capital)	30/11/2013	Project complexity delayed completion. New date set for mid-June 2014.
Electronic Materials Management System (Capital)	31/03/2012	Responsibility for the administration of this project changed on at least 3 occasions. Now underway.
Additional Medical Bed Capacity at Antrim Area Hospital (Capital)	01/12/2013	Delays in completing this project have impacted on the submission date for the PPE. PPE will be complete no later than July 2014.
Expansion of A&E Department at Antrim Area Hospital (Capital)	01/12/2013	Trust has advised that PPE is in final stages and will be with Department no later than 17 June 2014.
NIFRS – Emergency Services Investment Programme – Fleet OBC 2 (Capital)	31/10/2013	NIFRS has advised that PPE is drafted and awaiting clearance by senior management. PPE now expected no later than July 2014.
Provider Development Programme Phase 3 (Consultancy)	31/03/2012	Not submitted. Follow up initiated.
Agenda for Change (Retrospective) Equal Pay cases (Other)	01/06/2013	Not submitted. Follow up initiated

There is also a number of additional overdue capital PPEs where total expenditure is above the delegated limit of the respective ALB but below that required for submission to DFP. The responsibility for completion and submission to the Department of these PPEs lies with the respective ALB. Reasons for the delay are not yet known and reminders have been issued.

Project Title	PPE Due	Reason/s for Delay
South Eastern Trust - Second MRI Scanner - Ulster Hospital	20/02/14	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
Belfast Trust - Decontamination - CJD	31/10/13	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
Belfast Trust – Neurology Unit at Musgrave Park Hospital	31/10/12	Not submitted to Department. Reminder issued to Trust.
Belfast Trust - Replacement X-Ray Equipment at Belfast City Hospital Endovascular Suite	01/02/14	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
South Eastern Trust – Re-provision of GP and Community Services – Pound Lane Health Centre, Downpatrick	06/05/13	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
Western Trust - Implementation of Alternative Textiles at Altnagelvin Hospital (Sleepknit)	30/04/14	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
Western Trust - Gamma Camera and Radiology Room 8 – Altnagelvin Hospital	01/05/14	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
ICT – RQIA – Back-Up Communications Link	13/09/12	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
ICT – HSCB – Payment Calculation and Analysis System	31/12/12	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
ICT – Regional ICT – Stroke Information System	31/07/13	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
Belfast Trust – Cardiac Theatre Instruments	24/05/11	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.
Western Trust – Altnagelvin Fire Lift	01/04/13	Not submitted to Department. Reminder letter issued.

The below table indicates overdue post-project evaluation for external consultancy business cases below the DFP delegated limit of £75k:

Title	Date	Status
DHSSPS Review of school of dental hygiene	June 2012	PPE is being sought from relevant branch
DHSSPS Evaluation of NI suicide prevention strategy “Protect Life	Dec 2012	PPE is being sought from relevant branch
DHSSPS Evaluation of transfer of prison healthcare	Dec 2012	PPE is being sought from relevant branch
HSCB - review of interagency working	Sept 2010	PPE being sought from HSCB
HSCB - Birth family support & counselling	Oct 2010	PPE being sought from HSCB
HSCB - VFM of temporary staff	Mar 2013	PPE being sought from HSCB
BSO – architectural review FPS application	Sept 2013	PPE being sought from BSO

Title	Date	Status
BSO – BSTP strategic advisor	Sept 2013	PPE being sought from BSO
BSO - RPA phase 2	Dec 2010	PPE being sought from BSO
NIFRS – wildfire management in the eastern Mournes	Jun 2013	PPE being sought from NIFRS
SHSCT – CAMHS Service overview	July 13	PPE is being sought from SHSCT
WHSCT – PFI Energy Advice	Mar 2014	PPE being sought from WHSCT
NHSCT – Development of volunteer questionnaire for MacMillan unit	May 2014	PPE being sought from NHSCT

Early Diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to ensure that the medical training curriculum promotes the early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

(AQW 33721/11-15)

Mr Poots: I refer you to my earlier response to AQW 33549 regarding medical training. The medical professional bodies are responsible for developing the content of post graduate medical curricula which is then approved by the General Medical Council (GMC). Undergraduate programmes are developed by individual medical schools in line with standards set by the GMC. I understand that pancreatic cancer is included in that training.

Raising Awareness of the Symptoms of Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will consider running a dedicated campaign to raise awareness of the symptoms of pancreatic cancer.

(AQW 33722/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Public Health Agency (PHA) will launch a campaign to raise awareness of cancer signs and symptoms later this year.

Treatments Proven to Benefit Pancreatic Cancer Patients

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to ensure that treatments proven to benefit pancreatic cancer patients will be made available throughout the Health Service as quickly as possible.

(AQW 33723/11-15)

Mr Poots: In Northern Ireland arrangements are in place through health service commissioning to ensure appropriate and timely access to evidence-based treatments.

The Health and Social Care Board and the health authorities in England are guided by the same appraisal organisation i.e. the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) when considering the introduction of new drug therapies and treatments. When these are assessed and gain approval from NICE the Department seeks to ensure their introduction as soon as is practically possible.

Pancreatic Cancer: Assignment Clinical Nurse Specialists

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to ensure that patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer will be assigned a clinical nurse specialist.

(AQW 33724/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that all patients with a confirmed diagnosis of pancreatic cancer are discussed at the Regional Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary (HPB) Multidisciplinary Team meeting. The HPB clinical nurse

specialist is a core member of that team. All patients suitable for surgical intervention are assigned to the HPB Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Dieticians: Compulsory Members of the Pancreatic Cancer Multidisciplinary Team

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he will take to ensure that dieticians are made compulsory members of the pancreatic cancer multidisciplinary team that review patients with pancreatic cancer.

(AQW 33725/11-15)

Mr Poots: All patients with a confirmed diagnosis of pancreatic cancer are discussed at the Regional Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary (HPB) Multidisciplinary Team meeting. Dieticians are currently not core members of that team however in line with current

NHS England guidance for reviewing HPB cancer, dieticians are considered members of the extended HPB Team. Extended team members are required to attend the HPB team meeting for discussion on relevant cases – this is determined on a case by case basis on grounds of clinical need. As such there are currently no plans to change the status of dietetic membership of the HPB team in Northern Ireland - although this will be reviewed with the publication of a NICE Pancreatic Cancer Clinical Guideline due late 2014 or early 2015.

Inpatients Discharged from the Bluestone Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to inpatients discharged from the Bluestone Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital, to detail (i) the support available in a community setting; (ii) whether a key worker is appointed prior to or after discharge; (iii) how soon after discharge the key worker is expected to make contact with the patient; and (iv) whether arrangements differ if former patients were admitted voluntarily or were detained.

(AQW 33726/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Patients of the Bluestone Unit who are considered by the multi-disciplinary team as suitable for early discharge yet still require acute treatment are discharged into the care of the Home Treatment Crisis Response (HTCR) service who continue to deliver, monitor and review the patient's treatment plan according to their needs. For those patients not discharged to HTCR a pre-discharge meeting is convened at the Bluestone Unit to agree with the patient what support arrangements need to be put in place. Support can include voluntary services input, independent sector input and statutory services input.
- (ii) If the patient was known to the community mental health team prior to his/her admission, they will retain their previous key worker, who will also be participating in the discharge process. Otherwise a key worker will be appointed during the pre-discharge meeting.
- (iii) All patients on discharge from the Bluestone Unit are allocated an appointment with the community mental health team within 7 days of discharge under the Card before You Leave protocol. It is normal to expect a patient to be seen within a fortnight following the Card before You Leave appointment.
- (iv) There is no distinction made regardless of the legal status of the patient at point of admission or throughout their time in hospital.

Potential Organ Donation

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to approaching families and next of kin to discuss potential organ donation, how many approaches were made in each month of the last three years which did not involve a specialist Nurse in Organ Donation; and to detail who made the approach.

(AQW 33727/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below indicates the numbers of approaches to families of all potential deceased donors for each month over the last 3 years, and the numbers and percentages of such approaches involving a Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation (SNOD).

	Number where family were approached	Number of approaches where SNOD present	SNOD Present rate-monthly (%)	Number where family approached –Year To Date	Number of approaches where SNOD present – Year To Date	SNOD Present rate- Year To Date (%)
Apr-11	5	5	100%	5	5	100%
May-11	4	2	50%	9	7	77.8%
Jun-11	11	5	45.5%	20	12	60.0%
Jul-11	5	4	80%	25	16	64%
Aug-11	6	6	100%	31	22	71%
Sep-11	6	3	50%	37	25	67.6%
Oct-11	11	8	72.7%	48	33	68.8%
Nov-11	15	8	53.3%	63	41	65.1%
Dec-11	5	3	60%	68	44	64.7%
Jan-12	9	8	88.9%	77	52	67.5%
Feb-12	2	1	50%	79	53	67.1%
Mar-12	9	8	88.9%	88	61	69.3%
Apr-12	7	6	85.7%	7	6	85.7%
May-12	6	5	83.3%	13	11	84.6%
Jun-12	9	6	66.7%	22	17	77.3%
Jul-12	7	5	71.4%	29	22	75.9%
Aug-12	13	11	84.6%	42	33	78.6%
Sep-12	8	7	87.5%	50	40	80%
Oct-12	4	4	100%	54	44	81.5%
Nov-12	13	13	100%	67	57	85.1%
Dec-12	6	6	100%	73	63	86.3%
Jan-13	3	2	66.7%	76	65	85.5%
Feb-13	9	7	77.8%	85	72	84.7%
Mar-13	8	6	75%	93	78	83.9%
Apr-13	7	7	100%	7	7	100%
May-13	10	9	90%	17	16	94.1%
Jun-13	10	7	70%	27	23	85.2%
Jul-13	5	3	60%	32	26	81.3%

	Number where family were approached	Number of approaches where SNOD present	SNOD Present rate-monthly (%)	Number where family approached -Year To Date	Number of approaches where SNOD present - Year To Date	SNOD Present rate- Year To Date (%)
Aug-13	10	7	70%	42	33	78.6%
Sep-13	6	4	66.7%	48	37	77.1%
Oct-13	8	7	87.5%	56	44	78.6%
Nov-13	8	5	62.5%	64	49	76.6%
Dec-13	9	7	77.8%	73	56	76.7%
Jan-14	9	6	66.7%	82	62	75.6%
Feb-14	9	8	88.9%	91	70	76.9%
Mar-14	10	9	90%	101	79	78.2%

*The information above was supplied by NHS Blood and Transplant on 5 June 2014.

Senior Managers in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the percentage of Voluntary Early Redundancy (VER) and Early Retirement Packages that were awarded to senior managers in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; (ii) whether this was an initiative to only benefit senior members of staff; (iii) how many people within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust have left using VER; (iv) the total cost of VER packages; and (v) a breakdown of the pay bands included in VER packages.

(AQW 33731/11-15)

Mr Poots: I understand the information requested relates to the last three years i.e.2011/12 -2013/14.

- (i) The Trust has advised that there were no Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) or Voluntary Redundancy (VR) packages awarded to senior managers during the period 2011/12 to 2013/14.
- (ii) The Trust has advised that this initiative was not confined to senior members of staff.
- (iii) & (iv)

The Table below sets out information on the number of VER / VR packages awarded over the period 2011/12 and 2012/13. There were no such packages for 2013/14. (Information on 2011/12 and 2012/13 VER/ VR packages is available in the Trust's Annual Report 2012/13) http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/pdf/annual_report.pdf

The Table shows the number of people within the Trust who have left using VER/ VR during the period 2011/12 to 2013/14 the cost of these packages during the period 2011/12 to 2013/14.

VER/VR (exit package cost band)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<£10,000	4	0	0
£10,000 -£25,000	13	2	0
£25,000 - £50,000	26	9	0
£50,000 - £100,000	15	8	0
£100,000 - £150,000	5	3	0

VER/VR (exit package cost band)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
£150,000 - £200,000	2	2	0
>£200,000	0	2	0
Total number	65	26	0
Total resource cost	£3,455,000	£2,150,000	NIL

(v) The Table below provides a breakdown of the pay bands included in the VER / VR packages.

Pay Band	2011/12	2012/13
1	2	4
2	22	-
3	1	-
4	21	7
5	1	1
6	8	2
7	2	3
8A	1	5
8B	2	-
8C	3	1
8D	1	1
9	1	-
Medical	-	2
Total	65	26

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons are employed in each Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 33767/11-15)

Mr Poots: The headcount and whole-time equivalent (WTE) numbers of consultant orthopaedic surgeons employed by each Health and Social Care Trust are shown in the table below.

Trust	Headcount	WTE
Belfast HSC Trust	24	22.7
Northern HSC Trust	0	0.0
South Eastern HSC Trust	8	8.0
Southern HSC Trust	7	7.0
Western HSC Trust	9	9.0

Notes:

1 These figures have been provided by the HSC Trusts, and have not been validated by the Department.

- 2 Southern HSC Trust also noted that 1 of the consultants listed above is currently working notice and will vacate his post in August 2014. A further consultant has been appointed and is due to start in August 2014. Three (new) posts remain unfilled at present and recruitment campaigning is ongoing.

Prescription Charges for People with Long Term Conditions

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to introduce prescription charges for people with long term conditions.

(AQW 33770/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have indicated that I am willing to consider the re-introduction of prescription charges to protect vital front line services and to help expand access to new treatments and specialist drugs. I will have further discussions with Executive colleagues.

However, as I have also indicated any proposal to reintroduce charges for prescriptions, including any proposals as to who would be charged would be subject to full public consultation.

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people invited to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

(AQW 33789/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, the number of people invited to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening was 72,902; the number of people screened was 55,084; and the number of people who received their first invitation was 554.

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (DRSP) operates a call / recall system which offers GP Practices the opportunity for their patients with diabetes to be screened. Patients are called by their GP Practice to attend a screening clinic.

In August 2012 it was recognised that the screening interval had extended beyond the 12 months recommended and was up to 20 months for some practices.

In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 approximately 24,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 12 months since they were last screened and approximately 28,500 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 13-15 months since they were last screened. Around 20,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 16+ months since they were last screened.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust produced a recovery plan aimed at bringing the screening interval back into line and the screening interval was reduced to 12 months by September 2013.

GP practices are responsible for identifying patients eligible for screening, following agreed criteria, and whilst the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme aims to offer screening at 12 monthly intervals to GP Practices, variables to this do arise including capacity at the Practice to accommodate screening within the period offered for the screening and whether patients can attend.

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people screened by the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

(AQW 33790/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, the number of people invited to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening was 72,902; the number of people screened was 55,084; and the number of people who received their first invitation was 554.

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (DRSP) operates a call / recall system which offers GP Practices the opportunity for their patients with diabetes to be screened. Patients are called by their GP Practice to attend a screening clinic.

In August 2012 it was recognised that the screening interval had extended beyond the 12 months recommended and was up to 20 months for some practices.

In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 approximately 24,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 12 months since they were last screened and approximately 28,500 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 13-15 months since they were last screened. Around 20,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 16+ months since they were last screened.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust produced a recovery plan aimed at bringing the screening interval back into line and the screening interval was reduced to 12 months by September 2013.

GP practices are responsible for identifying patients eligible for screening, following agreed criteria, and whilst the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme aims to offer screening at 12 monthly intervals to GP Practices, variables to this do arise including capacity at the Practice to accommodate screening within the period offered for the screening and whether patients can attend.

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people who received their first invitation to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

(AQW 33791/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, the number of people invited to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening was 72,902; the number of people screened was 55,084; and the number of people who received their first invitation was 554.

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (DRSP) operates a call / recall system which offers GP Practices the opportunity for their patients with diabetes to be screened. Patients are called by their GP Practice to attend a screening clinic.

In August 2012 it was recognised that the screening interval had extended beyond the 12 months recommended and was up to 20 months for some practices.

In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 approximately 24,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 12 months since they were last screened and approximately 28,500 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 13-15 months since they were last screened. Around 20,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 16+ months since they were last screened.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust produced a recovery plan aimed at bringing the screening interval back into line and the screening interval was reduced to 12 months by September 2013.

GP practices are responsible for identifying patients eligible for screening, following agreed criteria, and whilst the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme aims to offer screening at 12 monthly intervals to GP Practices, variables to this do arise including capacity at the Practice to accommodate screening within the period offered for the screening and whether patients can attend.

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the proportion of people attending for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, whose screening took place within a period of twelve months since they were last screened.

(AQW 33792/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, the number of people invited to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening was 72,902; the number of people screened was 55,084; and the number of people who received their first invitation was 554.

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (DRSP) operates a call / recall system which offers GP Practices the opportunity for their patients with diabetes to be screened. Patients are called by their GP Practice to attend a screening clinic.

In August 2012 it was recognised that the screening interval had extended beyond the 12 months recommended and was up to 20 months for some practices.

In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 approximately 24,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 12 months since they were last screened and approximately 28,500 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 13-15 months since they were last screened. Around 20,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 16+ months since they were last screened.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust produced a recovery plan aimed at bringing the screening interval back into line and the screening interval was reduced to 12 months by September 2013.

GP practices are responsible for identifying patients eligible for screening, following agreed criteria, and whilst the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme aims to offer screening at 12 monthly intervals to GP Practices, variables to this do arise including capacity at the Practice to accommodate screening within the period offered for the screening and whether patients can attend.

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average waiting time for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening.

(AQW 33793/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, the number of people invited to attend for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening was 72,902; the number of people screened was 55,084; and the number of people who received their first invitation was 554.

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (DRSP) operates a call / recall system which offers GP Practices the opportunity for their patients with diabetes to be screened. Patients are called by their GP Practice to attend a screening clinic.

In August 2012 it was recognised that the screening interval had extended beyond the 12 months recommended and was up to 20 months for some practices.

In the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 approximately 24,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 12 months since they were last screened and approximately 28,500 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 13-15 months since they were last screened. Around 20,000 eligible patients were invited to be screened within a period of 16+ months since they were last screened.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust produced a recovery plan aimed at bringing the screening interval back into line and the screening interval was reduced to 12 months by September 2013.

GP practices are responsible for identifying patients eligible for screening, following agreed criteria, and whilst the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme aims to offer screening at 12 monthly intervals to GP Practices, variables to this do arise including capacity at the Practice to accommodate screening within the period offered for the screening and whether patients can attend.

Recruitment of Nurses

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the programme of recruitment of nurses in each of the (i) last three years; and (ii) last six months, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 33801/11-15)

Mr Poots: Details relating to recruitment competitions for nursing are not held centrally, therefore the information has been provided directly from Health and Social Care Trusts.

To provide details for all grades of nursing would be disproportionate therefore the information provided below refers only to Band 5 nurses, the main entry grade for nursing.

Trust	Competitions run within the last 6 months	Number recruited	Competitions run within the last 3 yrs	Number recruited
Belfast	9	45	44	878
Southern	3	92	38	436
Western	4	22	30	616
Northern	5	15	25	678
South Eastern	11	69	75	436

Level of Employee Morale and Job Satisfaction

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has taken to date to measure or survey the level of employee morale and job satisfaction at Lisburn District Headquarters.

(AQW 33808/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) conducted a Quick Pulse Employee Survey in 2009. It also operates an Area and District Audit Assurance Programme and, as part of this Programme, Lisburn District Headquarters was visited during 2014. During the Audit, staff are given the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns they may have.

NIFRS is planning to conduct an employee engagement survey in 2014/15. This will include staff from Lisburn District and will be designed to measure the level of job satisfaction and morale.

Safefood Corporate Plan and Business Plan

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the Safefood Corporate Plan and Business Plan will be brought before the next North South Ministerial Council Health and Food Safety meeting in autumn 2014.

(AQW 33840/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Food Safety Promotion Board 's draft Business Plan 2014 and draft Corporate Plan 2014 – 2016 are progressing through the approval process involving my Department and the Department of Finance and Personnel and their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. I hope to have both plans formally approved at the next available NSMC meeting, which will be the Aquaculture & Marine sector format meeting, scheduled for 27 June 2014.

Salary of the CEO of the Food Safety Promotion Board

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there will be a reduction in annual terms and conditions of the salary of the CEO of the Food Safety Promotion Board; and if so, to what extent.

(AQW 33841/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following the retirement of the Chief Executive Officer of the Food Safety Promotion Board in May 2014, it has been agreed that the salary for the post should be reduced by €6,150 per annum. The annual leave allowance for the post is being reduced by two days.

People with Down Syndrome Aged 40 Years and Over

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people with Down syndrome are aged 40 years and over.

(AQW 33868/11-15)

Mr Poots: There were 532 people with Down syndrome aged 40 years or older in Northern Ireland at 4 June 2014. This figure was not centrally available and has been sourced from the Health and Social Care Trusts. It has not been validated by the Department.

Number of Children Born with Down Syndrome

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of children born with Down syndrome in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital.

(AQW 33869/11-15)

Mr Poots: Table One below details the number of children born with Down Syndrome in each of the last five years. Given the small number of births of children with Down syndrome, it was not possible to provide these figures broken down by hospital due to issues of personal disclosure. Figures have therefore been provided by Health and Social Care Trust area.

TABLE 1: CHILDREN BORN WITH DOWN SYNDROME (2009/10 – 2013/14)

HSC Trust	No. of Children Born with Down syndrome				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Belfast	7	-	14	13	20
Northern	8	-	11	6	7
South Eastern	11	6	7	6	-
Southern	14	6	12	14	5
Western	16	7	-	10	8

Source: HSC Trust Information Systems

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Note: These figures have not been validated by DHSSPS

Eradication of the Use of 0844 Telephone Numbers

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department can take to eradicate the use of 0844 telephone numbers by GP surgeries in North Down.

(AQW 33870/11-15)

Mr Poots: I do not have the legal authority to ban the use of 0844 telephone numbers by GP Practices who are currently tied into telephone contracts. However, in March 2013 my Department amended the

Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contract) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 requiring GP Practices not to enter into, renew or extend a contract or arrangement for telephone services unless they are satisfied that, having regard to the arrangement as a whole, persons will not pay more to make relevant calls to their practice than they would to make equivalent calls to a geographical number. GP Practices were also required to review their telephone contract before 1st April 2014, to ensure that, having regard to the arrangement as a whole, persons will not pay more to make relevant calls to their Practice than they would to make equivalent calls to a geographical number. This amendment brought Northern Ireland into line with the Department of Health's policy on use of non-geographical numbers.

My Department closely monitors the use of 0844 numbers to ensure that they are complying with their statutory obligations not to renew or extend their current 0844 telephone contract. Of the 351 GP Practices in Northern Ireland only 18 use a 0844 number, of which there are 5 Practices in North Down: one Practice's contract is due to expire at the end of June 2014, and the other four contracts will expire in 2015 – two in May, one in August and the last one in December 2015. Two of the Practices in North Down have installed separate geographical numbers which patients can use instead of using the 0844 number.

Attendees of The Artificial Eye Clinic

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of patients who attended the artificial eye clinic provided by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

(AQW 33871/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust have advised that during 2013/14 there were 595 patients who attended the Artificial Eye Clinic. Given that patients can attend more than one appointment during the year, this equates to 1,001 attendances.

Permanent Artificial Eye Following Enucleation

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of patients currently waiting to receive a permanent artificial eye following enucleation.

(AQW 33872/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Artificial Eye Clinic is a regional service, provided by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust advised that, as of week commencing 2nd June 2014, there were 3 patients waiting to receive a permanent artificial eye following enucleation.

Raising Awareness of Prostate Cancer

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department plans to launch a publicity campaign to raise the awareness of prostate cancer as well as promote the assistance available.

(AQW 33927/11-15)

Mr Poots: A campaign to raise awareness of cancer signs and symptoms is planned and expected to be launched late autumn 2014.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has commissioned quantitative research to assess public knowledge, attitudes and actions in relation to cancer and its applicability in informing the prioritisation of specific work areas. The outcome of this research is not expected until July 2014 and the PHA will want to consider the findings of the quantitative research before reaching a decision on which particular cancers will be the initial focus of the campaign.

The Public Health Agency will also take due account of the evidence of effectiveness of campaigns in England and Scotland and the feedback from a stakeholder workshop held on the 8th May in determining the optimum approach for Northern Ireland.

Classification of the Legal Drug Containing Serotonin

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what actions have been taken following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer in 2013 regarding the classification of the legal drug containing serotonin.

(AQW 33941/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, issued a formal alert to the health and social care system on the potentially fatal substance para-methyl-4-methylaminorex, also known as 4,4-DMAR, once we were made aware of its availability in Northern Ireland in October 2013. This information was circulated to all healthcare professionals providing information on the potential dangers of this substance, advising staff to alert those people they come into contact with who may misuse drugs, and providing advice on treatment options for those who may enter the healthcare system. In addition, the alerts were circulated through our Drug and Alcohol Monitoring and Information System to all key stakeholders, including alcohol and drugs services, those working with at-risk groups and young people, criminal justice services, education, service users, etc. In addition, information was made publicly available through a number of media messages issued at the time.

The Public Health Agency also developed a range of information and harm reduction advice that was circulated to all key groups and was also discussed widely on the media. My Department also tasked the Public Health Agency with the development of a local rapid community response protocol to deal with future clusters of potentially drug-related sudden deaths. This protocol is currently being tested in the Belfast area and should help to improve co-ordination and response.

4,4-DMAR was identified by the Forensic Science Service of Northern Ireland, and we understand it was brought to the attention of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) of which the UK wide Forensic Science Early Warning System is member. The EMCDDA and EUROPOL have just completed a Joint Report on the substance, and across the UK we are supporting the proposal that 4,4-DMAR is taken forward for a risk assessment under the 2005 Council Decision 2005/387/JHA. In addition, the Home Office has informed the Advisory Committee for the Misuse of Drugs – the body that makes recommendations on whether or not substances should be classified under the UK-wide Misuse of Drugs Act – about this substance and its risks.

More generally, new substances are appearing on a regular basis and causing harm to individuals and communities right across Northern Ireland. As the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is a reserved matter, I raised this issue directly with the Home Secretary in August 2013 outlining my concerns about these New Psychoactive Substances and asking for a more robust UK-wide approach. In response, the UK Government announced the establishment of an expert panel to review the current legislation and to make recommendations on how this can be improved to tackle this issue. It is anticipated that the expert panel will report during Summer 2014.

Supported Housing Programme at Greenisland House

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the supported housing programme at Greenisland House, including (i) the transfer of the site; (ii) when work is expected to start; and (iii) when work is expected to finish.

(AQW 33944/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that the transfer of the site at Greenisland is being taken forward through established public sector disposal arrangements involving legal services for both parties and agreement on sale price through Land and Property Services. Once this process is complete, the transfer of land will occur and Trinity Housing Association can commence their work. The Trust is keen that this work commences during early summer.

Upon completion of transfer and prior to work commencing, the Housing Association will confirm a programme of work which will include a completion date. During this period, the Trust will continue to work with the Housing Association over the design, development and delivery of the scheme.

Neuromuscular Nurse for Adults

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to introduce a neuromuscular nurse for adults with Muscular Dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions.

(AQW 33947/11-15)

Mr Poots: My previous answer to AQW 30086/11-15 refers. I am further advised that the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has clarified that in response to Recommendation 3 of the McCollum Report, which relates to the need for care advisor posts rather than nurse specialist posts, it has secured funding to appoint two neurological care advisors during 2014/15. The HSCB has advised that this need was also highlighted during the Board's and Public Health Agency's engagement with service users, carers, and other key stakeholders.

The care advisors will provide advice, support, and information to people living with neurological conditions including Muscular Dystrophy.

Employment of Neuromuscular Nurses

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many neuromuscular nurses are employed in each Health and Social Care Trust to provide specialist care services to children with Muscular Dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions.

(AQW 33948/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Belfast HSC Trust currently provides the regional children's neuromuscular nursing service at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. This service currently employs one (1.0 whole-time equivalent) specialist neuromuscular nurse.

Renal Unit: Patient's Repatriated from Consultants

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been repatriated from consultants at the Renal Unit at the Belfast City Hospital to Renal Consultants in other Health and Social Care Trusts in each month of the last two years; and how many were (i) by patient request; and (ii) at the instigation of the consultant.

(AQW 33961/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of patients who have been repatriated from consultants at the Renal Unit at the Belfast City Hospital is not available.

Belfast Trust has advised that it is possible to identify patients discharged to another hospital. However, if a patient is transferred to a hospital outside the Belfast Trust it is not possible to identify the specialty under which they were subsequently admitted.

Additional Family Support Interventions

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 33583/11-15 and regarding the additional funding that has been used to enable a minimum of 1700 additional family support interventions across a two year period, (i) what is the timeframe for its implementation; and (ii) where any of these additional interventions have taken place to date.

(AQW 33964/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Delivering Social Change Family Support Hubs programme is on schedule to be delivered by early 2016. A total of 669 additional family support interventions were delivered in 2013/14. The breakdown by Health and Social Care Trust area was:

Belfast	139
Northern	163
Southern	132
South Eastern	120
Western	115

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much money was apportioned to Northern Ireland through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme in each of the last three years.

(AQW 33969/11-15)

Mr Poots: The attached table details how much money Northern Ireland was apportioned through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (2009) in each of the last three years.

Financial Year	£m
2011/2012	3,426
2012/2013	3,003
2013/2014	2,853

ITH Pharma Supplies

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether ITH Pharma supplies either total parenteral nutrition or parental nutrition to any Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 34015/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised that of the five Health and Social Care Trusts, four purchase adult parenteral nutrition products produced by IPH Pharma either directly from them or indirectly through a third party.

All the Trusts have advised that they do not purchase paediatric or neonatal parenteral nutrition products either directly or indirectly from IPH Pharma.

Specialist Urology Nurse Funding

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the Macmillan Cancer Trust business case to fund a specialist urology nurse in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust for three years, whether his Department or the Northern Health and Social Care Trust will undertake to fund the specialist nurse when the three year period ends.

(AQW 34032/11-15)

Mr Poots: Macmillan has agreed to support the Northern Health and Social Care Trust with a Macmillan urology nurse specialist post for three years initially, with a possibility of a further 2 year extension as a project post. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust plans to work with the Health and Social Care Board in the intervening period on how to take forward this service when Macmillan funding ceases.

Down Syndrome: Organ Transplants

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) children; and (ii) adults with Down syndrome have had an organ transplant in each of the last six years, broken down by organ type.

(AQW 34044/11-15)

Mr Poots: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is the organ donation organisation for the UK that has responsibility for matching and allocating donated organs and managing the national organ donor register and transplant waiting lists.

NHSBT has confirmed that the information requested is not available as it does not record whether a patient has Down's Syndrome when listing them for transplant.

Health Service: Staffing

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the overall number of health service staff has changed since May 2011.

(AQO 6311/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information is centrally available at each quarter end only. The most recent information therefore, of directly employed Health & Social Care staffing levels, is at 31 March 2011 in comparison with 31 March 2014 and shows a 5% increase in whole-time equivalent staff or 2,558 wte.

This does not include bank staff, home helps, staff with a whole time equivalent of less than 0.03 or staff on career breaks.

Our healthcare staff are our greatest resource. They are at the centre of the performance and modernisation initiatives and vital to providing safe, effective and high quality services.

Notes:

- Figures were sourced from the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) and the Human Resources, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence system (HRPTS).

Timescale for the Proposed Health and Care Centre in Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the timescale for the proposed Health and Care Centre in Bangor.

(AQW 34105/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is not possible, at this stage, to outline the timescale for the Bangor or any future health & care centres. The Health and Social Care Board, has developed a high level Strategic Implementation Plan for future investment in primary care infrastructure, such as new health and care centres including one in Bangor. This is currently being considered but future capital investment right across my Department, not just in primary care infrastructure, will be dependent on the outcome of future budget exercises and confirmation of value for money and affordability.

Insulin Pumps

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he is addressing the issue of insulin pumps not being made available to patients across various trust areas.

(AQO 6307/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Trusts are engaged in a programme of allocating insulin pumps to those patients who are suitable for this treatment as recommended by the guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). This guidance recommends insulin pump therapy as an option for treating Type 1 diabetes mellitus. I am aware of the potential benefits insulin pump therapy can offer patients with diabetes and I secured additional funding in the 2011/12

financial year to procure 1,100 additional insulin pumps for adults and children to be phased in over the four year period to 2015/16.

Currently there are a total of 690 patients using insulin pump therapy in Northern Ireland, with 161 patients waiting to commence treatment.

Paediatric Orthopaedics

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the paediatric orthopaedic service at Altnagelvin Hospital.

(AQO 6308/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that emergency paediatric trauma and orthopaedic surgery is provided in the Western Health and Social Care Trust by consultants from the Trust's Trauma & Orthopaedic service. Children of all ages are treated within this service. Orthopaedic consultants from the Western Trust also treat children aged 13 and over for elective orthopaedic surgery and outpatient care.

Elective paediatric orthopaedic surgery for children aged under 13 years is provided in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Outpatient services for this patient group are provided at Altnagelvin Hospital by paediatric surgeons from the Belfast Trust, who currently provide 38 all day clinics per year at Altnagelvin Hospital.

Unscheduled Care

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the progress made in relation to unscheduled care following the recent Emergency Care Summit.

(AQO 6309/11-15)

Mr Poots: In January of this year I commissioned RQIA to examine the fundamental underpinning systems, processes, resources and model for unscheduled and emergency care, including how we build sufficient resilience regionally. I expect to receive a detailed report from them before the end of this month. The RQIA's review team is comprised of eminent healthcare professionals who will each bring their wide experience of emergency care to bear on the issue of delivering further improvements in the delivery of this vital service. The team has taken forward an intensive fact finding process engaging with the Trusts and has held two regional summits with key leaders in the health and social care which will inform the report's recommendations.

The College of Emergency Medicine on 9 June held a follow-up meeting to their Emergency Care Summit in order to finalise proposals for improving the delivery of emergency care. I expect to receive those proposals in the near future. The RQIA's review and the work taken forward by the College and the Royal College of Nursing are complementary and will contribute to the development of the next phase in improving emergency care services which I am aiming to announce in the near future.

My Department continues to look to the Health and Social Care Board to work with the Trusts to deliver the improvements in the delivery of unscheduled care services that we all want to see.

Provisional figures for April 2014 show that the number of people waiting more than 12 hours was 246, the lowest number for the month of April in the last five years. This is a significant improvement compared to April 2013 when 1,003 people waited longer than 12 hours.

Ballymena Health and Care Centre

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Ballymena Health and Care Centre.

(AQO 6310/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am pleased to confirm that construction work on the new Ballymena Health and Care Centre is progressing well on site and is expected to complete in May 2015.

Upon completion of the construction works the Trust will require a short period to commission the building and move services from their current location to the new health centre. It is expected that the new health and care centre will open to the public in the summer of 2015.

Organ Donations/Transplants

Mr Anderson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the number of organ donations and transplants have changed in the last five years.

(AQO 6312/11-15)

Mr Poots: Recent statistics published by NHS Blood and Transplant show that there has been a record number of donations by, and transplants for, Northern Ireland residents.

In 2009/2010, there were 38 donors (18 deceased and 20 living); at the end of 2013/14, this had increased to 107 donors (46 deceased and 67 living). During the same timescale, transplants increased from 80 (59 deceased and 21 living) to 133 (72 deceased and 61 living).

This is a remarkable achievement, but I recognise that more needs to be done as there are approximately 160 people waiting for a transplant in Northern Ireland.

The Public Health Agency continues to raise awareness of the need for all of us to consider donating our organs and recently launched a high profile campaign to further this aim. I look forward to the results of this campaign which will be established by way of a public survey after the campaign finishes in the latter part of 2014.

In the meantime, I would encourage everyone to join the organ donor register and discuss their wishes with family and friends.

Mental Health Capacity Bill

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what protections are in place for people under 16 who are currently excluded from the draft Mental Health Capacity Bill.

(AQO 6313/11-15)

Mr Poots: The key protections that will continue to apply to all children when the draft Mental Capacity Bill is enacted are contained in the Children (NI) Order 1995. That Order requires the child's welfare to be given paramount consideration. Importantly, it also recognises that children should be given a voice in relation to what happens to them and provides opportunities for working in partnership with children as far as their age and development allows.

A number of protections are also contained in the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986. Pending the outcomes of a proposed children related project in the next mandate, the Department is seeking views on how the protections in that Order could be made more child-focused and enhanced where appropriate. Any proposal brought forward during the current consultation that better protects children will be given careful consideration.

Both the Children (NI) Order 1995 and the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986 are part of a wider legal framework that already exists to protect children and govern decision making in relation to them. This is the main reason why the draft Mental Capacity Bill (and capacity legislation elsewhere in the UK) does not apply to those aged under 16. The Republic of Ireland has gone further in deciding that its proposed capacity legislation will not apply to those aged under 18.

Transforming Your Care

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that it was envisaged as a three to five year plan, for his assessment of the progress of Transforming Your Care.

(AQO 6314/11-15)

Mr Poots: The implementation of TYC is indeed a 3 to 5 year journey and I have kept the House regularly updated on my assessment of progress.

In my Oral Statement of the 11th Match 2014, I provided examples of real changes in patient care and the solid foundations being laid for future healthcare services.

I also provided an update on the progress of actions to deliver the 99 recommendations for service change, set out in the TYC Review, in my response to the recent request from the Health Committee.

To quote one example: TYC Proposal 90 was for the “Establishment of a forum to take forward how technology will support the new model of care linking the services to industry and academia”. This was achieved through the establishment of the Connected Health and Prosperity Project Board and the NI Connected Health Eco-System.

Monitoring of progress in implementing TYC is being measured through the Commissioning Plan and the associated Indicators of Performance measurements; through achievement of Public Health Agency and Departmental business plan milestones; and through the measurement of benefits and outcomes identified for individual service change projects.

Health Checks: Primary Schoolchildren

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will consider instigating health checks for all children when they start primary school.

(AQO 6315/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has a framework in place known as ‘Healthy Child, Healthy Future’ which delivers the universal child health promotion programme for all children and young people from birth and throughout the school years. The programme includes a specific set of contacts delivered by school nurses for children throughout their school life including when they start primary school as a Year 1 pupil.

General health appraisal takes place in years 1 and 8 and includes individual child health assessment to identify any mental or emotional health issues, review of speech and language development, oral health review, TB risk assessment, measurement of Body Mass Index (BMI) and review of the child’s immunisation status. Parents are always invited to attend.

Targeted reviews are also carried out across all school years for example for children with long term conditions. This is in addition to the school based immunisation programme. These are all delivered within the school setting by Trust employed school nurses.

If problems are identified, children are signposted to other services when new or existing physical, emotional or developmental problems are not being addressed. For example weight management programmes may be offered to children, they may be reminded about overdue immunisations, or offered support with long term conditions.

Schools are essential to the delivery of a comprehensive range of health promotion and health protection activities.

Department of Justice

Hearing of Appeals in the Colin Bell Case

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33410/11-15 and AQW 33100/11-15, whether any meetings took place between the Labour Relations Agency and the Northern Ireland Prison Service to discuss arrangements for the hearing of appeals in the Colin Bell case and the outcome, given that such appeals were convened outside the NIPS 1995 Code of Conduct and Discipline.

(AQW 33655/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): I do not intend to revise my previous responses.

The Introduction and Background of the Ackah and Deane Report states that they were: “independent arbitrators,” and “The proposed review stemmed from an agreement made by the Prisons Minister Paul Goggins, in discussions with the POA and NIPS management.”

In 2009 the Labour Relations Agency held proximity talks with each side i.e. the Northern Ireland Prison Service Senior Management and the Prison Officers’ Association separately, in order to move forward with the disciplinary cases. Subsequently NIPS and the POA agreed to the review. Each side then used the LRA list of arbitrators to select Ackah (selected by NIPS) and Deane (selected by the POA). The Ackah and Deane Review commenced in August 2009 and the Terms of Reference of their report stated that the exercise would have regard to the LRA guidelines.

The Member will also be aware that the Ackah and Deane Review concentrated on the application of the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline in the cases of officers subjected to disciplinary procedures following the death in custody of Colin Bell.

The Ackah and Deane Report did recommend that the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline should be revised, as did the Pearson Report published earlier and Dame Anne Owers Report published subsequently.

PSNI:Disclosure Obligations

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the review he has initiated into how the PSNI meets its disclosure obligations in a frank and timely manner in light of the failures evident in how the aborted case against William Frazer was handled in respect of alleged flag protest incidents.

(AQW 33662/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have not initiated any such review.

1995 Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33410/11-15 and AQW 33100/11-15, to detail (i) whether he plans to revise the latter part of his answer in view of several previously tabled written questions and his answers concerning the review of the 1995 Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline, in particular, Dr Tony Pearson’s comments in the June 2009 Prison Review Team Report regarding concerns relating to the Code of Conduct and Discipline and the Report’s confirmation that Prison Service was in the ‘process of reviewing’ the 1995 Code and given that the Ackah and Deane Report was not published until December 2009, and the review was not facilitated by the Labour Relations Agency as outlined in the Introduction and Background and the Terms of Reference of this Report; and (ii) whether he will provide an explanation as to why the information contained in his answer is not accurate.

(AQW 33665/11-15)

Mr Ford: I do not intend to revise my previous responses.

The Introduction and Background of the Ackah and Deane Report states that they were: “independent arbitrators,” and “The proposed review stemmed from an agreement made by the Prisons Minister Paul Goggins, in discussions with the POA and NIPS management.”

In 2009 the Labour Relations Agency held proximity talks with each side i.e. the Northern Ireland Prison Service Senior Management and the Prison Officers’ Association separately, in order to move forward with the disciplinary cases. Subsequently NIPS and the POA agreed to the review. Each side then used the LRA list of arbitrators to select Ackah (selected by NIPS) and Deane (selected by the POA). The Ackah and Deane Review commenced in August 2009 and the Terms of Reference of their report stated that the exercise would have regard to the LRA guidelines.

The Member will also be aware that the Ackah and Deane Review concentrated on the application of the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline in the cases of officers subjected to disciplinary procedures following the death in custody of Colin Bell.

The Ackah and Deane Report did recommend that the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline should be revised, as did the Pearson Report published earlier and Dame Anne Owers Report published subsequently.

Prison Service Supporting Prisoners at Risk Booklet in Assembly Library

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to provide a copy of a Prison Service Supporting Prisoners at Risk booklet, or alternatively have one placed in the Assembly Library.

(AQW 33666/11-15)

Mr Ford: A copy of the Supporting Prisoners at Risk booklet has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Investigation into Case13/056715 that was Aborted at Craigavon Crown Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 29883/11-15, to provide a copy of the report in this investigation; and to detail when it was completed.

(AQW 33668/11-15)

Mr Ford: The report is currently being finalised. I will write to the Member when it is complete.

Magistrates Court: Prima Facie Cases

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many cases at Magistrates Court proceeded as a preliminary enquiry in (i) 2011; (ii) 2012; and (iii) 2013; and of these, how many were presented as prima facie cases by the prosecution at hearing, but rejected as such by the defence stating contrary submissions, broken down by court division.

(AQW 33692/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below details the number of Magistrates' Court cases that proceeded as a preliminary enquiry during the period 2011 to 2013, by court division.

TABLE 1: PRELIMINARY ENQUIRIES AT THE MAGISTRATES' COURT: 2011 TO 2013P

Court Division	Year		
	2011	2012	2013P
Antrim	120	188	212
Ards	188	147	150
Armagh and South Down	142	147	177
Belfast	523	586	573
Craigavon	163	177	168
Fermanagh and Tyrone	200	186	211
Londonderry	131	185	179
Total	1,467	1,616	1,670

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

^P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change

All preliminary enquiries are presented as prima facie cases by the prosecution at hearing. If the defence objects to such an enquiry, the court conducts either a mixed committal or a preliminary investigation.

The number of cases that proceeded to either mixed committal proceedings or a preliminary investigation during the period 2011 to 2013 is presented below, by court division.

TABLE 2: MIXED COMMITTALS AT THE MAGISTRATES' COURT: 2011 TO 2013P

Court Division	Year		
	2011	2012	2013P
Antrim	4	2	5
Ards	2	0	0
Armagh and South Down	8	2	9
Belfast	14	15	15
Craigavon	7	2	2
Fermanagh and Tyrone	3	2	0
Londonderry	4	1	0
Total	42	24	31

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

^P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change

TABLE 3: PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS AT THE MAGISTRATES' COURT: 2011 TO 2013P

Court Division	Year		
	2011	2012	2013P
Antrim	4	5	9
Ards	4	3	5
Armagh and South Down	4	5	1
Belfast	20	13	14
Craigavon	8	8	9
Fermanagh and Tyrone	11	4	2
Londonderry	2	5	2
Total	53	43	42

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

^P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change

I plan to include changes to committal proceedings in Magistrates' Courts, including the abolition of preliminary investigations and mixed committals and the direct transfer of certain serious offences, in a Justice Bill to be introduced into the Assembly later this month.

Examining CCTV of Court Grounds

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33512/11-15, whether he will accept representations made by constituents and conduct a review into this matter, including examining CCTV

of court grounds; consulting with staff from the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and G4S; court users and residents in the immediate area, as well as examining forthcoming court listings and those of the last six months.

(AQW 33693/11-15)

Mr Ford: My officials will meet with any constituents concerned about parking congestion caused by court sittings and appropriately investigate any issues arising.

Confirmed or Suspected Death by Suicides Whilst in Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to provide a breakdown of the nature of convictions and allegations against prisoners who died in custody and were either confirmed or suspected death by suicides, in the last ten years.

(AQW 33694/11-15)

Mr Ford: The breakdown of convictions or alleged offences in respect of each suicide or suspected suicide in prison custody is attached at annex A. There are two deaths where the information about convictions or alleged offences is not available due to information loss at the introduction of the PRISM information management system.

Number of Prisoners Adjudicated for Bullying Fellow Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prisoners adjudicated for bullying fellow prisoners and the penalty in each case, broken down by prison, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 33696/11-15)

Mr Ford: Under Prison Rules there are a number of offences against prison discipline that could relate to bullying. The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) do not specifically record when adjudications are in response to bullying. For those reasons it is not possible to provide the information requested.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how many super-injunctions have been (i) sought; and (ii) granted through applications to the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, each year from 2007 to date.

(AQW 33719/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no legal definition of the term “super injunction” and the question has been interpreted as seeking information on orders prohibiting publicity on the granting of injunctive relief.

Information on the number of injunctive relief applications sought is held on the originating application. A manual review would be required to identify the nature of the application and would incur a disproportionate cost.

The table below details the number of orders granted since 2007 prohibiting publicity on the granting of injunctive relief.

Year	Number of “Super-Injunctions” granted
2007	0
2008	0
2009	2
2010	2
2011	2
2012	0

Year	Number of “Super-Injunctions” granted
2013	1
2014	0
Total	7

Reducing Legal Aid Costs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the current proposals in respect of reducing Legal Aid costs payable for Crown Court cases; and for his assessment of whether cuts will lead to the withdrawal of legal representatives from cases, similar to the action of 2011.

(AQW 33728/11-15)

Mr Ford: My proposals for reform of Crown Court legal aid fees are intended to deliver value for money. The proposals include replacing the existing Guilty Plea 1 and 2 fees for both solicitors and counsel with a single guilty plea fee with enhancements designed to remunerate counsel for trial preparation and solicitors for dealing with large amounts of served evidence.

Overall, I propose to reduce the fees for solicitors by 27% and barristers by 22%. I have listened carefully to representations from the legal profession and made a number of concessions to my original proposals to ensure that the fees payable in more complex cases or those with large amounts of served evidence are protected.

Trial refresher fees, the fees in the Table of Additional Fees will be preserved; the fees in Classes A and D will be preserved at existing rates for counsel; the classification of cases in respect of hijacking and driving offences causing death will be re-classified upwards to class D; specific fees will be provided for confiscation hearings; and I will amend the existing interpretation of the rules governing the payment of the full day refresher.

I would hope that action similar to that taken in 2011 would be avoided as the fees payable in Northern Ireland following the implementation of the changes will remain attractive in comparison with England and Wales.

Appeal Tribunals: Compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether all benefit appeal tribunals are compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998, particularly Section 6, and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and all panel members are fully briefed and supplied with copies of the Act and Convention.

(AQW 33729/11-15)

Mr Ford: Responsibility for the operation of tribunal hearings and panel member training are statutory functions of the President of Appeal Tribunals, Mr Conall MacLynn who is an independent judicial office holder. The President can be contacted directly at Office of the President of Appeal Tribunals, 6th Floor Cleaver House, 3 Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GA.

Final Costs for Both Lower and High Court Hearings

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the High Court ruling by Mr Justice Gillen in the case of Marcin Marciniec, Arkadiusz Gruszczynski and others, to detail (i) a breakdown of costs and projected final costs, including Legal Aid for both lower and high court hearings; and (ii) whether an investigation will be carried out into the circumstances of the case.

(AQW 33730/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below details the estimated cost of the case as at 30 May 2014.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost (£)
(i) Court (Judiciary and Staff Costs)	2,232
(ii) Facilities (e.g. Courtroom Accommodation)	410
Total	2,642

Article 24 of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (NI) Order 1981 precludes the release of information in relation to civil cases in which legal aid has been granted.

There are no plans to investigate the circumstances of this case. However, it is a matter for any party with an interest in the case to consider if they wish to make a criminal complaint against the plaintiffs. Any such complaint should be referred to the PSNI for investigation.

Community Services Funding

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33561/11-15, to list the 35 organisations that received grants/payments from 2013-14, including how much each organisation received.

(AQW 33747/11-15)

Mr Ford: Further to AQW/33561/11-15, the table below lists the 35 organisations that received grant funding from Probation Board for Northern Ireland for community service placements during 2013/2014. As requested, the amount received by each organisation is also included.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS 2013/2014

Organisation	£
174 Trust	7,000
Action Cancer	9,000
Age Concern	14,000
Artillery Youth Club	3,000
Artability	7,000
AR Maintenance	10,000
Assisi Animal Sanctuary	10,000
Banbridge Council	15,000
Baronscourt Scout Camp	2,000
Conservation Volunteers	15,000
Cookstown Youth Football Club	2,000
Corpus Christi Centre	4,000
Crossfire Trust	2,000
Crosskennan Animal Sanctuary	12,000
Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project	2,000
Drumragh Parish Church	2,000
Glen Rural Community Group	1,000
Holy Trinity Youth Centre	2,000

Organisation	£
Intercomm	9,000
Mullaghmore Community Association	4,000
Monkstown Boxing Club	3,000
New Mossley Presbyterian Church	2,000
Oxfam	3,000
Patchwork Ireland	7,000
Portaferry in Bloom	1,000
Quakers	980
Riding for the Disabled Coleraine	8,000
Riding for the Disabled Minnowburn	944
Riding for the Disabled Omagh	1,000
Small Steps Adult Education Group	3,000
Ulster Temple Elim Church	5,000
Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre*	0
Volunteer Services Lisburn	16,500
Windsor Women's Centre	2,000
West Kirk Community Project	3,000
Total Allocation	188,424

* Allocated but not taken up

Community Services Funding

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33561/11-15, how much has been paid per calendar year from 2008 to 2012; and to provide a breakdown of the recipients and the amount each received.

(AQW 33748/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is held by financial year rather than calendar year. The table below provides a breakdown of the recipients and the amount each received covering the financial period 2008/2009 to 2012/2013.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS 2008/2009

Organisation	£
Age Concern Derry	5,000
Artability	10,000
Artability	1,764
Ballykeel 2 Community House	8,000
Ballyloughan Church Com Init	4,671
Cancer Research Ballymena	2,000

Organisation	£
Cancer Research Belfast	4,000
Conservation Volunteers	11,000
Glen Rural Community Group	2,000
Greater Village Regeneration	9,000
Intercomm	12,000
Monkstown Community Sports	6,000
New Horizons Partnership	2,500
Oxfam Ireland	1,000
Riding for the Disabled Coleraine	5,000
Riding for the Disabled Minnowburn	1,000
Roden Street Com Dev Group	4,000
Voluntary Services Lisburn	20,000
Windsor Women's Centre	4,000
Total Allocation	£112,935

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS 2009/2010

Organisation	£
Age Concern Derry	5,000
Artability	12,000
Ballyclare Community Concerns	4,105
Ballykeel 2 Residents Association	8,200
Banbridge District Council	5,000
Conservation Volunteers NI	17,500
Crosskennan Animal Sanctuary	12,500
Glen Rural Community Group	1,925
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	9,225
Holy Trinity Centre	15,000
Intercomm	12,300
Quaker Services	1,321
Ulster Temple	3,000
Voluntary Services Lisburn	10,250
Total Allocation	£117,326

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS 2010/2011

Organisation	£
Action Cancer	10,000
Age Concern Derry	10,000
AR Maintenance	6,000
Artability	12,000
Assisi Animal Sanctuary	10,000
Ballykeel 2 Residents Association	8,200
Banbridge District Council	15,000
Cancer Research Armagh	1,000
Challenge for Youth 1 (CS)	5,000
Conservation Volunteers NI	17,500
Crosskennan Animal Sanctuary	25,000
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	5,000
Riding for the Disabled	7,500
Voluntary Services Lisburn	20,500
Total Allocation	£152,700

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS 2011/2012

Organisation	£
Action Cancer	16,789
Age Concern Derry	24,566
AR Maintenance	7,890
Artability	9,000
Assisi Animal Sanctuary	18,000
Ballykeel 2 Residents Association	11,468
Conservation Volunteers NI	14,392
Corpus Christie Centre	5,000
Crosskennan Animal Sanctuary	23,850
Glen Rural Community Group	1,000
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	2,000
Holy Trinity Centre	7,688
Holy Trinity Youth Centre CD	500
Intercomm	10,500
Oasis	5,900
Oxfam Ireland	500

Organisation	£
Riding for the Disabled	9,940
Strabane Comm Centre	4,075
Ulster Temple	10,630
Voluntary Services Lisburn	20,000
West Kirk	3,000
Total Allocation	£206,688

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDED PROJECTS 2012/2013

Organisation	£
Action Cancer	18,000
Age Concern Derry	19,998
Artability	7,000
Assisi Animal Sanctuary	14,000
Banbridge Council	15,000
Conservation Volunteers NI	20,299
Corpus Christi Centre	6,000
Crosskennan Animal Sanctuary	17,000
Glen Rural Community Group	1,000
Intercomm	12,000
New Horizons Project	8,800
North West Life Long Learning	5,000
Oxfam Ireland	4,500
Patchwork Coleraine	9,000
Riding for the Disabled	14,000
Riding for the Disabled Minnowburn	1,450
S.E.H.T. Victoria Gardens	2,165
Small Steps Adult Education Group	6,552
Strabane Community Centre	3,642
Oasis Caring in Action	3,017
Ulster Temple	4,986
Voluntary Services Lisburn	20,000
West Kirk Community Project	4,000
Windsor Women's Aid	3,000
Total Allocation	£220,409

Reduction of Legal Aid Costs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he intends to extend the reduction of Legal Aid costs payable in High Court challenges, particularly judicial reviews.

(AQW 33749/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department is currently reviewing the fees paid for civil cases, where legal aid has been granted, across all types of proceedings at the three court tiers, namely the magistrates' court, the County Court and the High Court, with a view to streamlining the existing arrangements and delivering savings to the legal aid budget. The Department's work on the fees payable for High Court cases will include judicial reviews.

Community Services Funding

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33561/11-15, whether all providers of community services places are funded.

(AQW 33799/11-15)

Mr Ford: Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) do not fund all providers of Community Service placements. Community and voluntary groups and charitable organisations can, and do, apply for funding through the PBNI Community Grant Scheme which is advertised on an annual basis. Funding received through the scheme can be used to facilitate and develop placements and to ensure adequate oversight and supervision of offenders undertaking community service in these sites.

Compliance of the EU Convention on Human Rights

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether all departmental agencies, as well as those contracted to provide services, are in full compliance of the EU Convention on Human Rights, specifically Articles 3 and 8, and are fully aware of sections 6 and 7 of the Human Rights Act 1998, as required of all public bodies and those contracted to provide services on their behalf.

(AQW 33800/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department is fully conversant with both the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and aims that all actions of the Department and its contractors will be compliant with its legal obligations.

Courts and Tribunal Services CCTV Policy

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) to detail the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Services CCTV policy; (ii) to provide a copy of the policy; (iii) when the policy was last updated or amended; and (iv) what monitoring is in place to ensure all aspects of the policy are adhered to.

(AQW 33802/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) policy on the usage of CCTV on NICTS premises sets out the stated purpose of CCTV cameras, including the operation, retention, access and disclosure of recorded images to third parties. As the data owner, NICTS can monitor and download CCTV footage at any time. The policy, issued on 5 September 2012, has not been amended and a copy has been placed in the Assembly Library. G4S Solutions (UK) Ltd, the NICTS contracted security and ancillary service provider, has delegated responsibility for viewing and downloading CCTV footage. NICTS monitor policy compliance and it is a Key Performance Indicator in the G4S contract.

Alleged Undercharging for Contract Services

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what meetings have been held with G4S, including correspondence received by his Department, in relation to alleged undercharging for contract services at tender stage for supplying services to the NI Courts and Tribunal Service.

(AQW 33805/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department did not hold any meetings or receive any correspondence from G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd in relation to alleged undercharging for contract services at tender stage for supplying services to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service.

Preliminary Investigations/Mixed Committals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many preliminary investigations/mixed committals are currently pending per court division; and of these, how many are legally aided.

(AQW 33806/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below shows the number, in each court division, of preliminary investigations and mixed committals pending as at 2 June 2014. All of these cases are legally aided.

Court Division	Preliminary Investigations	Mixed Committals	Total Cases
Armagh and South Down	1	0	1
Belfast	4	2	6
Craigavon	2	1	3
Fermanagh and Tyrone	1	0	1
Grand Total	8	3	11

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

Project Steering Group for Research into Prostitution

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the job titles of the staff; and (ii) the organisations represented on the Project Steering Group for Research into Prostitution.

(AQW 33809/11-15)

Mr Ford: As stated in the tender specification schedule for Prostitution Research, published on eSourcing NI on 24 January 2014, the Project Steering Group consists of members of the Department of Justice Criminal Policy Branch, and Analytical Services Group. They are: Head of Criminal Policy Branch; Deputy Principal, Criminal Policy Branch; and Principal Statistician, Analytical Services Group. They were appointed because of their knowledge of the policy area and of research methodology.

There was no prior consultation on their appointment. The Project Steering Group is an internal panel with responsibility for management of the contract in line with the terms of the tender.

Project Steering Group for Research into Prostitution

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice who has been selected to sit on the Project Steering Group for Research into Prostitution.

(AQW 33813/11-15)

Mr Ford: As stated in the tender specification schedule for Prostitution Research, published on eSourcing NI on 24 January 2014, the Project Steering Group consists of members of the Department of Justice Criminal Policy Branch, and Analytical Services Group. They are: Head of Criminal Policy Branch; Deputy Principal, Criminal Policy Branch; and Principal Statistician, Analytical Services Group. They were appointed because of their knowledge of the policy area and of research methodology.

There was no prior consultation on their appointment. The Project Steering Group is an internal panel with responsibility for management of the contract in line with the terms of the tender.

Project Steering Group for Research into Prostitution

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice to detail the selection process for choosing members to sit on the Project Steering Group for Research into Prostitution.

(AQW 33815/11-15)

Mr Ford: As stated in the tender specification schedule for Prostitution Research, published on eSourcing NI on 24 January 2014, the Project Steering Group consists of members of the Department of Justice Criminal Policy Branch, and Analytical Services Group. They are: Head of Criminal Policy Branch; Deputy Principal, Criminal Policy Branch; and Principal Statistician, Analytical Services Group. They were appointed because of their knowledge of the policy area and of research methodology.

There was no prior consultation on their appointment. The Project Steering Group is an internal panel with responsibility for management of the contract in line with the terms of the tender.

Disability Audits for the Courts and Tribunals Service

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33601/11-15, (i) which organisation or persons were used to carry out the disability audits for the Courts and Tribunals Service; (ii) whether these reports are available to the public; and (iii) when the Omagh and Strabane premises were last inspected.

(AQW 33818/11-15)

Mr Ford: Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) in the Department of Finance and Personnel or consultants commissioned by CPD completed the disability audits for the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS). These reports are not available to the public for security reasons as they contain specific information on the layout of court buildings and illustrative photographs. The report for Strabane was completed in July 2010 and the report for Omagh in March 2009.

Charitable and Voluntary Organisations Providing Community Services

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33561/11-15, how charitable and voluntary organisations are selected to provide community services; and to detail how they can apply to be involved.

(AQW 33826/11-15)

Mr Ford: Charitable and voluntary organisations can contact Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) directly at any time via the PBNI website, www.pbni.org.uk, which provides information on community service and details on how organisations can apply for PBNI placements. PBNI staff based in local offices also actively seek out charitable and voluntary organisations and local community groups to facilitate Community Service placements. PBNI undertake an assessment of all applications received with regard to health and safety and capacity of the organisation to deliver the placement to the required standard.

If funding is required organisations can apply through the PBNI Community Grant Scheme which is advertised on an annual basis. Further information on the scheme is also available on the PBNI website.

Delay in the Public Protection Arrangements

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given the deadline for potential appeal has now passed, what is causing the delay in the Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland publishing the Serious Case Review into the case of David Paige.

(AQW 33827/11-15)

Mr Ford: The serious case review summary was published on the Public Protection Arrangements website on 11 June after the victim's family had been afforded the opportunity to read and discuss its contents with officials.

Contract Services to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many staff, employed by G4S, provide contract services to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service at court houses; and of these, how many are registered as key holders.

(AQW 33828/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are currently 352 staff (243.74 full time equivalents) employed by G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd on the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service contract for the provision of security and ancillary services, all of whom are registered key holders.

Solicitor Only or Solicitor and Junior Counsel

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33196/11-15, how many cases had representatives as (i) solicitor only; and (ii) solicitor and junior counsel.

(AQW 33829/11-15)

Mr Ford:

TABLE 1: DEFENDANTS INVOLVED IN A MIXED COMMITTAL THAT WERE FUNDED BY LEGAL AID, BY REPRESENTATION: 2011

Court Division	No. of defendants involved in a mixed committal funded by legal aid	No. with solicitor only	No. with solicitor and Junior Counsel
Belfast	31	15	16
Londonderry	4	3	1
Antrim	5	4	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	3	2	1
Armagh and South Down	10	7	3
Newtownards	2	2	0
Craigavon	7	5	2
Total	62	38	24

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

TABLE 2: DEFENDANTS INVOLVED IN A MIXED COMMITTAL THAT WERE FUNDED BY LEGAL AID, BY REPRESENTATION: 20121

Court Division	No. of defendants involved in a mixed committal funded by legal aid	No. with solicitor only	No. with solicitor and Junior Counsel
Belfast	43	26	17
Londonderry	1	0	1
Antrim	2	1	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	2	1	1
Armagh and South Down	2	1	1

Court Division	No. of defendants involved in a mixed committal funded by legal aid	No. with solicitor only	No. with solicitor and Junior Counsel
Newtownards	0	0	0
Craigavon	7	4	3
Total	57	33	24

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

- 1 Two cases in Belfast and one in Armagh and South Down also had Senior Counsel instructed

TABLE 3: DEFENDANTS INVOLVED IN A MIXED COMMITTAL THAT WERE FUNDED BY LEGAL AID, BY REPRESENTATION: 20132, P

Court Division	No. of defendants involved in a mixed committal funded by legal aid	No. with solicitor only	No. with solicitor and Junior Counsel
Belfast	22	16	6
Londonderry	0	0	0
Antrim	9	8	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone	0	0	0
Armagh and South Down	13	10	3
Newtownards	0	0	0
Craigavon	4	1	3
Total	48	35	13

Source: Integrated Court Operations System

- 2 Two cases in Craigavon also had Senior Counsel instructed
P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change

Forced Strip Searches in Roe House

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33306/11-15, to detail the number of forced strip searches that have taken place in Roe House.

(AQW 33860/11-15)

Mr Ford: New search arrangements were introduced in accordance with the Agreement of the 12th August 2010. From that date routine Full Body Searching of separated prisoners housed within Roe House no longer takes place. This does not affect the requirement for searches to be carried out in other areas of the prison. The total number of such Full Body searches carried out in other areas of the prison, primarily on entering and leaving the prison, was 491 in 2013 and 332 to date in 2014.

Total Cost of Trial Process

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33550/11 -15, when he will be able to provide the total cost of the trial process that began in May 2009.

(AQW 33881/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total cost of this trial will not be available until all claims are received and subsequently assessed. The Legal Services Commission anticipates that legal aid claims will be received for assessment and payment no later than September 2014.

Further payments have been made in respect of legal aid and prosecution costs since the response to AQW/33550/11-15. The table below details the estimated costs as at 6 June 2014.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
(i) Legal Aid ¹	£149,173
(ii) Prosecution ²	£117,723
(iii) Court (Judiciary and staff costs)	£24,921
(iv) Facilities (e.g. courtroom accommodation)	£5,606
Total	£297,423

- 1 Legal aid costs to date include fees and disbursements paid to legal representatives. A number of costs have yet to be received or assessed.
- 2 The Public Prosecution Service has finalised fees for counsel and witness expenses have been paid. Further witness expenses may still be received.

Recent Departure of the Chief Finance Officer

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice to outline the circumstances surrounding the recent departure of the Chief Finance Officer of the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

(AQW 33895/11-15)

Mr Ford: It would be inappropriate to comment on the circumstances surrounding the career management of a specific individual within my Department.

The Chief Finance Officer is a member of the Senior Civil Service and, as such, the movement and placement of such staff is managed centrally within the NICS as a corporate resource.

Prison Service Staff Duties

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice which member of Prison Service staff is currently responsible for the work formerly undertaken by the Chief Finance Officer; and what other duties they are performing in conjunction with this role.

(AQW 33896/11-15)

Mr Ford: Responsibility for the work formerly undertaken by the Chief Finance Officer has been split between the existing Directors of HR and Organisational Change and of Estates.

This is an interim arrangement pending implementation of a decision recently taken by the Department of Justice Board to deliver corporate services, such as Finance, through a shared service model. This will result in the Finance Director in the Department assuming responsibility for the delivery of Finance Services to the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Hotel Expenses for Consultants

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice whether the Prison Service pays for the hotel expenses of the consultants it engages.

(AQW 33897/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are currently two suppliers of external consultancy contracts covering four separate contracts.

No hotel expenses have been paid to date. However, the terms of an individual contract would determine whether such expenses could be paid.

Compulsory Redundancy to Retraining

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans to review the decision taken by his Department and the Prison Service to reduce from nine months to fifteen weeks, the decision time allowed for Prison Officers who have, or will avail of, compulsory redundancy to retraining, whilst agreeing to uphold the decision to permit RUC and PSNI reservists a 9 month decision time in similar circumstances, and in the light of equal opportunities legislation to have the decision reversed to permit Prison Officers availing of compulsory redundancy the same opportunities as those retiring from similar occupations.

(AQW 33899/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) launched a Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Scheme on 8 November 2011 and staff were released under these terms between 31 March 2012 and 31 May 2014. From the outset, this included a re-training package of core courses held over a 15 week period. This scheme is now closed and NIPS will not be revisiting any of the associated terms.

The PSNI Reserve (Full-Time) Severance Regulations 2006 included an offer of nine months re-training before the formal date of their leaving the PSNI.

Prison Officers are employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service whereas PSNI officers are appointed by the Chief Constable. Equal opportunities issues do not arise between separate employers.

G4S Staff Keyholders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the policy for G4S staff keyholders who provide contracted services to the NI Courts and Tribunal Service estate and are required to return to work premises outside working hours, including (i) how many staff attend out-of-hours call outs; (ii) how often risk assessments are carried out to ensure the safety and security of staff; (iii) what enhancement is provided to staff who are on call; (iv) when the policy was last updated or amended; and (v) what, if any, updates or amendments were replaced.

(AQW 33900/11-15)

Mr Ford: Under the terms of the contract, two G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd (G4S) site officials are required to attend out of hours call outs as key holders. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) advises G4S of the results of annual security assessments that provide an evaluation on the level of threat to staff and the NICTS Estate. G4S is responsible for carrying out risk assessments to ensure the safety and security of its staff, the remuneration of its staff who are on call, and updating the policy.

Awarding of Costs Against Mr Stephen McCook

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, following the ruling of Mr Justice Stephens on Wednesday 4 June 2014 which included the awarding of costs against Mr Stephen McCook, whether the costs will be met by Legal Aid.

(AQW 33923/11-15)

Mr Ford: A copy of the ruling of Mr Justice Stephens is not currently available to the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission and it would be inappropriate for the Commission to comment on the press coverage without having sight of the ruling.

Article 24 of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (NI) Order 1981 precludes the release of information in relation to civil cases in which Legal Aid has been granted.

I would expect the Commission to follow all avenues open to them to recover costs where this is applicable.

Farmwatch: Ballymena

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the Farmwatch Scheme in Ballymena.
(AQO 6317/11-15)

Mr Ford: Since the launch of the Ballymena Farm Watch Scheme 31 January 2014, 226 individuals have registered for a text alert scheme operated by the PSNI; 160 trailers have been security marked; 50 Guardcams have been distributed; and members of the Scheme have been given crime prevention advice and the opportunity to avail of roadside and property signage advertising the Scheme.

Working with the PSNI, Ballymena Policing and Community Safety Partnership continues to highlight the scheme. A recent example of this work was the promotional event held by Ballymena Policing and Community Safety Partnership at the Ballymena Show on 31 May, where 12 farmers signed up for the text alert and trailer marking services offered by the PSNI under the Farm Watch scheme.

Given the impact which this type of crime has on farming and rural communities, my Department will continue to support the development and delivery of initiatives designed to tackle rural crime.

Legal Aid

Mr Milne asked the Minister of Justice what assessment he has made of any impact the reduction of the legal aid budget may have on increases in miscarriages of justice.

(AQO 6325/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have not made any reduction in the legal aid budget, but I have taken steps to ensure that the fee structure meets the value for money test.

I do not believe there will be any impact on the potential for miscarriages of justice arising from legal aid reform. My reforms do not reduce the scope of legal aid and anyone entitled to criminal legal aid will continue to receive it. I have also listened carefully to representations made to me and have ensured fees are targeted at most serious cases.

Department for Regional Development

Public Hire Taxi Drive-Offs at Belfast City Hall

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 33445/11-15, to supply the information used by departmental officials and passed to their Department of the Environment and Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) counterparts in respect of alleged public hire taxi drive-offs at Belfast City Hall on sight of traffic wardens, including (i) when the information was gathered; (ii) who gathered the information; (iii) the minutes of any meetings with DVA officials when this matter was discussed; (iv) statements taken by those reporting the alleged drive-offs; and (v) what levels of staff held the interdepartmental discussions.

(AQW 33656/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): Senior management (Grade 6 and Grade 7) from my Department met with their counterparts in December 2013, to discuss taxi related policy matters, such as, use of bus lanes, illegal parking, non-use of taxi stopping area in Chichester Street, Belfast, enforcement at ranks etc. During this meeting my officials provided an indication that approximately 900 taxi drive-offs had occurred during the period 01 January to 30 November 2013, from an area in front of Belfast City Hall. This figure was based on estimates provided by Traffic Attendants (TA).

TAs, in carrying out their duties, do not record the nature of business in which vehicles are involved. In front of Belfast City Hall, the taxi rank is patrolled by TAs on a regular basis. Taxis that are parked in contravention of parking and bus lane restrictions will regularly drive off when a TA appears. Whilst a TA will record the vehicle registration number (VRN) of the drive off vehicles, the fact that it is a taxi will not be recorded. TAs do not take statements from any vehicle driver when issuing Penalty

Charge Notices (PCN) or when recording VRNs. Presently, there is no demand for this information and therefore, it is not recorded.

Flooding of Roads in Fintona and Trillick

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department helped alleviate the flooding of roads in Fintona and Trillick on 22 May 2014; and to detail his Department's plans to keep traffic flowing in the event of any future flooding in this area.

(AQW 33669/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department deployed staff to erect warning signs and distribute sandbags to the area. Officials liaised closely with the PSNI, which had set up an incident centre in Fintona, and issued sandbags as requests came in. As soon as the river levels lowered, the floods quickly cleared through the drainage systems. In total, my Department had nine Industrial staff and three supervisory staff on site until 03:30 am on 23 May, over 100 sandbags were distributed and 35 warning signs were erected.

My Department is part of a multi-agency group which has been set up to deal with such incidents. On the instructions of the PSNI, some local traffic diversions were set up for a short time around the flooded area in Fintona. The flooding in Trillick did not result in any road closures.

State of Repair of the Crockanboy Road in Omagh

Mr McAleer asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department plans to address the state of repair of the Crockanboy Road in Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

(AQW 33680/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Crockanboy Road is a medium trafficked B Class route which is 17km long and connects the villages of Gortin and Creggan. Over the past four years, 3kms of this road have been resurfaced and 11kms surface dressed. It continues to be subject to eight-weekly inspections in accordance with established Roads Maintenance Standards and all defects identified are repaired within stipulated timescales.

Whilst a 1.9km stretch of the route immediately west of Greencastle village has been identified as a priority for resurfacing, the scheme cannot be delivered within current 2014/15 funding allocations. However, should additional in-year funding become available to my Department, this scheme will be considered for inclusion in an enhanced works programme.

Funds Allocated for the Millennium Way Project

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the funds that have been allocated to the Millennium Way project in the current financial year.

(AQW 33685/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is continuing to develop the Extension to Millennium Way scheme and work is ongoing to finalise the detailed design for the proposal.

The acquisition of land for the scheme requires a Vesting Order and it is hoped to publish the draft Notice of Intention to Make the Vesting Order in the near future. A Public Inquiry may also be required to determine if the level of land take identified is appropriate.

I can confirm the appropriate level of funding for progression of the design and other scheme development work has been made available. In relation to funding for lands acquisition and compensation, I can also confirm funding is available should the Vesting Order become operative during this financial year. However, this does not include funding for construction as the Extension to Millennium Way proposal is not in a position to start in the current financial year.

However, a bid has been submitted with a view to commencing construction in 2015/16, subject to the bid being successful, the proposal continuing to have a satisfactory economic appraisal and clearing the Vesting Order statutory procedure.

Total Spend on Footpath Resurfacing

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total spend on footpath resurfacing, broken down by constituency, in the last financial year.

(AQW 33697/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not maintain details of spend on roads on a parliamentary constituency basis.

Total Spend on Road Resurfacing

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total spend on road resurfacing, broken down by constituency, in the last financial year.

(AQW 33698/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not maintain details of spend on roads on a parliamentary constituency basis.

Total Spend on New Street Lighting

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total spend on new street lighting, broken down by constituency, in the last financial year.

(AQW 33699/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department deployed staff to erect warning signs and distribute sandbags to the area. Officials liaised closely with the PSNI, which had set up an incident centre in Fintona, and issued sandbags as requests came in. As soon as the river levels lowered, the floods quickly cleared through the drainage systems. In total, my Department had nine Industrial staff and three supervisory staff on site until 03:30 am on 23 May, over 100 sandbags were distributed and 35 warning signs were erected.

My Department is part of a multi-agency group which has been set up to deal with such incidents. On the instructions of the PSNI, some local traffic diversions were set up for a short time around the flooded area in Fintona. The flooding in Trillick did not result in any road closures.

Total Spend on Dropped Kerbs

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total spend on dropped kerbs, broken down by constituency, in the last financial year.

(AQW 33700/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not maintain details of spend on roads on a parliamentary constituency basis.

Total Spend on Traffic Calming Measures

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total spend on traffic calming measures, broken down by constituency, in the last financial year.

(AQW 33702/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not maintain details of spend on roads on a parliamentary constituency basis.

Additional Funding for Community Transport Services

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 33252/11-15, what efforts are being made by his Department to seek additional funding for community transport services in addition to baseline budgets for 2014-2015, so that current service levels can be maintained.
(AQW 33718/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In addition to the significant levels of funding provided to the Rural Community Transport Partnerships by my Department, my officials are in discussions with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) (Active Aging Strategy) in an attempt to secure additional funding.

No final decisions on funding have yet been made by DARD or OFMDFM.

Upgrade of the Sewage Pumping Station at Derryhale

Mr Irwin asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the plans and timeframe to upgrade the sewage pumping station at Derryhale in Portadown, given the defects with the current system.

(AQW 33773/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: A comprehensive study of the problems associated with both the Brompton Park and Derryhale Wastewater Pumping Stations within the Derryhale catchment has concluded that the preferred solution to defects at the current sites involves the abandonment of the existing stations and the transfer of flows by gravity to a newly built station pumping into the existing Derryhale sewer system. This solution will require land purchase for the new pumping station and agreements with landowners in relation to access and decommissioning of the existing pumping station sites.

A detailed solution is being worked on by Northern Ireland Water and it intends to engage with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency with the intention of including the project in the prioritised capital quality programme. It is not possible at this time to give a commitment on delivery but Northern Ireland Water will continue to maintain the existing system until an upgrade can be progressed.

Cost of Repairing Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of repairing Portavoe Reservoir.
(AQW 33780/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The total cost of refurbishing Portavoe Reservoir is approximately £124,000. This consists of £99,000 construction costs plus additional professional costs (including project management, site supervision, environmental surveys and public communication) amounting to £25,000.

Cost of Street Lights

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of street lights being switched on during daylight hours, in the last financial year.
(AQW 33788/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Member will be aware from my response to his previous Assembly Question, AQW 14529/11-15, that electricity for my Department's street lighting is not metered and therefore there is no additional monetary cost if street lights are operating during daylight hours.

However, when officials are made aware of street lights operating during the daytime, which may be as a result of faulty equipment or for routine maintenance purposes, they endeavour to attend to such issues promptly so that energy is not used unnecessarily.

Works at the Greystone Road/Broad Road

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQO 6143/11-15, why no work will be carried out in the next twelve months; and whether he will expedite the works at the Greystone Road/Broad Road.

(AQW 33807/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm that, whilst my officials are currently examining a number of proposals to improve safety at the Greystone Road/Broad Road junction in Limavady, the work programme for this year based on current budget allocations has already been finalised.

However, I can assure you my officials are working to bring forward a worthwhile solution for this junction and I have asked for this to be progressed as quickly as possible.

Footpaths in the North Belfast Constituency

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) whether an assessment has been carried out on the condition of footpaths in the North Belfast constituency; (ii) the total spend on upgrading and repairing footpaths in North Belfast during each of the last five years; and (iii) the planned spend on upgrading and repairing footpaths in North Belfast in the next twelve months.

(AQW 33865/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department inspects the footpaths in North Belfast on a cyclical basis and any defects considered hazardous to the public are identified and programmed for repair.

In addition, my Department also undertakes an annual programme of reconstruction and resurfacing, which is implemented on a scheme priority basis, taking account of the available funding for such works.

The information relating to expenditure on footpaths is not available in the form requested by the Member, as my Department does not hold financial information on a constituency basis. However, details of total spend on footway upgrading and repair in the Belfast North Section Office area for the last five years are set out in the table below:

Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Expenditure	£750,671	£768,626	£1,092,999	£615,777	£1,246,880

My Department has currently programmed approximately £280,000 of work in the Belfast North Section Office area for 2014/15, with the potential for further schemes to be added to the programme based on the availability of additional funding.

Rural Borewells Scheme

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail what help is available to people living in homes which were built after 2000, did not qualify for the Rural Borewells Scheme and are without a mains water supply.

(AQW 33873/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: For those properties built after 2000 that are not eligible for the Rural Borewells Scheme, NI Water provides a Reasonable Cost Allowance (RCA) of around £2,000 per property to connect householders to the mains system. More recent properties are entitled to a lesser RCA because householders are expected to include the cost of a water main in the overall cost of a new build.

Tests on Dead Birds or Fish at Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether any tests have been carried out on dead birds or fish at Portavoe Reservoir.

(AQW 33906/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: To date there have been no tests carried out on dead birds or fish at Portavoe Reservoir. Should any further carcasses be recovered in a state capable of being subjected to tests this will be undertaken.

Ballymena Drainage Systems

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development what work is planned to upgrade the drainage system in the Toome Road and Queen Street areas of Ballymena to prevent serious flooding, given there has been serious flooding each year from 2008.

(AQW 34012/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The cause of the recent flooding in the Queen Street and Toome Road areas of Ballymena is currently being investigated. At present it appears that the sheer volume of heavy rainfall in a very short period overwhelmed the capacity of the drainage infrastructure in the area.

As part of the Drainage Area plans for this area NI Water has identified a number of structural sewer defects in the Toome Road and Queen Street areas. A scheme to rectify these issues including relining some sections of the sewer and replacement of a number of manholes to prevent ingress of water from a local watercourse into the sewer, was scheduled to commence in August 2014. However, I have asked NI Water to bring this scheme forward and it will now commence before the end of June 2014 with completion due during September 2014.

I am advised that this planned work may not significantly impact on the capacity of the sewer network and I have therefore asked the interdepartmental Flood Investment Planning Group, led by my Department, to urgently examine what can be done to help reduce the flood risk in this area.

AQW 34012/11-15

Background

- Locally heavy rainfall on Sunday evening, 8 June 2014, led to flooding in a number of areas across the north and west of Northern Ireland, some of the worst affected areas were reported as Ballymena, Antrim and Ballymoney. The intensity of the rainfall overwhelmed road gullies, storm drains and the sewerage system causing flooding of roads and properties.
- Transport NI staff were on the ground within 1 hour from receiving the first calls and approximately 1000 sandbags were distributed to assist property owners during this event. NI Water staff also attended a number of locations to provide assistance.
- Transport NI has advised that the existing gullies and connections are adequate to cope with road surface water and are cleaned and maintained on a regular basis and there no plans to upgrade the road drainage systems at this location. The road drainage systems are similar to the majority of drainage on the road network and rely on connections to existing NI Water infrastructure.
- There is a history of external out of sewer flooding at fifteen properties in this area (Thirteen properties in Toome Street and two at Queen Street). In 2008 river flood defences were put in place to protect these properties and area. However since 2008 in periods of heavy rainfall there has continued to be issues with out of sewer flooding at these locations. Following flooding in August 2012 investigations carried out by NI Water confirmed a number of structural defects in its sewer network. Work to rectify these defects will commence in August of this year and take approximately 4 months to complete.
- NI Water does not believe that there is a capacity issue with its sewer network in the Toome Road area during normal conditions. However, during periods of intense rainfall, such as that experienced on Sunday evening, it is possible that the system was overwhelmed. NI Water is currently awaiting an assessment from the Met Office in regard to the return period of this weather event.
- DARD has advised that no watercourses contributed to the recent flooding at this location.

AQW 34012/11-15

Drafted by: Barry Spiers, 11 June 2014 Ext No. 40397
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Severe Flooding in Wakehurst

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of two episodes of severe flooding in Wakehurst; Queen Street; and Toome Road areas of Ballymena in the last week, to detail the current plans to alleviate the causal problems.

(AQW 34083/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The cause of the recent flooding in the Wakehurst, Queen Street and Toome Road areas of Ballymena is currently being investigated. At present it appears that the sheer volume of heavy rainfall in a very short period overwhelmed the capacity of the drainage infrastructure in these areas.

As part of the Drainage Area plans for this area NI Water has identified a number of structural sewer defects in the Toome Road and Queen Street areas. A scheme to rectify these issues including relining some sections of the sewer and replacement of a number of manholes to prevent ingress of water from a local watercourse into the sewer was scheduled to commence in August 2014. However, I have asked NI Water to bring this scheme forward and it will now commence before the end of June 2014 with completion due during September 2014.

In light of the recent flooding, Transport NI has checked the road gullies and transfer pipes in these areas and these were found to be working properly. In addition NI Water will be carrying out a detailed inspection of the sewer network to ensure there are no issues that it is currently unaware of and this work will be completed in the next two weeks.

I have also requested that the interdepartmental Flood Investment Planning Group, led by my Department, urgently examines what can be done to help reduce the risk of flooding in these areas.

Department for Social Development

Accessible Formats for the Visually Impaired

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department and its agencies will take a proactive approach with people who are visually impaired by providing correspondence in accessible formats.

(AQW 33524/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Department for Social Development Equality Scheme commits the Department to providing information in alternative formats on request, where reasonably practicable.

In line with the Department for Social Development's policy the Social Security Agency provides publications in a range of suitable alternative accessible formats for people who are visually impaired.

The Agency will also make arrangements for correspondence to be provided in Braille, larger font or audio format if requested.

Transfer of Bloomfield Estate to Clanmil Housing Association

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the reasons for the delay in transferring the pensioners' bungalows in the Bloomfield Estate to Clanmill Housing Association.
(AQW 33742/11-15)

Mr McCausland: By way of clarification I would advise that the housing association involved in this transfer is Oaklee Homes Group; it is not Clanmil.

There are 72 Housing Executive properties in the Bloomfield Estate which have been selected for inclusion in the Stock Transfer Programme. The Programme is overseen by the Housing Executive and they have advised that the delay in the transfer has been caused by the length of time it has taken to prepare and agree the Transfer Agreement and Development Agreement, which are both bespoke and complex documents. Considerable work has to be completed by solicitors to ensure that the interests of tenants are protected and the respective obligations of both the Housing Executive and Oaklee Homes Group are clearly set out and agreed.

I do, however, share the frustrations being experienced by tenants and I am extremely disappointed at the ongoing delay with this scheme which I find unacceptable.

NIHE have advised that the outstanding matters should be cleared up by the end of June and I sincerely hope that this transfer can proceed as soon as possible thereafter.

Current Timescale: Bloomfield Estate to Clanmil Housing Association

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the current timescale for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to transfer the pensioners' bungalows in the Bloomfield Estate to Clanmil Housing Association.
(AQW 33743/11-15)

Mr McCausland: By way of clarification I would advise that the housing association involved in this transfer is Oaklee Homes Group; it is not Clanmil.

The Stock Transfer Programme is overseen by the Housing Executive and they have advised that they met with Oaklee Homes Group and their respective solicitors on 3rd June to resolve a few outstanding minor matters and although the exact date to complete the transfer is still to be confirmed, it is anticipated that it will be by the end of June.

Affected Homes in Bloomfield and Jubilee Estates in Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's current timescale to repair insulation in the twenty homes affected in the Bloomfield and Jubilee Estates in Bangor.
(AQW 33744/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive have advised that the insulation scheme, which includes twenty homes in the Bloomfield and Jubilee estates in Bangor, is programmed to commence in September 2014 and complete at the end of November 2014.

Landlord Registration Scheme

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 33150/11-15, what action his Department has taken upon discovery that no landlords in Magherafelt and Downpatrick are registered under the Landlord Registration Scheme.
(AQW 33819/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My response to AQW 33150/11-15 reflects the number of landlords living in the council area and not where the private rented properties are situated. Where no new tenancy is created a landlord has until 25 February 2015 to register.

While my Department is responsible for the policy and legislation around the Landlord Registration Scheme, enforcement of the Regulations is a matter for each local council. The council which is responsible for taking enforcement action depends on where the property is and not where the landlord lives.

Department officials and the Landlord Registration Registrar work closely with district council representatives to provide information and support enforcement. A series of seminars will take place at the end of June for all council environmental health officers to stress the importance of the enforcement of both landlord registration and tenancy deposit schemes requirements.

Responsibility for Meter Installation

Mr Clarke asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 33620/11-15, where an electric meter has been removed, prior to the allocation of the house, who is responsible to have a meter installed; and if it is the tenant's responsibility, how much notice they are given to have this work carried out.

(AQW 33820/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that it would not be their normal policy to allocate a property where the electric meter had been removed. However, if the new tenant preferred a "pay as you go" or "credit type" meter then it would be their responsibility to arrange that with their chosen electricity supplier. The new tenant would be advised of this when signing for the tenancy.

Removing Graffiti From Properties in North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the cost to the Housing Executive of removing graffiti from its properties in North Down, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 33835/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the cost of removing graffiti from its properties in North Down in each of the last three years was as follows:

2011/12	£7,082.40
2012/13	£1,674.11
2013/14	£4,211.17

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.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Parliament Buildings: Local Goods

Mr Dallat asked the Assembly Commission to outline the steps it has taken to ensure contractors engaged in work in Parliament Buildings use and promote local goods and materials.

(AQO 6334/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): While the Commission would be keen to use and promote local goods and materials, EU legislation does not permit us to specify them in the contract. Building Services Branch utilises a local contractor from a DFP framework agreement to carry out the maintenance of Parliament Buildings. Except when framework rules prevent him from doing so, the contractor relies on locally sourced goods and materials for this work.

The Assembly Commission is pleased to have appointed a locally based contractor, Tracey Brothers from Enniskillen, to carry out the repair and refurbishment work to Parliament Buildings roof and associated services. Many of the products used in the project will be locally produced and where that is not possible, local suppliers will be used to source the products.

At this early stage of the project we can confirm that some of the major mechanical and electrical components, including air handling units, solar thermal panels and switchgear panels will be locally manufactured.

Although already part of the previous contract terms and specifications, Support Services once again, at tender stage in 2012, specified that the appointed catering services provider must support the Northern Ireland Assembly policy for sustainability. This is achieved by embedding in its contract and its tender competition the principles of sustainable procurement of fresh and local produce, when possible. This aspect of the contract is continuously monitored as part of the contract monitoring process. For example, in March 2014, some 50% of food products used originated either from Northern Ireland or Ireland. This percentage might be lower than expected by some Members however it is important to note that March is a “winter month”, preceding the main growing season for the region.

In terms of promoting non-food items within the Assembly Gift Shop, Support Services, implemented the Crafter Initiative designed to showcase designer makers exclusively from Northern Ireland.

Parliament Buildings: Car Parking

Mr Copeland asked the Assembly Commission whether the car parking facilities at Parliament Buildings meet existing staff and visitor need.

(AQO 6336/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission is aware of the difficulties faced by staff and visitors as regards parking at Parliament Buildings, particularly on sitting days, and recognises that the provision of additional car parking spaces would be of benefit. Extensive discussions between Assembly management and DFP have taken place which have resulted in the securing of a further 42 car parking spaces. This has been very well received by all.

Whilst Assembly management will naturally continue to explore further possibilities that might improve the overall situation, DFP have already carried out a broader review of car parking within the Stormont Estate, and they have confirmed that they have no plans at this time to build additional car parks or further develop existing ones.

DFP have indicated however that on particularly busy days, there may be some easing of current parking restrictions on Prince of Wales and Massey Avenues, thus freeing up more car parking space for users of Parliament Buildings. Assembly management will liaise closely with DFP in that regard.

It may also be possible to generate a small increase in car parking space at the rear of Parliament Buildings on completion of the roof project in 2015.

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Courts and Tribunal Services CCTV Policy	WA 67	Unregulated Minerals Extraction in Lough Neagh Special Protection Area	WA 30
Delay in the Public Protection Arrangements	WA 69	Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	WA 82
Disability Audits for the Courts and Tribunals Service	WA 69	Parliament Buildings: Car Parking	WA 83
Examining CCTV of Court Grounds	WA 59	Parliament Buildings: Local Goods	WA 82
Farmwatch: Ballymena	WA 74	Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	WA 1
Final Costs for Both Lower and High Court Hearings	WA 61	Cost of the Colliers International Report	WA 1
Forced Strip Searches in Roe House	WA 71	Strategic Investment Board	WA 1
G4S Staff Keyholders	WA 73		
Hearing of Appeals in the Colin Bell Case	WA 56		
Hotel Expenses for Consultants	WA 72		
Investigation into Case13/056715 that was Aborted at Craigavon Crown Court	WA 58		
Legal Aid	WA 74		
Magistrates Court: Prima Facie Cases	WA 58		
Number of Prisoners Adjudicated for Bullying Fellow Prisoners	WA 60		

Revised Written Answers

Friday 13 June 2014

(AQW 33925/11-15)

The Disability Employment Strategy is being developed in close partnership with the local disability sector.

My Department fully recognises the role that the sector has to play in helping to achieve the key objective to assist as many disabled people as possible to find, sustain and retain paid employment.

A strategic working group, including a number of representatives from disability organisations, was established at the outset. The working group is in the process of finalising the draft consultation document, which is scheduled for issue in September 2014. This will initiate the period of formal public consultation, during which time, people from throughout Northern Ireland will be invited and encouraged to provide an input.

In order to inform the discussions thus far, a number of engagement events have been facilitated by the Department. Five large regional events were part of this exercise, and the strategic working group deliberately targeted a mix of those people with a disability who have or do use existing services, and those who, up until now, have not done so. One of the events took place at the Action Mental Health premises in Antrim and another took place at NICVA in North Belfast. Travel arrangements were organised through the local disability organisations and both of these locations would have been accessible for people from the East Antrim area.

The feedback from all involved, especially those participants who are disabled, has been overwhelmingly positive and all of the events were well attended. The discussion and contributions at the events have been very useful and constructive, and these will be reflected within the consultation document.

Following on from the consultation process, it is intended that the Disability Employment Strategy will be launched in April 2015.

(AQW 23690/11-15)

No orders have been made by the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland prohibiting publicity on the granting of injunctive relief since 30 April 2012. Information on all extant orders, whenever made, is not readily available and could only be compiled at a disproportionate cost.

(AQW 33694/11-15)

The breakdown of convictions or alleged offences in respect of each suicide or suspected suicide in prison custody is attached at annex A. There are two deaths where the information about convictions or alleged offences is not available due to information loss at the introduction of the PRISM information management system.

ANNEX A

Establishment	Date of Death	Conviction (multiple occasions of the same offence are recorded once)	Alleged Offence/s (multiple occasions of the same alleged offence are recorded once)
Maghaberry	03/03/2004	Information not available	Information not available
Maghaberry	12/12/2004	Information not available	Information not available
Magilligan	13/12/2006	Robbery	

Establishment	Date of Death	Conviction (multiple occasions of the same offence are recorded once)	Alleged Offence/s (multiple occasions of the same alleged offence are recorded once)
Maghaberry	08/06/2007	Life licence revoked	Threats to kill; driving when unfit through drink or drug; disorderly behaviour
Maghaberry	31/01/2008	Inciting assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Intimidation - witness
Maghaberry	01/08/2008	Murder	
Maghaberry	08/03/2009		Producing Class C controlled drug; possessing Class C controlled drug with intent to supply; possession of a Class C controlled drug
Maghaberry	29/08/2009		Breach of custody probation order
Hydebank	03/08/2010		Disorderly behaviour; assault on police; resisting police; breach of community based order
Hydebank	04/05/2011	Burglary	Aggravated burglary and stealing; assault occasioning actual bodily harm; sexual activity by an adult with a child between 13 & 16 years; sexual activity involving penetration by adult with a child between 13 & 16 years; adult causing or inciting child between 13 & 16 to engage in sexual activity
Hydebank	04/05/2011		Hi jacking; possessing offensive weapon in a public place; dangerous driving; criminal damage
Maghaberry	22/05/2011	Resisting police	Attempted murder; assault occasioning actual bodily harm; criminal damage; attempted grievous bodily harm with intent; arson; assault
Maghaberry	23/06/2011	Estreat bail - principal party	Criminal damage; assault on police; criminal damage

Establishment	Date of Death	Conviction (multiple occasions of the same offence are recorded once)	Alleged Offence/s (multiple occasions of the same alleged offence are recorded once)
Maghaberry	25/06/2012	Murder; possession of a Class C controlled drug; theft	
Maghaberry	08/07/2012	Driving while disqualified (offences on or after 16 July 2008); Using a motor vehicle without insurance; Driving with excess alcohol in breath	Grievous bodily harm with intent; threats to kill; driving while disqualified (offences on or after 16 July 2008); using a motor vehicle without insurance; possession of offensive weapon with intent to commit an indictable offence; criminal damage
Maghaberry	15/10/2012	Burglary	Burglary
Maghaberry	06/11/2012	Indecent assault on female child; sexual activity with a child by a person in position of trust; indecent assault on female	
Hydebank	19/04/2013		Burglary
Maghaberry	06/05/2013		Breach of sexual offences prevention order



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