

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 7 February 2014

Volume 91, No WA4

Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister WA 303

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development WA 314

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure WA 327

Department of Education WA 355

Department for Employment and Learning..... WA 376

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment WA 380

Department of the Environment..... WA 394

Department of Finance and Personnel WA 404

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety..... WA 406

Department of Justice WA 418

Department for Regional Development..... WA 423

Department for Social Development WA 435

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission..... WA 450

Suggested amendments or corrections will be considered by the Editor.
They should be sent to:

The Editor of Debates, Room 248, Parliament Buildings, Belfast BT4 3XX.
Tel: 028 9052 1135 · e-mail: simon.burrowes@niassembly.gov.uk

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

Assembly Members

Agnew, Steven (North Down)
Allister, Jim (North Antrim)
Anderson, Sydney (Upper Bann)
Attwood, Alex (West Belfast)
Beggs, Roy (East Antrim)
Bell, Jonathan (Strangford)
Boylan, Cathal (Newry and Armagh)
Boyle, Ms Michaela (West Tyrone)
Bradley, Dominic (Newry and Armagh)
Bradley, Ms Paula (North Belfast)
Brady, Mickey (Newry and Armagh)
Buchanan, Thomas (West Tyrone)
Byrne, Joe (West Tyrone)
Cameron, Mrs Pam (South Antrim)
Campbell, Gregory (East Londonderry)
Clarke, Trevor (South Antrim)
Cochrane, Mrs Judith (East Belfast)
Copeland, Michael (East Belfast)
Craig, Jonathan (Lagan Valley)
Cree, Leslie (North Down)
Dallat, John (East Londonderry)
Dickson, Stewart (East Antrim)
Dobson, Mrs Jo-Anne (Upper Bann)
Douglas, Sammy (East Belfast)
Dunne, Gordon (North Down)
Durkan, Mark (Foyle)
Easton, Alex (North Down)
Eastwood, Colum (Foyle)
Elliott, Tom (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Farry, Stephen (North Down)
Fearon, Ms Megan (Newry and Armagh)
Flanagan, Phil (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Ford, David (South Antrim)
Foster, Mrs Arlene (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Frew, Paul (North Antrim)
Gardiner, Samuel (Upper Bann)
Girvan, Paul (South Antrim)
Givan, Paul (Lagan Valley)
Hale, Mrs Brenda (Lagan Valley)
Hamilton, Simon (Strangford)
Hay, William (Speaker)
Hazzard, Chris (South Down)
Hilditch, David (East Antrim)
Humphrey, William (North Belfast)
Hussey, Ross (West Tyrone)
Irwin, William (Newry and Armagh)
Kelly, Mrs Dolores (Upper Bann)
Kelly, Gerry (North Belfast)
Kennedy, Danny (Newry and Armagh)
Kinahan, Danny (South Antrim)
Lo, Ms Anna (South Belfast)
Lunn, Trevor (Lagan Valley)
Lynch, Seán (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Lyttle, Chris (East Belfast)
McAleer, Declan (West Tyrone)
McCallister, John (South Down)
McCann, Fra (West Belfast)
McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)
McCarthy, Kieran (Strangford)
McCartney, Raymond (Foyle)
McCausland, Nelson (North Belfast)
McClarty, David (East Londonderry)
McCorley, Ms Rosaleen (West Belfast)
McCrea, Basil (Lagan Valley)
McCrea, Ian (Mid Ulster)
McDonnell, Alasdair (South Belfast)
McElduff, Barry (West Tyrone)
McGahan, Ms Bronwyn (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
McGimpsey, Michael (South Belfast)
McGlone, Patsy (Mid Ulster)
McGuinness, Martin (Mid Ulster)
McIlveen, David (North Antrim)
McIlveen, Miss Michelle (Strangford)
McKay, Daithí (North Antrim)
McKevitt, Mrs Karen (South Down)
McKinney, Fearghal (South Belfast)
McLaughlin, Ms Maeve (Foyle)
McLaughlin, Mitchel (South Antrim)
McMullan, Oliver (East Antrim)
McNarry, David (Strangford)
McQuillan, Adrian (East Londonderry)
Maginness, Alban (North Belfast)
Maskey, Alex (South Belfast)
Milne, Ian (Mid Ulster)
Morrow, The Lord (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Moutray, Stephen (Upper Bann)
Nesbitt, Mike (Strangford)
Newton, Robin (East Belfast)
Ní Chuilín, Ms Carál (North Belfast)
Ó hOisín, Cathal (East Londonderry)
O'Dowd, John (Upper Bann)
O'Neill, Mrs Michelle (Mid Ulster)
Overend, Mrs Sandra (Mid Ulster)
Poots, Edwin (Lagan Valley)
Ramsey, Pat (Foyle)
Ramsey, Ms Sue (West Belfast)
Robinson, George (East Londonderry)
Robinson, Peter (East Belfast)
Rogers, Sean (South Down)
Ross, Alastair (East Antrim)
Ruane, Ms Caitríona (South Down)
Sheehan, Pat (West Belfast)
Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)
Storey, Mervyn (North Antrim)
Swann, Robin (North Antrim)
Weir, Peter (North Down)
Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 7 February 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

North South Bodies: Cost

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the total cost of each of the North South bodies in each year since 2007.

(AQW 26079/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The total cost of the North South Bodies to the Executive since 2007 is as follows:

	Tourism Ireland (£000s)	InterTrade Ireland (£000s)	Loughs Agency (£000s)	SEUPB (£000s)	Safefood (£000s)	Language Body (£000s)	Waterways (£000s)
2007/08	14,538	3,436	2,647	1,251	2,019	5,590	8,204
2008/09	15,502	3,314	2,504	1,293	2,012	6,514	7,323
2009/10	15,732	3,799	2,567	1,361	2,103	6,467	5,362
2010/11	16,072	3,472	1,909	1,095	2,535	6,516	4,537
2011/12	20,031	2,877	2,312	1,138	2,075	6,258	3,675
2012/13*	15,401	3,367	2,376	1,341	2,011	5,644	4,919

(*In 2012-13 budgeting treatment for North/South bodies changed. These figures are not directly comparable with those in the previous years.)

The Bodies may receive funding or generate income from other sources, including the contribution from the Irish Government; however there is no cost to the Executive for these additional monies.

Work Placements for Young People

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the establishment of an additional 10,000 work placements for young people, including the timescale for implementation.

(AQW 28060/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Following the hugely successful United Youth Design Day with young people, voluntary and community organisations and other stakeholders on 23 January, we intend to draw upon contributions at that event to inform the final design of the Programme.

In addition, the Department for Employment and Learning has agreed to take on the Senior Responsible Owner role for the project and a dedicated United Youth advisor has been appointed and took up post on 13 January 2014.

A joint OFMDFM/DEL design paper will now be prepared for Ministers for consideration.

European PEACE Funding

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the programmes under their responsibility which have received funding from the current round of European PEACE funding.

(AQW 28102/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The projects under the responsibility of our Department that have received funding under the PEACE III programme are listed below.

Theme	1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.1A	Louth County Council	Louth Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Leitrim County Council	Leitrim peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Cavan County Council	Cavan Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Sligo County Council	Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Donegal County Council	Donegal Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Newry and Mourne District Council	Southern Peace & Reconciliation Local Action Plan
1.1A	Coleraine Borough Council	North East Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Lisburn City Council	Lisburn Peace & reconciliation Local Action Plan
1.1A	Magherafelt District Council	South West Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	North Down District Council	North Down, Ards, Down Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Newtownabbey Borough Council	Newtownabbey Peace & Reconciliation Local Action Plan
1.1A	Derry City Council	North West Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Belfast City Council	Belfast Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan
1.1A	Cavan County Council	County Cavan Peace Partnership Peace & Reconciliation phase 2 Action Plan
1.1A	Donegal County Council	Donegal Peace III Action Plan - Phase II
1.1A	Newry and Mourne District Council	Southern Peace III Strategy
1.1A	Newtownabbey Borough Council	CAN Peace III Partnership Phase 2 2011-2013
1.1A	Derry City Council	NW Cluster Phase II Action Plan
1.1A	Belfast City Council	Belfast Local Action Plan - Phase II
1.1A	County Leitrim Peace III Partnership	County Leitrim Phase 2 Plan 2011 - 2013
1.1A	Magherafelt District Council	Phase 2 Bid for SW PEACE III Cluster
1.1A	Monaghan CDB Peace III Partnership	Phase II Action Plan - Monaghan
1.1A	County Louth Peace & Reconciliation Partnership	Peace 3 Phase 2 Extension Plan
1.1A	Coleraine Borough Council	North East PEACE III Partnership

Theme	1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.1A	Sligo County Council on behalf of Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee	Phase 2 Action Plan
1.1A	Lisburn/Castlereagh Peace III Partnership	Lisburn/Castlereagh Peace III Partnership Peace III Action Plan- Phase II
1.1A	North Down Borough Council	Phase II Peace III Action Plan for the North Down, Ards and Down Cluster
1.1B	Rural Community Network	The Rural Enabler
1.1B	TWN	Positive Relations Project
1.1B	Co-operation Ireland	Irish Peace Centres
1.1B	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	Intercomm Ireland Ltd	Communities and Policing in Transition
1.1B	SELB (YESIP)	Children and Young People Building Positive Relations
1.1B	EDGEHILL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (of Queen's University Belfast)	Edgehill Theological College Reconciliation and Integration Partnership Project
1.1B	Groundwork Northern Ireland	Reconciling Communities through Regeneration
1.1B	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	From Prison to Peace: Building on Experience
1.1B	CFNI/Eiri na Greine	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI/Coiste na Nlarchimi	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI/Tar Anall	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Tar Isteach	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Failte Abhaile	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Iar Chimi Ard Mhaca Theas	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Cairde	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Tar Abhaile	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Iar Chimi Doire Theas	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Failte cluain Eois	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / La Nua	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Tus Nua	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	CFNI / Abhaile Aris	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up
1.1B	Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Inter-Church Peace Programme - ICPP
1.1B	TWN	Extending Positive Relations
1.1B	Arts Council of Northern Ireland	Re-imaging Communities Programme

Theme	1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.1B	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	South East Antrim - Resourcing from Conflict to Hope (SEARCH)
1.1B	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	Stepping Towards Reconciliation In Positive Engagement
1.1B	Co-operation Ireland	Family and Community Engagement Programme - FACE
1.1B	Edgehill Theological College Reconciliation and Integration Partnership Project	Edgehill Theological College Reconciliation and Integration Partnership Project (ETC-RIPP)
1.1B	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Prison to Peace Partnership: A Paradigm for Peacebuilding
1.1B	Intercomm Ireland	Communities and Policing in Transition - Future Generations
1.1B	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up 11
1.1B	CFNI/Coiste na n'Iarchimi	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Tar Isteach	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Tar Anall	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Tar Abhaile	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Iar Chimi Ard Mhaca Theas	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Iar Chimi Doire Theas	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Eiri na Greine	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/Cairde	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up II
1.1B	CFNI/An Eochair	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/Charter	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/Coiste	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/Epic Belfast	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/Epic North Ulster	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/Lisburn PSP	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/North Belfast CD & Transition Group	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/North Down Community Association	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/Teach na Failte	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/The Hubb	Prison to Peace II
1.1B	CFNI/West Belfast PIP	Prison to Peace II

Theme	1.1 Building Positive Relations at the Local Level	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.1B	Failte Cluain Eois	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up Phase II
1.1B	Abhaile Aris	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up Phase II
1.1B	La Nua	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up Phase II
1.1B	Failte Abhaile	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up Phase II
1.1B	Tus Nua	Conflict Transformation from the Bottom Up Phase II

Theme	1.2 Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.2A	Seán McConville	The Irish Peace Process: Layers of Recollection and Meaning
1.2B	SAVER/NAVER	Practical steps towards reconciliation
1.2B	Cunamh	Peace In Mind/Suaimhneas Intinne
1.2B	Survivors of Trauma	A Future Together
1.2B	THE Ely Centre	Project Elohim
1.2B	Ashton Community Trust	Bridge Of Hope
1.2B	Holy Trinity Centre	Out Of Hours Community Counselling Service
1.2B	Cavan Family Resource Centre	Buandóchas (B) Counselling
1.2B	Relatives for Justice	Participative Transitional Support
1.2B	R.A,F.T. - Restorative Action Following the Troubles	Transcending Trauma
1.2B	Best Cellars Music Collective	Peace Radio
1.2B	Falls Women's Centre	Training & Employment Project
1.2B	Families Acting for Innocent Relatives	SACRED - Support and Active Carer Respite for Excluded Dependents
1.2B	The Peace Factory	PA.Z. Peace Action Zone
1.2B	TARA CENTRE	Reconciliation: Individuals and Communities Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past
1.2B	Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre	Citizenship and Fellowship Education [CAFE]
1.2B	Victims and Survivors Trust	3 Tiers Project - Creating pathways for inclusion through active participation
1.2B	Institute for Counselling & Personal Development	RENEW-Community Challenge and change for peace & reconciliation

Theme	1.2 Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.2B	Pat Finucane Centre	Legacy Project
1.2B	Trauma Recovery Network	Connecting Head and Heart
1.2B	Families Acting for Innocent Relatives	Conflict Archive Project And Border Lands Experience (CAPABLE)
1.2B	The Bytes Project	Foundation for Reconciliation
1.2B	Towards Understanding and Healing	Healing through Storytelling and Dialogue
1.2B	Gaslight Media Trust	Epilogues Facilitating Understanding of the Other
1.2B	Corpus Christi Services	Healing The Troubled Past
1.2B	Conflict trauma Resource centre	Beyond Conflict
1.2B	South East Fermanagh Foundation	The Phoenix Project
1.2B	New Life Counselling	Victims and Survivors Counselling Project
1.2B	WAVE TRAUMA CENTRE	Back to the Future - Building Peace Programme
1.2B	Crossfire Trust	restoring hope
1.2B	Northern Ireland Trade Union Education and Social Centre	DISC- Development for Inclusion and Sustainable Communities
1.2C	An Teach Bán: Centre for Peace Building	Remember and Change
1.2C	Irish Football Association	Football For All Project
1.2C	YouthAction NI	Peace Dividend For Young People
1.2C	Youth Initiatives	Crosslinks Culture Connections (CLCC or Crosslinks)
1.2C	South Armagh Rural Women's Network	Behind the Masks
1.2C	Curriculum Development Unit	Education for Reconciliation
1.2C	Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership	GOAL -
1.2C	Community Dialogue	Securing Our Future: 3 Steps to Dialogue
1.2C	Healing Through Remembering	Whatever You Say Say Something
1.2C	The Corrymeela Community	Corrymeela Facing the Future with NICRAS
1.2C	Teach Oscal	Tullacmongan/Cavanaleck Cross Border Youth Project
1.2C	taughmonagh community forum	Shared Futures
1.2C	North West Play Resource Centre (T/A The Playhouse)	Theatre of Witness
1.2C	C.A.L.M.S	Gateways to Health
1.2C	Ulster Peoples College	THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY INITIATIVE
1.2C	Diversity Challenges Ltd	'The Way We Were' - Uncovering our shared past.

Theme	1.2 Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.2C	INCORE	Journeys Out
1.2C	Expac Ltd	Conflicts of Interest
1.2C	Youth Link: NI	Community Capacity Building Strategies
1.2C	Communities Connect - Dundalk institute of Technology	Deepening the peace, Widening the web - working title
1.2C	Peace and Reconciliation group	Dealing with Past, Shaping the Future (D.P.S.F.)
1.2C	Inishowen Development Partnership	YOUTH 52 - Securing the Future
1.2C	Forward Learning	Knowing Me Knowing You - An historical and cultural adventure!
1.2C	Community Workers Co-operative - Donegal Network	Harnessing Equality for Lasting Peace (HELP) Project
1.2C	Trademark	Consolidating the peace
1.2C	WAVE Trauma Centre	WAVE- The Trauma Training Learning Pathway
1.2C	Falls Community Council	Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium
1.2D	The Pat Finucane Centre Ltd	Recovery of Living Memory Archive
1.2D	BURC	DISC II
1.2D	Belfast Interface Project	Enabling Our Future
1.2D	Relatives for Justice	Transitional Legacies
1.2D	Diversity Challenges	The Green and Blue Across the Thin Line
1.2D	YouthAction Northern Ireland	Reconciling communities - champions for change
1.2D	Expac	Future Resolutions
1.2D	YOUTH INITIATIVES	Crosslinks Legacy Project
1.2D	taughmonagh community forum limited	Legacy
1.2D	Ionad Forbartha Gnó Teo. t/a WESTBIC	Glórtha Aduaidh
1.2D	WAVE Trauma Centre	Breaking the Cycle of the Troubles Legacy for our future Generations
1.2D	WAVE Trauma Centre	Learning from the Past to educate our Future
1.2D	Latton Social Services and Development Ltd	Border Roads to Memories and Reconciliation
1.2D	Seaview Enterprises Ltd	'Mes Que Un Club'
1.2D	Irish Football Association	Football For All - 2012-2015 - Looking Back to Move Forward
1.2D	Junior Achievement Ireland	Our World

Theme	1.2 Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
1.2D	Gaslight Media Trust	'The Arc: Acknowledging the Past, Negotiating the Present & Facing the Future'
1.2D	Justice for Innocent Victims of Terrorism	Pathways to Justice
1.2D	Healing Through Remembering	Voyager
1.2D	Tyrone Donegal Partnership	Border Lives
1.2D	INCORE	Accounts of the Conflict in Northern Ireland
1.2D	Towards Understanding and Healing	Developing and Sustaining Storytelling and Dialogue Processes
1.2D	North West Play Resource Centre	Theatre of Witness
1.2D	Falls Community Council	Pieces of the Past
1.2D	Youth Link: NI	Building Positive Sustainable and Integrated Communities
1.2D	Falls Community Council	Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium
1.2D	Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC)	"Media Initiative for Rural Children Cross Borders" (Respecting Difference Programme)
1.2D	Monaghan Education Centre	Embracing Shared Communities
1.2D	Community Workers Co-operative - Donegal Network	Collective Action for Positive Peace (CAPP) Project
1.2D	Inishowen Development Partnership	Engage Youth
1.2D	Ashton Community Trust	Exploring the Past Together for a Better Future
1.2D	Northern Ireland Phoenix Organisation (NIPO)	Northern Ireland Phoenix Project
1.2D	Forthspring Inter Community Group	Five Decades
1.2D	VERBAL ARTS CENTRE	Crows on the Wire
1.2D	Smashing Times Theatre Company	The Memory Project
1.2D	Calipo Theatre Co	Sharp Focus - Crossing the Divide

Theme	2.2 Key Institutional Capacities are Developed for a Shared Society	
	Lead Partner	Project Name
2.2	NICVA(Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action)	Vital Links
2.2	Mediation Northern Ireland	The Most Project – International Dialogue for Civic Leadership
2.2	Early Years - the organisation for young children	International Early Childhood Network on Peace Building and Reconciliation
2.2	Groundwork NI	Democratising Governance in Transition

Theme	2.2 Key Institutional Capacities are Developed for a Shared Society	
2.2	Northern Ireland Prison Service	Challenging Hate Crime
2.2	Forward Learning Ltd	The Thin End of the Wedge
2.2	North West Play Resource Centre	ICAN
2.2	Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC)	Bric – Building Relationships in Communities
2.2	Families Acting for Innocent Relatives	EINSTEIN
2.2	Sligo Vocational and Education Committee	Developing a Shared Society Through Youth Sport
2.2	Belfast City Council	Growing a Shared City
2.2	Ashton Community Trust	Fab Lab
2.2	Maze / Long Kesh Development Corporation	Peace building and Conflict Resolution Centre
2.2	Institute of Spatial & Environmental Planning, Queen's University Belfast	Planning for Spatial Reconciliation
2.2	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Gender and Peacebuilding- Developing a Framework of Understanding
2.2	Early Years the organisation for Young Children	Respecting Difference in the Education Sector
2.2	The Nerve Centre	Teaching Divided Histories
2.2	Irish Congress of Trade Unions	Trade Unions & Post Conflict Society

Organ Donation

Mrs Dobson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, following their statement of 5 February 2013, whether their preferred position on the updating of the Organ Donation system remains a move to a soft opt-out system.

(AQO 5108/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our position remains as conveyed in our statement of 5 February. You will be aware that the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is now considering the report of the work he commissioned on attitudes towards organ donation, including an opt-out system. We are on the record as personally supporting the soft opt-out proposal and we await progress from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. We will have further discussions with the Minister of Health on the best system to increase organ donation rates.

Special Advisers: Gifts and Hospitality

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether, since May 2007, in relation to civil servants and Special Advisers in their Department or its arm's-length bodies receiving gifts or hospitality, there have been any requests for approval of matters that fall outside the boundaries of what is normally allowable; and if so, to detail such requests.

(AQW 28960/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: There have been no requests for approval of matters that fall outside the boundaries of what is normally allowable in relation to gifts and hospitality from Civil Servants or Special Advisers.

Delivering Social Change Framework: South Tyrone

Ms McGahan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Delivering Social Change Framework in South Tyrone, including the impact it is having on addressing poverty and disadvantage.

(AQW 29887/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Delivering Social Change Framework was set up to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It represents a new level of joined-up working across Government to achieve tangible, long lasting social benefits for everyone, in particular those who need it most, across all constituencies.

The early work of the Delivering Social Change has focused on the identification of the needs of children and families to ensure the most urgent and significant problems in our society are addressed.

The initial six Signature Programmes announced in October 2012 are focusing on early interventions both to tackle issues before they develop into problems and to give children a good start in life, for example pre-natal interventions, early years interventions and programmes for those who are not in education, training or employment.

Significant progress has been made in relation to these programmes and they are beginning to make a real impact. Information in relation to activities taking place in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone area has been placed in the Library of the Assembly.

Whilst these programmes are important to the Delivering Social Change framework they will not alone eradicate 'wicked' issues such as poor health, low educational attainment and chronic unemployment.

Reducing inter-generational poverty can only be achieved by all Ministers working together with a longer term view to the next Programme for Government period and the years beyond. In recognition of this, structures have been put in place under the Delivering Social Change framework to look specifically at how the Executive can improve the long-term quality of life for our communities in the areas of health, education, employment, family and community life and cohesion.

It is only through a more joined up approach that changes in children's lives are achievable. In doing so, we believe we can help break the cycle of multi-generational poverty that blights so many communities across our society.

Childcare Strategy

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Childcare Strategy.
(AQW 30112/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: On 25 September 2013 we launched the first phase of Bright Start – the Executive's Programme for Affordable and Integrated Childcare. The first phase of Bright Start sets out a strategic direction for the Childcare Strategy along with 15 key first actions that will be put in place to address the main childcare priorities identified during consultation and research. All of the key first actions will be initiated before the end of the current financial year.

Planning Bill

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the Minister of the Environment's statement on the 22 October 2013 regarding his decision not to proceed with the Planning Bill.

(AQO 5371/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: When the DOE Minister made his statement on 22 October 2013, he made it clear that the purpose and intent of the Bill was to:

"have a better planning system that is more fit to serve the interests of ratepayers post 2015."

That is something that we can all subscribe to. We also need a planning system that allows for strategic decisions to be made in relation to investment and job creation.

Whilst disappointed that the Minister did not proceed with the Bill we are nevertheless determined to find a way forward that ensures that we get the best planning system.

We hope that a solution can be found that will allow the Planning Bill to proceed through this Assembly.

In order to help facilitate the best outcome, we met with the DOE Minister on 28 November to discuss his concerns. At that meeting we agreed that he would bring forward proposals that would facilitate the Bill being brought forward by agreement.

Once we receive his proposals it would be our intention to reconvene our meeting with the Minister to discuss the way forward.

Childcare Strategy

Ms McGahan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Childcare Strategy. **(AQO 5374/11-15)**

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In September last year, we launched the first phase of Bright Start – the Executive’s Programme for Affordable and Integrated Childcare. The first phase of Bright Start sets out a strategic direction for the Childcare Strategy along with 15 key first actions that will be put in place to address the main childcare priorities identified during consultation and research. All of the key first actions will be initiated before the end of the current financial year.

Fiscal Powers

Mr Brady asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the review of fiscal powers as part of the Economic Pact. **(AQO 5377/11-15)**

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: There is a commitment in the Building a Prosperous and United Community document that the Government and the Executive will examine the potential for devolving specific additional fiscal powers and make recommendations by autumn 2014.

DFP has lead responsibility for this work. A first stage in taking it forward will be to examine the processes and outcomes of the work in Scotland and Wales. They will also look at academic work on this topic. This is an extremely important issue for both the Assembly and the Executive going forward.

However, it is important to recognise the progress that has already been made in this area in terms of the devolution of long haul Air Passenger Duty, and our exemption from the Carbon Price Floor. We have also moved the debate with the Westminster Government on Corporation Tax, significantly forward.

Child Poverty Act

Mr F McCann asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of whether the targets set out in the Child Poverty Act will be achieved. **(AQO 5378/11-15)**

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The UK Child Poverty Act 2010 makes it the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that targets in relation to relative low income, combined low income and material deprivation, absolute low income and persistent poverty are met by 2020.

The Act requires us to publish a child poverty strategy which sets out the measures which our departments propose to take for the purpose of contributing to the compliance by the Secretary of State to meet the targets above and for the purpose of ensuring that children here do not experience socio-economic disadvantage.

The Act also requires us to report annually on the measures taken by our departments in accordance with the strategy, the effects of those measures in contributing to meeting the targets above and other effects of those measures that contribute to the purpose above. We are also required to review our strategy and publish a revised strategy every three years.

We have met all of the requirements of the Child Poverty Act set out above which fall to our administration. We have not made an assessment of whether the targets which fall to the Secretary of State will be met.

On 20 January, we launched a new strategy Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People for public consultation. This represents a new Outcomes Based Approach, which uses additional indicators, in addition to the targets set out in the Child Poverty Act, to measure the impact of our actions to tackle child poverty.

Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Rogers asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the Review of the Victims and Survivors Service is due to conclude.

(AQO 5379/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Independent Expert Assessment of the Victims and Survivors Service is expected to conclude mid-February 2014.

Delivering Social Change: Audio Visual Announcements on Buses

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the status of the Department of Regional Development's bid for Delivering Social Change funding to install Audio Visual Announcements on buses that would promote equal access to public transport for blind and partially sighted users.

(AQW 30314/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework was set up by the Executive to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It represents a new level of joined-up working across departments to drive through initiatives which have a genuine impact on the ground and achieve real, long lasting social benefits. Departments are now working together on priority issues to maximise outcomes and improve the lives of everyone, particularly those who need help the most.

Whilst work on the first wave of Signature Programmes is ongoing, proposals for further Signature Programmes, primarily linked to key strategies, are still currently under consideration by the Department. However, the totality of potential programmes significantly exceeds the budget that is likely to be available. Consequently, at this stage, only a small number of proposals will be taken forward with funding from the Delivering Social Change Fund.

It is of course possible that the Department for Regional Development may also be able to proceed with this project out of its own funds.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Delay in Single Farm Payments

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail how many Single Farm Payments have been, and are expected to be, delayed due to departmental inspections.

(AQW 30012/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): In 2013 Single Farm Payment controls included Land Eligibility checks on 2,129 businesses. At 30 January 2014 there were 1257 inspected cases awaiting payment. Every effort is being made to finalise the remaining claims as early

as possible, with the majority of inspections to be paid by the end of February and any remaining cases to be paid by the end of April 2014. This is two months ahead of the 2012 payments timeline, and four months ahead of the previous year, 2011.

Agri-Food Strategy Board

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail how farmers in Severely Disadvantaged areas are represented on the Agri-Food Strategy Board.

(AQW 30015/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) is made up of the Chair, eight industry members and four senior government officials. The industry members were appointed by the DARD and DETI Ministers following a competitive process carried out in accordance with the spirit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (NI) Code of Practice. Members were selected not to represent their own particular interests but because they demonstrated the best skills to develop and advise on implementation of a strategy for sustainable growth of the whole agri-food sector. Two of those appointed are from primary production. Full details of the AFSB membership may be found on the AFSB website at www.agrifoodstrategyboard.org.uk.

In addition, the AFSB engaged in an extensive consultation process, involving up to 80 members of sectoral sub-groups, a public Call for Evidence and a website which allows members of the public to communicate with the Board.

The AFSB's Report Going for Growth recognises that each element of the agri-food supply chain must be sustainable and profitable in order for the sector to prosper and grow. The report also recognises that the industry must build on Ireland's clean, green image and that sustainability must be the cornerstone of our branding. Producers from Severely Disadvantaged Areas will make a key contribution to this.

Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of animal welfare enforcement officers that are currently employed.

(AQW 30025/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Councils are responsible for enforcement of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 in respect of non-farmed animals, including domestic pets and horses.

Councils currently employ nine Animal Welfare Officers. This number increased from five following a review by Councils in March 2013.

Animal Cruelty and Animal Welfare

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the funding her Department currently provides to (i) local councils; and (ii) other organisations, to help combat animal cruelty and support animal welfare.

(AQW 30026/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) My Department is committed to providing funding of £800,000 during the financial year 2013/2014 to support local Councils in enforcing the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 in respect of non-farmed animals such as domestic pets and horses.
- (ii) My Department does not provide funding to other organisations to help combat animal cruelty and support animal welfare.

Farms: Health and Safety Measures

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total financial assistance made available to farming families for Health and Safety measures, in the last three years.
(AQW 30031/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In the last three years under the Farm Modernisation Programme my Department has awarded £3.35m of financial support to farm businesses for the purchase of items that promote safer working practices on farms.

In addition, my Department has spent in excess of £159k to date in relation to the provision of Farm Safe Awareness courses which aim to improve health and safety standards on farms and strive to significantly reduce work related deaths and injuries. These FarmSafe Awareness sessions are provided free of charge to farm family members and to date there have been 2,545 attendees.

As part of my Department's commitment to the Farm Safety Partnership, my Department has also provided £139k in funding towards the cost of the Partnership's 2013 Multimedia Campaign. My Department will also be providing an additional £111k for the 2014/15 year to extend this highly effective campaign.

Coastal Defences: South Down

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, following the recent storms, whether a post-event inspection programme has taken place along the coastal defences in the South Down constituency.
(AQW 30049/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Rivers Agency did undertake a serviceability inspection programme of its defences in the wake of the new year storms. This is progressing well, with inspections completed at Newry and Strand Lough, leaving the Quoile Barrage to be completed in early February 2014. More detailed structural inspections are also being progressed, with completion anticipated by the end of March 2014.

Level 3 Qualification in Agriculture

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of how many young farmers would be (i) eligible; and (ii) ineligible to receive an award from the regional reserve if a Level 3 qualification in agriculture or an equivalent subject to become a requirement for young farmers and new entrants.
(AQW 30054/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under the Regional Reserve, the young farmer would have to be setting up for the first time as head of holding or to have done so within the previous five years and be no more than 40 years of age in the year of first application to the Basic Payment Scheme. A new entrant would not have to meet any age requirement, but would have to be commencing his/her agricultural activity and must not have had any agricultural activity in his/her own name or at his/her own risk in the five preceding years. The Regional Reserve will be open to applications from young farmers and new entrants from 2015 and until further CAP reform changes this provision. Therefore, I have no data on the number of individuals who in 2015 might, or in subsequent years potentially could, meet these mandatory eligibility criteria, but it would be to these individuals that any optional educational criteria could also be applied. As I have indicated in my answer to AQW 30053/11-15, in the recently closed public consultation on 'Policy Options arising from the Reform of the CAP (Pillar I Direct Payments)', I sought views on a suggestion that we would include an eligibility criterion that would require young farmers and new entrants to hold a Level III educational qualification in agriculture or a closely related subject. My rationale for suggesting an educational qualification criterion was primarily to encourage young farmers and new entrants to invest in their skills and to reward those who already have.

The consultation has now closed and I will carefully consider all responses received to this consultation before reaching a decision on the way forward.

Credit Unions in Rural Areas

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the support her Department can provide to credit unions in rural areas.

(AQW 30059/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am very aware of the great service provided by credit unions in rural areas and following a recent meeting with representatives of the Irish League of Credit Unions have asked officials for a report as soon as possible if any support can be provided to credit unions, for my consideration.

Animal Welfare Officers

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of animal welfare officers employed specifically to investigate animal cruelty.

(AQW 30065/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Councils are responsible for enforcement of the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 in respect of non-farmed animals including domestic pets and horses. They currently employ nine Animal Welfare Officers who are specifically trained and dedicated full time to this work.

Animal Cruelty: Investigations

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the funding made available to investigate animal cruelty in the last three years.

(AQW 30066/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The welfare of animals here is protected by the Welfare of Animals Act 2011. It contains a range of offences including those relating to activities which may cause an animal to suffer unnecessarily. However, it does not contain an offence specifically referred to as "animal cruelty".

My Department has committed annual funding to help Councils enforce the Act in respect of non-farmed animals. The funding available to Councils over the past three years is as follows:

2011/12	£760,000
2012/13	£780,000
2013/14	£800,000

Cases of Animal Cruelty

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many cases of animal cruelty have been reported in the last three years.

(AQW 30068/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The welfare of animals here is protected by the Welfare of Animals Act 2011. It contains a range of offences including those relating to activities which may cause an animal to suffer unnecessarily. However, it does not contain an offence specifically referred to as "animal cruelty".

My Department is responsible for investigating animal welfare cases in respect of farmed animals. Often cases reported do not, upon investigation, reveal unnecessary suffering. Therefore the figures for farmed animals provided in Table 1 below relate to cases investigated by my Department's Veterinary Service and where unnecessary suffering was found.

TABLE 1 FARMED ANIMAL'S CASES

Year	Number of cases investigated
2011	39
2012	54
2013	43
Total	136

Local Councils have been responsible for investigating animal welfare cases in respect of non- farmed animals such as domestic pets and horses since April 2012. The number of cases investigated over the past three years is provided in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2 NON-FARMED ANIMAL'S CASES

Financial Year	Number of cases investigated
2011/12*	N/A
2012/13	3,634
2013/14**	3,977
Total	7,611

* Data relating to non-farmed animals prior to April 2012 is not available.

** Number of cases from 01 April 2013 to 24 January 2014.

Welfare of Animals Act 2011: Custodial Sentences

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of people that have been given custodial sentences under the sentence guidelines detailed in the Welfare of Animals Act 2011.

(AQW 30069/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department brought forward the Welfare of Animals Act in 2011, which significantly increased the penalties for animal welfare offences to a maximum of 6 months imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of £5,000 on summary conviction; and on conviction by indictment to a maximum of two years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine. These penalties reflect the fact that causing unnecessary suffering to any animal is a very serious offence. Under the Welfare of Animals Act 2011, my Department is responsible for investigating welfare cases in respect of farmed animals. Since April 2012 local Councils are responsible for investigating non-farmed animal welfare cases and the PSNI has responsibility in respect of wild animals, animal fighting, and welfare issues where other criminal activities are involved.

As sentencing within the legislative framework is a matter for the Judiciary, input on the number of custodial sentences awarded under the 2011 Act was sought from the Department of Justice. I am advised by the Department of Justice that sentencing and conviction datasets are currently available only up to 2009. The Welfare of Animals Act came into force on 11 July 2011. Therefore, it has not been possible for the Department of Justice to provide the information requested.

However, I can advise that in respect of farmed animals, two cases taken by my Department under the 2011 Act have resulted in convictions, one defendant receiving a conditional discharge for 12 months and the other receiving a £250 fine. In addition, a successful prosecution was taken under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations 2006 that resulted in the handing down of a custodial sentence of 2 months imprisonment and a £5,000 fine for animal welfare offences during transportation. On appeal the sentence was reaffirmed, however the fine was reduced to £3,500.

I am also aware that since April 2012 Councils have taken four forward cases for non-farmed animal welfare prosecutions, which has resulted in a range of convictions, from suspended sentences to payment of fines and costs. There are also a number of cases currently being prepared by Councils for prosecution.

Rural Crime Reduction

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps her Department is taking to reduce rural crime.

(AQW 30098/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am very aware of the concerns that levels of farm related crime are causing amongst the farming community and my Department continues to work closely with the Department of Justice and the PSNI to tackle rural crime.

I have met the Minister of Justice on a number of occasions to highlight rural crime issues and at our most recent meeting in October 2013 we discussed the sharing of information between Departments and the PSNI Rural Crime Unit. I also agreed that a representative from my Department would be appointed to sit on the Rural Crime Unit Steering Group.

My Department's Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch (VSEB) and the PSNI have been involved in a number of successful operations to recover stolen livestock and continue to jointly investigate livestock smuggling incidents with the Gardai and the Department in the south of Ireland.

VSEB has also recently carried out joint investigation visits with the PSNI to a number of premises in Fermanagh, Eglinton, Armagh and Newtownabbey in relation to stolen livestock. This resulted in one case to the recovery of ten stolen sheep and conviction of the perpetrator. Five stolen cattle were recently discovered at an abattoir and one person has been charged following a joint VSEB / PSNI investigation. Other, similar operations are being planned.

A rural crime event is planned for Dungannon Farmers Market on 3rd February 2014 at which a number of farmers are expected to bring their cattle to be freeze branded. It is hoped that this will lead to other farmers following suit.

Following a request from the chair of Newry and Mourne Policing and Community Safety Partnership, the Head of VSEB attended a meeting on 9th December 2013. This meeting was well attended and the VSEB official gave a presentation and answered questions from the audience.

Joint PSNI and DARD vehicle checks are also continuing out across the north of Ireland. The objectives of these operations are to raise awareness in relation to rural crime and to train police officers in reading ear tag and checking cattle movement documentation. Similar joint operations are taking place in the south.

Although responsibility for combating rural crime falls primarily to the Department of Justice and the PSNI, my Department, through its CAFRE advisers, support the PSNI and the farming organisations in raising awareness of measures which farmers can take to reduce incidences of rural crime. CAFRE College facilities can be used by the PSNI for workshops, seminars and meetings aimed at raising awareness of crime prevention measures among the farming community. Students on CAFRE programmes also learn about appropriate responses to rural crime through input from visiting speakers, information leaflets and participation of the College Farms in PSNI-led programmes such as Farm Watch.

My officials will also be liaising further with the PSNI about how DARD Direct Offices can be used to disseminate information to rural dwellers.

Ballymoney, Ballymena and Moyle Council Areas

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department has spent in the (i) Ballymoney; (ii) Ballymena; and (iii) Moyle council areas since May 2011.

(AQW 30116/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department does not capture routine running costs by geographical area, however information on grants and subsidies are recorded by postcode. These have been analysed by council area from April 2011 and included in the table below.

DARD Programme Spend in Ballymoney, Ballymena and Moyle Council Areas since April 2011

	Ballymoney £	Ballymena £	Moyle £
Less Favoured Areas	542,471	5,146,690	1,168,249
Single Farm Payments	21,468,074	53,546,819	7,451,870
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme			
Rural Challenge	972	2,940	-
Rural Borewells	1,544	47,680	11,544
NI Rural Development Programme			
Axis1 Projects	485,128	1,041,977	445,342
Axis3 Projects	1,045,104	1,419,744	1,410,227
Interreg IVA Projects	213,051	111,902	-
Agri-Environment Schemes	2,031,988	7,907,511	1,767,479
Forest Service Afforestation Grants	88,027	249,309	18,922

Fish Farms: Pig and Poultry Protein

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will take immediate steps to ban the use of pig and poultry protein in feed used in fish farms.

(AQW 30120/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The European Commission is the legal authority which regulates for the prevention, control and eradication of certain Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy's (TSEs). In June 2013 the Commission amended the Regulation to allow the feeding of pig and poultry Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) to farmed fish subject to strict channelling controls and the implementation of a new Polymerase Chain Reaction test to detect the presence of pig or poultry material in feed.

EU Regulations take effect as soon as they are published by the Commission and are directly applicable here. As Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, I have lead responsibility for TSE Regulations here and I am obliged to implement this change in accordance with EU rules. Prior to this change being implemented there was considerable weight of scientific evidence, as well as expert opinions from the FSA Board and the four chief medical officers in Britain and the north of Ireland in favour of the proposal. In addition, the Department engaged with industry stakeholders here who welcomed the availability of a further source of quality protein.

These new arrangements ensure that industry here has an opportunity to access the same sources of protein as businesses in other Member States, should they decide to do so. While it is anticipated that the uptake here will be limited, strict controls remain in place to protect public health and the use of pig and poultry PAP for fish feed is closely regulated by my Department.

To date I have received no applications to incorporate pig or poultry PAP into fish feed.

Fish Farms: Pig and Poultry Protein

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will take steps to ensure that any fish products fed on pig and poultry protein will be banned from sale in Northern Ireland. **(AQW 30121/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The European Commission is the legal authority which regulates for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE). In June 2013, the Commission amended the regulation to allow the feeding of pig and poultry Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) to farmed fish subject to strict channelling controls and the implementation of a new Polymerase Chain Reaction test to detect the presence of pig or poultry material in feed.

As Minister for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, I have lead responsibility for TSE Regulations in NI in respect of the prevention, control and eradication of certain TSE's including controls in respect of feed for farmed animals.

Policy responsibility for food intended for human consumption including fish products rests with the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

You may wish to contact the Minister for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, who is best placed to respond to your query on the banning from sale of such fish products.

Fish Products: Pig and Poultry Protein

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will take steps to ensure that any fish products that have been fed on pig and poultry protein, and are sourced outside Northern Ireland, will be clearly labelled in all retail and wholesale outlets where they are offered for sale. **(AQW 30122/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The European Commission is the legal authority which regulates for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE). In June 2013, the Commission amended the regulation to allow the feeding of pig and poultry Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) to farmed fish subject to strict channelling controls and the implementation of a new Polymerase Chain Reaction test to detect the presence of pig or poultry material in feed.

As Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, I have lead responsibility for the TSE Regulations in the north of Ireland in respect of the prevention, control and eradication of certain TSE's including controls in respect of feed for farmed animals. Policy responsibility for food for human consumption including fish products rests with the Food Standards Agency.

You may wish to contact the Minister for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, who is best placed to respond to your query in respect of the labelling of fish products for human consumption sourced outside the north.

Departmental Headquarters: Ballykelly

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQO 4511/11-15 (i) for an update on the business case to appraise the options for accommodating new departmental headquarters at the Shackleton site in Ballykelly; and (ii) to detail when the outcomes of this exercise will be published. **(AQW 30125/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The business case for the relocation of my headquarters to Ballykelly is currently undergoing internal assurance. The preferred option for development points to a phased approach, with construction of 400 workstations being completed in 2016 and a second phase of around 200 workstations being completed in 2020.

When the business case has received the necessary assurances I will make it available for publication.

Proposed Pre-Notification Legislation for Tree Species

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) for an update on the proposed pre-notification legislation for certain tree species, including the likely date of implementation and reasons for any delay; and (ii) whether she will provide further details on the rural, faith-based community engagement programme, announced at the North South Ministerial Council Meeting in Agriculture Sectoral Format on 13 November 2013.

(AQW 30133/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) Discussions are on-going with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the co-ordinated introduction of pre-notification legislation for certain tree species. Following my statement on the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) in agriculture sector in the Assembly on Monday 20 January, I explained that the best approach, in plant health terms, is to protect the island as a whole and co-ordinate our actions with the south. In the meantime, administrative processes are in place to monitor plant imports from information available on shipping manifests.
- (ii) There has been a long standing commitment by both Ministers at North South Ministerial Council Agriculture meetings to seek a legacy from the highly successful Rural Enabler Programme. My Department has provided funding for two Project Officers to work in rural areas promoting and supporting the involvement of churches and faith based volunteers in social action projects to alleviate poverty, social exclusion and to improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged rural areas.

North Down: Stolen Livestock

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many incidents of stolen livestock have been reported in the North Down area, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 30172/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The following table shows the number of incidents involving missing or stolen cattle in the Newtownards Divisional Veterinary Office (DVO) area in each of the last three years.

Table 1: Incidents of missing or stolen cattle

	2011	2012	2013
Number of incidents	64	97	81

The Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) database does not record information on a constituency basis, but the whole of the North Down area falls within the Newtownards DVO area.

Information is not available specifically in relation to stolen cattle, or in relation to other types of stolen livestock. This is because APHIS does not differentiate between missing or stolen cattle, and does not record information on other species of stolen livestock.

I am very aware that livestock theft causes great stress amongst the farming community. I encourage any-one who has information which might help us combat this threat to report their suspicions to my Department or the PSNI.

Areas of Natural Constraint

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will hold a consultation on the designation of Areas of Natural Constraint.

(AQW 30307/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Over the past five years, DARD has been working in close consultation with a group involving all of the key local stakeholder organisations as the EU development of the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) designation criteria have been developed.

DARD has also published the latest state of play on this matter on its website to make it available to a wider audience. This can be accessed at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/grants-and-funding/common-agricultural-policy-reform.htm>.

The designation procedure and criteria are fairly prescriptive but there are some issues on which further Commission clarification is necessary. No decision has been made yet regarding the final timetable for designation.

Therefore, at this stage, I cannot give a timetable for a possible consultation on this matter.

Common Agricultural Policy: Rural Development Programme Funding

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when she will place the correspondence available on the debate on Common Agricultural Policy: Rural Development Programme Funding in the Assembly Library, as requested on the 20 January 2014.

(AQW 30342/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The correspondence tabled with other Departments was placed in the Assembly Library on 4 February 2014.

Department Headquarters in Ballykelly

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the progress of the business case for the relocation of her Department's headquarters to Ballykelly, in light of the campaign to have it relocated to Strabane.

(AQW 30414/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The business case for the relocation of my headquarters to Ballykelly is currently undergoing internal assurance. The preferred option for development points to a phased approach, with construction of 400 workstations being completed in 2016 and a second phase of around 200 workstations being completed in 2020.

I can understand the disappointment felt by many local representatives across the rest of the north at my decision to relocate to Ballykelly. However, it must be understood that the relocation of the DARD headquarters represents an important first step to relocate a significant share of public sector jobs to rural locations.

As you know I recently announced that the DARD Direct Office for the North West will be in Strabane. That office will open in 2016 and will have 40 DARD posts. Together with the Rivers Agency move to Loughry, the Forest Service move to Fermanagh, the Fisheries Division to South Down and remainder of my headquarters to Ballykelly this approach supports my commitment to the redistribution of public sector jobs and to the development of rural communities.

Golf Clubs in Rural Areas: Funding

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what funding opportunities her Department provides to golf clubs in rural areas.

(AQW 30426/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Rural Development Programme does not provide direct, core funding to sports clubs. However, where such an organisation wishes to promote a project that benefits the wider rural community, and which is separate from their primary activity, this can be considered for funding.

I am pleased to say that Axis 3 has reached 100% commitment for this programme which means it is unlikely that there will be any further calls for applications for grant aid.

Rural Development Programme

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what proposals she has finalised regarding the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 -2020.

(AQO 5453/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My proposals for the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 are not yet finalised. A period of public consultation on the draft proposals for the Programme concluded on the 21 October 2013. My Department's response to the submissions received during the consultation will be published shortly. There will be further discussions with stakeholders over the coming weeks followed by a period of negotiation with the EU Commission before the proposals can be finalised.

Rural Cultural Heritage

Ms McCorley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action she is taking to protect rural cultural heritage through the Rural Development Programme.

(AQO 5445/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme, 49 rural heritage projects have been funded so far with an investment of £1.5m and a further 29 projects worth £4.1m are underway having been issued with a Letter of Offer.

The funding has allowed rural people to use our rural heritage to provide interesting additions to the rural tourism offering whilst preserving it. I myself have seen at first hand some examples of this when I opened projects such as the salmon fishermen's restored cottage on Carrickarede and the 17th century Lissan house outside Cookstown which was awarded a grant of £250,000 from South West Action for Rural Development under the Rural Development Programme.

It is the funding available from the Programme that has acted as an enabler to get these projects on the ground. Some of the projects will have a huge impact on tourism such as the Gobbins and the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland project, the only all Ireland group looking after our railway heritage. Others are helping to give a new lease of life to our built heritage such as the Caledon Beam engine, the only such engine left in the whole of Ireland or the restoration for the use of visitors of the disused Chapel beside the Old Cross of Ardboe, an ancient Celtic Cross dating back more than 1,000 years and a significant site in Irish heritage terms.

Additionally under the Department's agri-environment schemes, participants help protect and maintain historic monument sites on their land which are vulnerable to farming practices. Across the north there are 1,394 agri-environment scheme participants currently managing historic monument sites as part of their management agreement. My Department works closely with colleagues in the Department of Environment's NI Environment Agency who have responsibility for designating historic monument sites.

Flood Defences

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans are in place to further strengthen flood defences on the River Lagan.

(AQO 5446/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have received clarification from Mr Beggs that he is interested in the flood defences across Belfast, including the city centre and East Belfast, especially the Sydenham area. In terms of maintenance works, Rivers Agency undertakes routine inspection and maintenance of the designated drainage network in line with its maintenance programme. In terms of flood alleviation works in East Belfast, integrated works associated with the Connswater Community Greenway Project and stand-alone works being taken forward by Rivers Agency extend from Victoria Park on the Connswater River, up to Clara Park on the Knock River, Ladas Drive on the Loop River and Montgomery Road on the Glenbrook River. Construction work is ongoing, with the final phase expected to commence this summer, and completion expected in early 2016.

Rivers Agency had already identified the risk of tidal flooding in Belfast and in light of the recent surge tides is reassessing the level of risk to determine what further measures may be needed.

For example, the Agency is working with DRD Roads Service to assess the risk to the transport network and explore opportunities for incorporating flood defences into the proposals for the York Street Interchange.

In addition, there will be a formal debrief on the handling of the coastal flooding events of early January and I shall be keen to see what emerges from that, in particular, the lessons learned.

Single Farm Payments: Remote Sensing

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when her Department started the assessment of Single Farm Payment claims on farms which were subject to a remote sensor inspection.

(AQO 5448/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Control by remote sensing involves careful examination of a satellite image or aerial photograph and comparing this with the area declared on the Single Application Form. Farmers claiming Single Farm Payment were required to submit their Single Application Forms (SAF) by 15 May 2013. The satellite images used for remote sensing (RS) inspections were captured in early summer 2013, following which Remote Sensing inspections were undertaken throughout the summer and autumn.

Some businesses required an on-farm rapid field visit (RFV) if an accurate determination could not be made from the satellite imagery or aerial photographs. These rapid field visits took place during autumn / winter 2013 and some are ongoing.

The aim is to have the majority of inspected claims paid by the end of February 2014 with the remainder paid by April 2014. This will mean that inspection cases generally will be processed much more quickly than in previous years.

Rural Crime

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline any discussions and correspondence she has had with the PSNI regarding farm-related rural crime.

(AQO 5449/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have met the Chief Constable of the PSNI on a number of occasions and made him aware of my concerns about the level of agriculture-related crime. I explained the worry this was causing in rural areas and highlighted the need for action. The Chief Constable has recently made rural crime statistics available to DARD.

A DARD representative has been appointed to sit on the PSNI Rural Crime Unit Steering Group.

My Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch (VSEB) and the PSNI have been involved in a number of successful operations recovering stolen livestock. They share intelligence and jointly investigate incidents with the Department in the South and with An Garda Síochána.

DARD has recently carried out joint investigations with the PSNI to a number of premises across four counties in relation to stolen livestock. In one case, this resulted to the recovery of 10 stolen sheep and conviction of the perpetrator. In another, 5 stolen cattle were discovered at an abattoir and one person has been charged.

A Rural Crime event is planned for Dungannon Market on 3 February 2014. Farmers will bring their cattle to be freeze branded in the hope that others will follow suit.

Following a request from Newry and Mourne Policing and Community Safety Partnership, the head of VSEB delivered a presentation and answered questions from those who attended on 9 December 2013.

Joint PSNI and DARD vehicle checks are continuing with the objectives of raising awareness of Rural Crime, training of police officers in livestock identification and movement documentation. Similar operations are taking place in the South.

I am very aware that rural crime causes great stress amongst the farming community. I encourage any-one who has information which might help us combat this threat to rural businesses to report suspicions to my Department or the PSNI.

Rural Health

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how she is working with the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to improve the health of the farming community and rural dwellers.

(AQO 5450/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department is currently working on a number of such initiatives in conjunction with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and its' agencies including:-

- the Farm Family Health checks programme which provides health screening events in farmers markets and community venues and a signposting service to various physical and mental health and wellbeing services;
- the Maximising Access in Rural Areas (MARA) project aimed at maximising access to benefits, grants and local services, supporting the most vulnerable rural dwellers living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion; and,
- the Connecting Elderly Rural Isolated pilot project, which provides a range of support services to rural older people to reduce social isolation, enhance independent living and to improve wellbeing.

Single Farm Payments: Delay

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps her Department is taking in processing delayed Single Farm Payments.

(AQO 5451/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am pleased to advise that to date we have paid Single Farm Payment to more farmers than in any previous year. 37,637 Single Applications were received for the 2013 scheme year of which 35,228 have been finalised, that is 93.6%, totalling £246.2 million.

90% of 2013 Single Farm Payments were finalised in December 2013, totalling £232.5 million. This was a significant increase from the previous year when approximately 83% of 2012 claims were paid amounting to £184.1 million.

Every effort is being made to finalise the remaining claims as early as practical, with the majority of inspections to be paid by the end of February and any remaining cases to be paid by the end of April 2014. This is two months ahead of the 2012 payments timeline.

EU Regulations (currently Article 29 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009) requires Member States to make payments in full by 30 June each year and furthermore require that payments cannot be made until verification of eligibility conditions have been finalised.

Children's Services

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the introduction of a statutory duty on government departments and public bodies to co-operate on children's services, in relation to her Department's work to improve outcomes for children.

(AQO 5452/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Children and young people make up a significant part of our rural community and Northern Ireland also has one of the youngest populations in Europe. It is vital for all of us in Government to

deliver for our young people, and as DARD Minister this is an area that is very close to my heart. My Department is fully committed to the statutory Section 75 duties to promote equality across our business functions; and age is one of the nine equality duties specifically mentioned.

Our Equality Scheme sets out how we will engage with stakeholders and sectoral interest groups to hear their views and my Department also works closely with other government departments and others in taking forward a range of cross-cutting strategies, policies and initiatives. The introduction of a statutory duty on public authorities here will help underpin the existing collaboration that takes place and encourage further joined-up working and where possible, the sharing of resources across government too.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Major Capital Projects: Foyle Constituency

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the major capital projects funded by her Department in the Foyle constituency in 2012.

(AQW 28878/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Spend is recorded by my Department according to financial years. For the purpose of this answer I would, therefore, report that no major capital projects were funded by my Department in the Foyle constituency from the 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

However, I would point out that over £8m has been spent on a variety of resource projects in the year, including on City of Culture.

Major Capital Projects: Foyle Constituency

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the major capital projects funded by her Department in the Foyle constituency in 2013.

(AQW 28879/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Spend is recorded by my Department according to financial years. For the purpose of this answer I would, therefore, report that no major capital projects will be funded by my Department in the Foyle constituency from the 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

However, I would point out that over £9m is planned to be spent on a variety of resource projects in the year, including on City of Culture.

Third Sector Organisations Funded by Department

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) all third sector organisations funded by the Department who provide services to the public; and (ii) the value of each contract.

(AQW 29414/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The third sector organisations funded directly by the Department and its NDPBs are detailed in the table attached.

Contract value is interpreted as the value of grant provided to organisations in the current year.

In the case of Stadiums' programme, contracts signed to date cover a longer period than the current year and the values provided reflect this. These values contain only DCAL's contribution to the contract total.

CARÁL NÍ CHUILÍN MLA

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Linen Hall Library	300,000
Somme Heritage Centre	30,000
Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	74,000
NI Publications Resource	31,000
Cardinal O’Fiaich Library & Archive	23,000
Railway preservation Society of Ireland	4,125
FLAME: Gasworks Museum	2,200
Downpatrick and Co. Down Railway	2,823
Armagh Public Library	525
Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum	1,296
National Trust Springhill	2,280
Somme Heritage Centre	2,603
Inniskillings Museum	2,000
The Odyssey Trust Company Ltd	587,000
PIPS Charity	30,000
Níamh Louise Foundation	30,000
Foyle Film Festival - Community Film Project	50,000
The Nerve Centre - Core Funding, Film Clubs & Fab Lab	456,160
Amma Centre – Creative Learning Centre	301,670
Studio-On - Creative Learning Centre	433,593
Cinemagic - Core Funding & Film Clubs	186,651
Queens Film Theatre	53,000
Belfast Film Festival - Core Funding & Community Outreach	144,000
CultureTech	100,000
Action on Hearing Loss	10,000
British Deaf Association	13,831
Deaf Answers	18,205
Deaf Answers	9,230
Hands That Talk	7,152
National Deaf Children’s Society	20,353
National Deaf Children’s Society	11,943
Northern Ireland Deaf Youth Association	9,727
Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	37,500

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Ulster Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association	37,500
Pobal - Rights & Revelry 2013 (Promotes equality and social inclusion)	2,000
Foras na Gaeilge - Liofa Website (supports Irish Language)	60,000
East Belfast Mission - Establishment of an Irish Language Centre	5,000
Forbairt Feirste - Beechmount Heritage Initiative (Development Belfast, supports Irish Language)	21,683
Forbairt Feirste - Gaeltacht Qtr Scoping Study (Development Belfast, supports Irish Language)	15,000
Forbairt Feirste - Gaeltacht Qtr Action Plan (Development Belfast, support Irish Language)	25,737
Forbairt Feirste - Nansen Story Book Project (Development Belfast, supports Irish Language)	16,100
Forbairt Feirste - The Gaeltacht Bhóthar Seoighe Story (Development Belfast, supports Irish Language)	15,200
Forbairt Feirste - The An Griangraf Gafa Book (Development Belfast, supports Irish Language)	12,000
Ulster Scots Language Society	18,950
Ulster Scots Language Society	22,150
Ulster Scots Language Society	24,500
Ulster Scots Language Society	19,300
Springboard Opportunities	80,000
Odyssey Millennium Ltd.	15,000
Ground Zero 360o Inc.	5,000
Angling First	10,000
Irish Football Association (Stadium Programme - Redevelopment of Windsor Park)	26,270,000
UB Irish Rugby Football Union (Stadium Programme - Redevelopment of Ravenhill)	13,187,254
Ulster Council GAA (Stadium Programme - Redevelopment of Casement)	45,188,045
Irish Football Association (Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty + Social Exclusion through Sport)	1,500,000
UB Irish Rugby Football Union (Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty + Social Exclusion through Sport)	1,500,000
Ulster Council GAA (Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty + Social Exclusion through Sport)	500,000
Tyrone GAA County Committee (Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty + Social Exclusion through Sport - Garvaghey Centre of Participation)	500,073
POBAL (Promotes Irish Language)	90,796
Raidió Fáilte (Promotes Irish Language)	50,382
Iontaobhas Ultach (Promotes Irish Language)	87,716

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Comhaltas Uladh (Promotes Irish Language)	26,850
Forbairt Feirste (Promotes Irish Language)	53,649
An t-Áisaonad (Promotes Irish Language)	141,921
Altram (Promotes Irish Language)	86,145
Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (Promotes Irish Language)	42,874
Cairde Teo (Promotes Irish Language)	56,403
Gaelphobal Cheantar an tSratha báin (Promotes Irish Language)	58,008
Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair (Promotes Irish Language)	66,242
Cairde Uí Néill (Promotes Irish Language)	50,675
Boirche Íochtar Conradh na Gaeilge (Promotes Irish Language)	39,700
Glór na nGael, Uachtar Tíre (Promotes Irish Language)	49,359
Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain (Promotes Irish Language)	70,030
Ionad Uíbh Eachach (Promotes Irish Language)	41,480
Glór na Móna (Promotes Irish Language)	51,355
Croí Éanna (Promotes Irish Language)	52,071
An Droichead Teo (Promotes Irish Language)	68,194
The Beat Initiative	155,200
Belfast Community Circus School	163,299
Belfast Exposed Photography	147,479
Big Telly Theatre Company	150,350
Cahoots NI Ltd	121,764
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	126,100
Crescent Arts Centre	226,800
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	172,208
Feile an Phobail	142,590
An Gaelaras Ltd	139,535
Golden Thread Gallery	180,019
The Lyric Theatre (NI)	1,018,500
The Metropolitan Arts Centre	1,000,000
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative T/A Community Arts Partnership	179,311
NI Opera	521,569
North West Play Resource Centre (The Playhouse)	259,012
Tinderbox Theatre Company	213,400
Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd	2,031,966

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Verbal Arts Centre	255,496
The Void Art Centre	142,768
Waterside Theatre Company Ltd	130,930
Young at Art	167,416
Creative Exchange	13,300
Flaxart Studios	39,396
Orchid Studios Association	14,790
Paragon Studios	20,370
QSS @ Bedford Street	31,606
Crescent Arts Centre	9,000
Happy Days Enniskillen International Beckett Festival	25,000
Golden Thread Gallery	11,180
Centre for Contemporary Art Derry - Londonderry	5,000
Cahoots NI Ltd	10,000
Belfast International Comedy Festival	5,000
Crescent Arts Centre	9,000
Crescent Arts Centre	6,546
Sinead Morrissey	7,500
The Performing Rights Society Foundation for Music	15,000
Indian Community Centre	8,700
The John Hewitt Society	3,600
Origin Theatre Company	10,000
Ursula Burns	5,000
The Void Art Centre	10,000
NI Opera	2,500
Spanner in the Works	14,100
Cahoots NI Ltd	10,000
Dance Resource Base (NI) Ltd	12,285
East Belfast Partnership	60,000
Replay Theatre Company	30,000
Replay Theatre Company	30,000
An Droichead	3,500
East Belfast Partnership	20,000
Sliabh Beagh Development Association	15,000

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
The Armagh Rhymers Educational & Cultural Organisation	4,789
Catalyst Arts Ltd	3,434
Creative Exchange	15,371
Digital Arts Studios	6,283
NI Opera	9,588
Oh Yeah Music Centre	5,250
The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association	14,250
Seacourt Print Workshop Limited	8,250
Armagh Pipers Club	18,721
Arts Care	12,961
Arts & Disability Forum	11,265
The Beat Initiative	15,836
Belfast Community Circus School	15,000
CRAIC (Community Recreational Arts in Coalisland)	6,500
In Your Space (NI) Ltd	11,940
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative T/A Community Arts Partnership	11,740
Wheelworks	10,578
Ahoghill Loyal Sons of William Flute Band	4,470
Annaghmore Star & Crown Flute Band	5,000
Articlave Flute Band	5,000
Ballyboley Pipe Band	5,000
Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	4,797
Ballylone Concert Flute Band	4,751
Ballyrashane Flute Band	5,000
Ballyronan Accordion Band	5,000
Bann Valley Community Association	5,000
Bellarena Accordion Band	5,000
Blair Memorial Flute Band	5,000
Broughshane and District Pipe Band	4,908
Cahard Flute Band	2,486
Church Hill Silver Band	5,000
Cloughfin Pipe Band	5,000
Corcrair Flute Band	5,000
Dungannon Silver Band	5,000

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Dunmore Silver Band	4,920
Flute Band Church	2,591
Flutes and Drums Donaghadee	3,825
Johnston Memorial Flute Band	3,874
Joseph Forde Memorial Pipe Band	5,000
Killeen Pipe Band	5,000
Kilmore Flute Band	4,946
Lack Pipe Band	5,000
Letterbreen Silver Band	5,000
Lislea Lambeg Drumming Club	1,500
Lisnamurrigan Temperence Flute Band	5,000
North Down First Flute Band	4,800
Orangefield Flute Band	3,892
The Pride of the Orange and Blue Auld Boys Flute Band	5,000
Quilly True Blues Flute Band	5,000
Spa Accordion Band	4,920
Strawhill Voluntary Independent Pipe Band	2,295
TAG (The Active Group)	5,000
Knocknagoney Area Forum	5,000
North West Women's Collective	5,000
Cuan Mhuire Rehabilitation Centre	5,000
Drumbo Arts and Craft Society	5,000
Roger Casements GAC	5,000
Beyond	3,000
Craft Northern Ireland	18,000
Digital Arts Studios	6,912
Flaxart Studios	5,688
Golden Thread Gallery	9,060
Paragon Studios	8,640
Photo Works North / Source Magazine	15,520
R-Space Gallery CIC	5,000
Seacourt Print Workshop Limited	19,513
The Void Art Centre	25,000
Bready Cricket Club	31,000

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Donaghmore & District Community Association	31,000
Hanwood Trust Company Ltd.	31,000
The Cliff	31,000
Irish Football Association	4,875
Termoneeny Community Association	31,000
Coleraine and District Riding for the Disabled Association	31,000
Down Club Mark Ltd	72,000
Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group	31,000
NI Civil Service Sports Association	31,000
Irish Cave Rescue Organisation	5,000
Mourne Mountain Rescue Team	18,833
North West Mountain Rescue Team	22,454
Special Olympics Ireland	605,900
Disability Sports NI	120,000
Irish Football Association	7,150
Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)	7,150
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	600,000
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	169,936
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	43,920
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	51,000
Disability Sports NI	162,500
Outdoor Recreation NI	225,000
Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee	10,500
Irish Football Association	7,800
Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)	7,800
North Belfast Play Forum	80,000
2&4 Wheel Steering Group	89,500
Athletics Northern Ireland	153,556
Basketball NI	38,000
British Gymnastics	95,670
British Orienteering	41,000
British Orienteering	39,200
Canoe Association of NI	130,467
Cricket Ireland	186,676

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Disability Sports NI	45,000
Disability Sports NI	45,000
Golfing Union of Ireland UB	102,000
Golfing Union of Ireland UB	87,000
Horse Sport Ireland	50,000
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	58,000
Irish Bowls Federation	38,000
Irish Football Association	240,000
Mountaineering Ireland	44,000
Netball NI	139,290
NI Archery Society	25,000
NI Fencing Ltd	15,000
NI Judo Federation	63,000
NI Wrestling Association	31,500
Northern Ireland Federation of Shooting Sports	45,030
Rowing Ireland	83,448
Royal Yachting Association (NI)	125,192
Swim Ulster Ltd	150,500
Taekwondo Association of NI	30,000
Triathlon Ireland	117,500
UB Badminton Union of Ireland	101,400
UB Irish Rugby Football Union	236,975
UB Irish Rugby Football Union	231,975
UB Irish Table Tennis Association	64,000
UB Tennis Ireland	78,236
Ulster Camogie Council	59,000
Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)	217,000
Ulster Hockey Union	216,360
Ulster Squash	45,000
Omagh District Council	1,000
Ulster Hockey Union	4,100
Lurgaboy Adventure Centre Ltd	750
British Orienteering	34,200
Cricket Ireland	37,500

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Mountaineering Ireland	35,000
NI Commonwealth Games Council	54,500
NI Sports Forum	40,000
UB Irish Table Tennis Association	24,800
Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)	60,000
Ulster Hockey Union	30,650
Dungannon United Youth FC	245,000
Armagh City FC	245,000
Athletics Northern Ireland	4,000
Basketball NI	4,000
British Orienteering	4,000
Canoe Association of NI	4,000
Cricket Ireland	4,000
Horse Sport Ireland	4,000
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	4,000
Irish Bowls Federation	4,000
Netball NI	4,000
NI Archery Society	4,000
NI Judo Federation	4,000
Rowing Ireland	4,000
Royal Yachting Association (NI)	4,000
Shooting Federation of Northern Ireland	4,000
Swim Ulster Ltd	4,000
Taekwondo Association of NI	4,000
Triathlon Ireland	4,000
UB Badminton Union of Ireland	4,000
Ulster Camogie Council	4,000
Ulster Hockey Union	4,000
Ulster Squash	4,000
Hollywood Yacht Club	60,000
Coalisland Fianna GFC	223,879
Search and Rescue Dog Association-Ireland North	2,000
Bangor FC	245,000
Annagh United FC	245,000

Third Sector Organisation Name	Grant Award £
Crossmaglen Rangers GFC	238,806
Castlewellan FC	131,394
North Belfast Play Forum	149,600
Abbey Villa FC	245,000
Derrynoose GAC	245,000
Banbridge Amateur Boxing Club	245,000
Association of NI Car Clubs	16,700
Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee	25,000
Athletics Northern Ireland	25,500
Netball NI	50,000
Ulster Hockey Union	44,141
Southern Sports Partnership	18,000
Disability Sports NI	3,750
Athletics Northern Ireland	3,750
UB Tennis Ireland	3,750
NI Sports Forum	3,750
Magherabeg Rural Community Association	179,545
Irish Football Association	3,750
UB Irish Rugby Football Union	3,750
Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)	3,750
NI Commonwealth Games Council	3,750
Ulster Hockey Union	3,750
Outdoor Recreation NI	3,750
St Joseph's GAC (Ederney)	245,000
Cricket Ireland	3,750
Ulster Camogie Council	3,750
Colaiste Feirste (Belfast)	245,000
Swim Ulster Ltd	33,500
Swim Ulster Ltd	2,880

Lough Neagh

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on her position on the future Lough Neagh.

(AQW 29647/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Lough Neagh fishery plays an important role in the socio economic life of the communities around the Lough. The fishery is a key priority for my Department and my officials have

engaged with fisheries' interests around the Lough to assess how my Department can help support the further development of the fishery in maximising its value and long term sustainability.

There are a range of challenges impacting on the commercial fishing and recreational angling sectors. These issues can be best addressed through the development of an integrated fisheries management plan in conjunction with local stakeholders. My officials are currently taking forward this work which will be underpinned by scientific research and advice. The Plan will provide an important planning framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources and future management of the fishery.

Studies on Fish Stocks

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what studies are being carried out to assess fish stocks, with a view to improving fishing tourism.

(AQW 29715/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) is commissioned by my Department to undertake research into salmon and freshwater fisheries. This provides the scientific basis to the conservation and management of inland fisheries.

Healthy fish stocks are essential in supporting sustainable recreational fisheries and this remains a priority for my Department. We have recently commissioned a number of studies to assess fish stocks on Lough Neagh and Lough Erne to help inform the future management of these fisheries and in maximising their recreational value for angling.

Angling is an important part of the tourism product and my Department will continue to work closely with SportNI, NITB and the Loughs Agency in supporting the growth and development of the sport for both local and visiting anglers.

Irish Language Agency and the Ulster Scots Agency

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the Irish Language Agency and the Ulster Scots Agency have been treated equally since 2006, with regards to funds and resources as promised in the Belfast Agreement.

(AQW 29753/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The North South Language Body is made up of the Ulster Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge. The Agencies are jointly funded by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure from the North and the Department for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht from the South.

The Ulster Scots Agency is responsible for the promotion of the Ulster Scots heritage, culture and language and Foras na Gaeilge is responsible for the promotion of the Irish language on an all – island basis as defined in the legislation.

Both Agencies outline their strategic aims and objectives through their business and corporate plans which are agreed by the Sponsor Departments and Finance Departments and the NSMC Ministers.

The Agencies are funded according to their needs, as identified within their approved business and corporate plans. Budget allocations are based on the need in conjunction with the respective plans and are monitored and reviewed throughout the year. Thus it is about delivering to the point of need by ensuring the Agencies receive their required budgetary allocations to meet their approved Strategic aims and objectives.

Redevelopment of Glentoran Football Club

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on whether the strategy for the development of local football now includes the £10m redevelopment of Glentoran Football Club, as promised by the previous Minister, subject to a viable business case.

(AQW 29766/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The IFA's draft Facilities Strategy which details development plans for local football, does not include specific reference to a £10m redevelopment of Glentoran Football Club. As funding for the development of sub-regional association football stadiums has yet to be secured, no decision of any kind on funding to assist the development of any sub-regional stadiums has yet been taken.

Legacy Trust UK: Connections Programme

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, following the implementation of the Legacy Trust UK's three year Connections Programme in 2012, what cultural benefits have been derived to date, and to which communities.

(AQW 29801/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Dungannon, Derry and Belfast have all benefitted from the Connections Programme and examples are provided below.

Land of Giants

The partners in Land of Giants - The Beat Initiative, Belfast Community Circus and Young at Art- continue to provide high quality participative arts activity and audience experiences within their respective operational programming. This experience has increased each organisation's visibility and positioning at a local and national level.

Luminous Soul

The Luminous Soul project continues to operate, with free weekly classes for disabled participants. The longer term impact of the project has been considerable;

- The dancers have performed in festivals and showcase events within the north of Ireland and London and performed at the closing ceremony of the 2013 World Police and Fire Games, hosted in the north of Ireland.
- Open Arts have established links with leading dancers and dance companies working on an international basis;
- The project has provided opportunities for developing best practice in working with disabled people through contemporary dance and movement.
- Disabled people are encouraged to try out contemporary dance and to consider that with training they have the potential to become professional. To date, Open Arts has worked with over 80 disabled people who have an interest in dance. Luminous Soul made it possible for some of these individuals to try dance for the first time.

Imagine Action

This large scale collaborative project brought Echo Echo, Nerve Centre and Beam Creative Network together working within the north of Ireland. The project increased the profile of the organisations involved and highlighted the benefits of working together

- A number of the young people involved in Imagine Action were from a rural background and had no previous experience of participating in arts activities. Since project end, the Beam Creative Network have undertaken two Arts Council funded projects; 'No Limits' and 'Beyond Limits', both inclusion projects for young people with and without disabilities. A number of the young people involved in these projects were participants in Imagine Action.
- Through Imagine Action, the Beam Creative Network has established links with artists working within the north of Ireland and beyond.
- The Beam Creative Network have reported that the young people involved have increased in confidence and ability through participation in Imagine Action and subsequent Arts Council funded projects.

Echo Echo

- Into Contact allowed Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company, the core company ensemble, to work at the highest professional level with a range of internationally acclaimed artists. The current work 'Without' by Rosemary Lee and Echo Echo is hugely ambitious original work and is set to tour widely.
- 'Motion Ensemble' challenged the most experienced improvisation performers and has developed new audiences and profile for the company's work. The first edition of 'Echo Echo Dance & Movement Festival' will offer a programme of local, national and international performance in the intimate setting of the Echo Echo's beautiful new home building, a unique space and a very tangible physical legacy in 2013 and beyond.

Capital Projects Funded by the Department

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the capital projects funded by her Department in each constituency since she came to office.

(AQW 29833/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The spend details requested are summarised in Table 1 attached and covers the 32 month period between 1 May 2011 and 31 December 2013.

I have arranged for further details at project level to be placed in the Assembly Library.

The following considerations should be borne in mind when interpreting this data.

The Department sometimes provides capital funding through intermediary bodies and does not hold information on subsequent allocations at a constituency level. In these cases, funding is allocated according to the physical location of the intermediary body. For example, the Department provides funding to Sport Governing Bodies under its Promoting Equality, Tackling Social Exclusion Agenda. For the purposes of your question, this funding has been allocated to the constituency in which the Governing Bodies lies.

It should be also noted that the pattern of allocation across constituencies will reflect, among other things, the physical location of major venues and organisations which receive funding support.

Please note that the North Down constituency contains £11.23m in respect of the Olympic 50m Pool in Bangor.

Belfast South constituency total contains spend on Ravenhill Stadium of £10.66m and on Windsor Stadium of £1.87m. The West Belfast constituency contains spend on Casement Park of £2.82m.

Finally, allocations are recognised on an actual spend basis, except in the case of Arts Council which reports project spend on the date funding is awarded.

TABLE 1 – CAPITAL SPEND PER ALL CONSTITUENCIES

Constituency	Amount £m
Belfast East	2.937
Belfast North	1.836
Belfast South	16.555
Belfast West	4.732
East Antrim	1.123
East Londonderry	0.986
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	2.333

Constituency	Amount £m
Foyle	2.624
Lagan Valley	0.596
Mid Ulster	1.801
Newry And Armagh	2.257
North Antrim	1.576
North Down	13.481
South Down	2.584
Strangford	0.542
Upper Bann	1.647
West Tyrone	1.576
South Antrim	0.964
Total	60.150

Amendments to Fisheries Legislation

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on (i) the amendments to fisheries legislation being prepared by her Department and whether these give effect to salmon conservation proposals; and (ii) whether the changes will be in place for the incoming salmon fishing season.

(AQW 29853/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) Proposed changes to angling regulations are currently under consideration and these relate to a range of salmon conservation measures which have been the subject of extensive consultation. It is proposed that there will be a prohibition of salmon netting, catch and release will be mandatory for all salmon and sea trout caught by anglers in the DCAL jurisdiction and that worming will only be allowed for such fishing after the end of June. Only single or double barbless hooks will be permitted for salmon and sea trout angling.
- (ii) It is intended that these regulations will be in place by the start of the game angling season on 1st March.

Departmental Office in the North West

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) under what authority will a departmental office will be set up in the North West; (ii) the proposed lifespan of the office; and (iii) who will be responsible for the costs of the set up and running the office.

(AQW 29888/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: A key City of Culture legacy objective is to ensure that the benefits of DCAL's investment in the City are felt in the towns and villages across the North West. My intention is to open a DCAL office in Derry to further enhance a focus on the North West. This will have responsibility for coordination and oversight of culture, arts and leisure activity in the North West and specifically the current Derry/ Strabane and Limavady/ Coleraine council areas.

DCAL officials are currently preparing detailed arrangements and costs which will be funded through my Department. A business case is being compiled to support the establishment of the office and we will be liaising with DFP properties to ensure value for money. The establishment of this small team in the

North West is in line with our normal business. Whilst the intention is to have the new Departmental office in place for the start of the 2014/15 financial year, the lifespan of the office will be considered in the business case.

The North West office will coordinate a new Strategic Oversight Structure for City of Culture legacy. This will include stakeholders across local and central Government, the community and voluntary sector, business and others to ensure that Executive and Departmental targets and priorities are delivered.

DCAL officials focused on North West development will also stimulate strategic linkages and collaboration between multiple stakeholders across government, industry, education, local councils, the wider DCAL family and the community and voluntary sectors to drive joined up approaches to growing the economy and tackling poverty and social exclusion.

Irish City of Culture 2016

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the applications relating to her Department's support for Londonderry's bid to host the Irish City of Culture 2016.

(AQW 29889/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Given the success of City of Culture 2013, I am fully supportive of the Irish City of Culture initiative and would encourage all cities to consider applying for the title.

Derry continues to face significant socio economic problems, with quality of life in the City at a lower level than Belfast and significantly below the best performing European Cities. Therefore, I am keen that the City pursues all opportunities which can improve quality of life for those most in need.

My Department has not yet received any applications for funding in relation to a bid for the Irish City of Culture title in 2016.

Irish City of Culture 2016

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail how Londonderry's bid for the Irish City of Culture 2016 will be funded, including whether all related costs of a successful bid would be funded by (i) her Department; and/or (ii) the Irish Government.

(AQW 29890/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I understand that Derry City Council, together with citywide stakeholders, will formally bid for the title of Irish City of Culture.

My Department has not yet received any applications for funding in relation to the proposed bid.

Commemoration Pertinent to 1916

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the discussions that departmental officials are engaged in, and the plans that are being prepared, regarding any commemoration pertinent to 1916.

(AQW 29891/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Arm-Length Bodies sponsored by DCAL are playing a key role in telling the stories and different interpretations of significant anniversaries from the 1912-1922 period. My Department continues to work with a wide range of social partners to promote inclusive approaches to marking the Decade of Centenaries. This has included the Roundtable on Centenaries convened by the Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

My officials have also been working with the Somme Heritage Centre to fund development of an education programme linked to the First World War and including the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Relevant events and exhibitions pertinent to other significant anniversaries will be developed as this Decade of Centenaries progresses.

The Irish Language Agency and the Ulster Scots Agency: Spend

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the estimated total advertising spend from 16 January 2014 to the 31 March 2014 by (i) The Irish Language Agency; and (ii) The Ulster Scots Agency.

(AQW 29911/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Foras na Gaeilge estimate its advertising spend from 16 January to 31 March 2014 at €9,000 (£7,740).

The Ulster Scots Agency estimate its advertising spend from 16 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 at £2,500.

Single All-Island Fishing Licence

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the introduction of a single all-island fishing licence.

(AQW 29963/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Loughs Agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland and my Department have established a partnership to develop an electronic e-licensing project that will support the development of angling as a tourism product across the island of Ireland.

The initial element of the project is a scoping study funding by the EU's INTERREG Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. The study will explore the opportunities within angling's regulatory structures for harmonisation, complementarily and simplification. A future product arising from this work could be the provision of a new All Ireland e license for angling.

The terms of reference of the scoping study have been agreed and it is planned that work will commence in March.

Genetic Research Project: Lough Neagh

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the progress of the genetic research project on Lough Neagh and its feeder rivers by Queen's University Belfast.

(AQW 30022/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Work on the genetic project has been progressing well and to date over 7200 brown trout samples have been taken for genetic analysis and more will be taken later this year.

The report on this work is scheduled to be completed and submitted to my Department by the end of November 2014.

Irish Language Act and the Ulster Scots Language: Spend

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the amount spent by her Department on the development of the (i) Irish Language Act; and (ii) the Ulster Scots language. in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 30028/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) During the two financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13, spend on the development of an Irish Language Bill has been through salary costs of Departmental officials. The Department does not hold a record of the proportion of time these officials spent on work on the Bill.
- (ii) In 2012/13, the Ministerial Advisory Group for the Ulster Scots Academy (MAGUS) spent £17,609 on projects related to the development of the Ulster Scots language. The Ulster-Scots Agency's spend on Ulster Scots language development was £144,840 in 2012 and £132,061 in 2013.

Cultural Tourism

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the steps she is taking to promote cultural tourism, specifically the history between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(AQW 30046/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure plays a central role in promoting cultural tourism across the North of Ireland through investment in cultural infrastructure such as museums, theatres, sports venues and the language sector.

A number of the Department's Arm's Length Bodies are involved in projects which explore the history between Scotland and the North of Ireland.

For example, the Ulster-Scots Agency's exhibition entitled "Masters of the Sea – Belfast's Ulster-Scots Shipbuilders" will go on display in the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine from March 2014.

Foras na Gaeilge administers the Colmcille project including Slí Cholmcille, which is a heritage and tourism trail linking Scotland and Ireland.

Libraries NI hold Ulster-Scots material and there were three Burns Night celebrations in Ballymena Central Library, Omagh Library and Derry Central Library in January 2014.

The permanent history galleries at the Ulster Museum explore historical links in the context of the Plantation of Ulster and the Ulster American Folk Park includes 'Scotch-Irish' themes.

The Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster-Scots Academy has recently worked on a project in partnership with the Ulster Historical Foundation to research the Scots invasion of Ireland in 1315, including identifying possible tourism potential.

The Arts Council support, amongst others, The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and the McCracken Society.

The Public Records Office (PRONI) actively promotes cultural tourism and works with peer institutions to host events relating to the shared history of Ireland and Scotland.

I have also supported the continuation of the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund which places a high priority on the links and shared history of Scotland and the North of Ireland.

These are just some examples of the ongoing work being taken forward by the Department and its Arm's Length Bodies in terms of the promotion of cultural tourism with particular reference to the history between Scotland and the North of Ireland.

Capital Works in Football Stadia

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the budget provision for capital works in football stadia, other than Windsor Park.

(AQW 30109/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: At present there is no budget provision for capital works in football stadia other than at Windsor Park. The Executive previously endorsed the development of sub-regional stadia as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period. Therefore funding for the development of sub-regional association football stadiums has still to be secured and no decision or timescale on funding to assist the development of any specific sub-regional stadium has yet been taken.

Commonwealth Games 2014

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her Department's plans for the Commonwealth Games 2014, including its representation at the games.

(AQW 30128/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The NI Commonwealth Games Council is responsible for all aspects of the north of Ireland team competing at the 2014 Glasgow Games. My Department, through Sport NI, continues to work closely with the Council as it takes forward its preparations for the Games.

The Council has established two groups - an Operational Group to take forward the detailed preparations with the local governing bodies, and the Strategic Task and Finish Group which oversees the work of the Operational Group and considers opportunities to maximise the NI Team's performance in Glasgow. DCAL officials have attended the meetings of this group to hear at firsthand how the Games preparations are progressing.

From April 2013 and in the lead up to the Games, my Department, through Sport NI, is also providing direct financial assistance to the NI Commonwealth Games Council totalling £136k. This funding will help with the Council's costs for staff, administration and other costs associated with attendance at the 2014 Games.

Support is also being provided to our top athletes in advance of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Sport NI, through its Athlete Investment Programme for the year 2013/14, is providing financial assistance of almost £450k to sports and governing bodies who are preparing athletes for the Games. Sport NI provides £2.5M of funding to the Sports Institute NI, for support services to our top athletes, including those athletes preparing for the Commonwealth Games. These support services include performance planning, science and skills; sports medicine; and, strength and conditioning.

As diary commitments for July and August 2014 have not yet been planned, representation from my Department to attend the Games has not yet been decided.

Funding for Boxing: Sports NI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether applications for funding for boxing, under the recent allocation from Sports NI, were (i) rejected; or (ii) monies withheld because it was found that claimed facilities did not exist.

(AQW 30147/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Boxing Investment Programme was established to address the strategic equipment and facility needs of boxing clubs that operate at the core of deprived communities across the north of Ireland.

Recent funding applications to Sport NI, in this regard, were in relation to the capital works element of the programme, with a total of seventy-six completed applications having been received from boxing clubs across the north of Ireland. None of these clubs have been rejected from the process.

In addition, no monies have yet been awarded to clubs. Capital works required in each of these clubs have been ranked in order of priority and indicative grant awards will be allocated accordingly and to the budget available. I understand that Sport NI is currently in the process of informing these funding decisions to all applicants in writing.

Boxing Clubs: Child Protection Obligations

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether all boxing clubs are now wholly compliant with child protection obligations.

(AQW 30148/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The governing body for boxing in the north of Ireland, the Ulster Provincial Boxing Council (UPBC) has responsibility for ensuring that all boxing clubs affiliated to it are compliant with child protection obligations. The recent report from the Independent Working Group, set up to examine boxing in Ulster, highly commended the work of the UPBC to ensure that coaches, other representatives and volunteers are vetted and can operate safely within the sport. Furthermore, the Group recommended that the UPBC continue to adhere strictly to the child protection policy and procedures to maintain standards at the highest possible level.

I am aware that the UPBC has a requirement that any person seeking a coaching or judges award must agree to attend a 'Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport' workshop and complete an Access NI vetting check. I have been advised that over 1,000 Access NI checks have been administered by the UBPC for coaches and officials in regulated activity.

Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, will continue to provide support to governing bodies, including the UPBC, on their child protection obligations. In addition, Sport NI has processes in place to ensure that any boxing clubs, who apply for direct funding, comply with child protection obligations.

Fishing Licences

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of (i) fishing licences that have been issued; and (ii) convictions for fishing without a licence, in each of the last five years. **(AQW 30182/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín:

(i) Table 1 below details the number and types of DCAL angling licences sold in each of the last five years:

Type of licence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Game Season	8499	8998	8143	7381	7329
Foyle Endorsement	708	797	638	682	694
Coarse Season	2436	2560	2603	2277	2763
Disabled Game	1674	1756	1795	1739	1701
Disabled Coarse	131	142	132	151	134
Game Senior Citizens	3968	4508	4489	4448	4786
Game Juvenile	2591	2654	2261	2114	2138
Game 14 Day	74	57	54	89	45
Game 3 Day	694	657	685	675	637
Coarse Senior Citizens	174	221	237	216	292
Coarse Juvenile	448	480	525	464	552
Coarse 14 Day	78	70	67	37	46
Coarse 3 Day	207	310	347	374	412
Joint Coarse 14 Day	1141	1015	996	1011	1248
Joint Coarse 3 Day	714	957	1015	907	1169
Joint Game 14 Day	282	271	334	334	380
Joint Game 3 Day	1879	2267	2172	2312	3185
Total	25698	27720	26493	25211	27511

TABLE 2 BELOW DETAILS THE NUMBER OF DCAL COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCES SOLD IN THE LAST 5 YEARS:

Year	Eel Long line <1200 hooks	Eel Draft	Eel Long line >1200 hooks	Salmon Draft net	Trout net (Yards)	Coarse net (Yards)	Bait net
2008	62	29	2	18	11,600	21,700	34
2009	34	30	2	17	11,500	32,000	22
2010	79	37	2	16	11,400	46,300	44
2011	93	38	2	20	10,400	56,700	50
2012	86	45	9	21	12,600	64,500	70

Trout and coarse nets are licensed in lengths of 100 yards.

(ii) Table 3 details the number of persons convicted under Section 41 of the Fisheries Act 1966 by financial year:

Year	Number
2008/2009	66
2009/2010	93
2010/2011	90
2011/2012	75
2012/2013	45

Travel Expenditure

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total expenditure on (i) ministerial travel; and (ii) Special Adviser travel in 2013.

(AQW 30183/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The total expenditure by the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure on Ministerial travel in 2013 was £570.02. No travel costs were incurred by the Special Adviser during 2013.

Salmon Levels

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) her Department's current estimate of salmon levels for (a) wild salmon; and (b) hatchery salmon; and (ii) how this compares with last five years.

(AQW 30222/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department commissions the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) to monitor the status of Atlantic salmon populations in the DCAL jurisdiction.

The Department's current estimate of salmon levels are based on counts of adult salmon on a number of monitored index rivers. These counts are compared to the conservation limits set and a percentage compliance is calculated.

River	Percentage compliance with Conservation Limits				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Blackwater	N/A	N/A	64	83	45
Bush	62	56	46	79	144
Clady	N/A	N/A	163	120*	159
Glendun	33	64	76	88	178
Main	68	61	77	129	53
Shimna		99	53	N/A	N/A

* minimal count as counter operational from Aug 2012

The data below outlines the number of hatchery raised salmon released from the River Bush Salmon Station and wild salmon returning to the Bush.

Year	Hatchery Salmon	Wild Salmon
2009	526	726
2010	895	1045
2011	515	649
2012	789	926
2013	1191	1644

Conservation Limits for Salmon Stocks

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the departmental rivers for which conservation limits for salmon stocks have been determined.

(AQW 30223/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department, working in conjunction with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, have established conservation limits for the following 13 rivers. They are:

Area	River
North Antrim	Bush
North Antrim	Ballycastle
North Antrim	Dun
Neagh / Bann	Blackwater
Neagh / Bann	Clady
Neagh / Bann	Sixmile
Neagh / Bann	Main
Neagh / Bann	Upper Bann
Neagh / Bann	Ballinderry
Neagh / Bann	Moyola
Down	Shimna

Area	River
Down	Moneycarragh
Erne	Garvary

Funding Available to Sporting Organisations

Ms McCorley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the funding available to sporting organisations; (ii) the streams under which funding is available, including for (a) capital projects; (b) operating costs; and (c) equipment; and (iii) whether there are plans for new sporting provision schemes.

(AQW 30235/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, is responsible for the distribution of funding to sport in the north of Ireland.

Currently, Sport NI has no funding programmes open for sporting organisations to apply. However, Sport NI has advised it is in the process of developing the following funding programmes to which sporting organisations may be eligible to apply:

A New Capital Investment Programme - which aims to partially address the under-provision in high performance sports facilities, partially address the identified shortfalls in community sports facility provision, and to significantly increase community participation in sport and physical recreation. It is anticipated that the programme will open to applicants in the latter half of 2014.

Awards for Sport - is a small grants programme primarily aimed at increasing participation in community based sport, especially amongst under-represented groups. The programme will be open to a range of organisations including sports clubs, governing bodies for sport, community/ voluntary groups, and charities. It is anticipated that Awards for Sport will open to applications in February 2014.

Active Clubs - the aim of the programme is grow the coaching, leading and volunteering capacity in sports clubs, especially among under-represented groups and in areas of greatest need. Sport NI hopes to launch the 'Active Club' programme around March-April 2014.

Arm's-Length Bodies

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department's Arms Length Bodies are planning to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Dunlop/Hume story and its impact on cycling.

(AQW 30312/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am aware that the route on day one of the Giro d'Italia will pass by the location of the Hume/Dunlop race that took place 125 years ago. This event created an important development in the history of cycling with the introduction of pneumatic tyres on safety bicycles which helped to enable cycling for all, especially for women.

Libraries NI, an Arms Length Body of my Department, is planning the following to commemorate the event:

- Two cycling themed talks in May 2014, provisionally booked for Ormeau Road library and Newry City library.
- An exhibition in Ormeau Road library during May 2014 on the history of cycling and referring to the Hume/Dunlop story. This will draw on both Heritage and Information resources including the patent collection.
- On 6th and 10th May 2014, cycling will be the theme for 2 children's story time/ craft sessions in Ormeau Road library in partnership with Belfast City Council.

Libraries NI also provide access to a range of stock to support people with an interest in cycling and the local history associated with these events.

National Museums has no plans to commemorate the anniversary. It is, however, currently in discussions with Carrickfergus Museum about the possibility of lending bicycles for an exhibit scheduled to coincide with the forthcoming Giro d'Italia event in 2014. The loan may include Dunlop's original pneumatic tyred bicycle.

Redevelopment of Brandywell Stadium

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 29690/11-15, why funding has not been granted for the redevelopment of Brandywell Stadium.

(AQW 30398/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Executive previously endorsed the development of sub-regional stadia as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period 2015-2016 therefore no decision or timescale on funding to assist the development of any specific sub-regional stadium has yet been taken. At this point, depending on the outcome of Derry City Council's bid to the Social Investment Fund, a sub-regional stadia programme is also a logical if not immediate channel for any potential funding application regarding a redevelopment of the Brandywell Stadium.

Board of Sport Northern Ireland

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the appointment of members to the Board of Sport Northern Ireland.

(AQW 30401/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am currently considering the selection of suitable candidates to fill the appointment of Vice Chair and four members to the board of Sport NI. I wish to be assured that the best candidates are selected who can help Sport NI to deliver against my Department priorities in the next number of years. I hope to be in a position to announce my decision soon.

Funding Opportunities Available to Golf Clubs

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the funding opportunities available to golf clubs.

(AQW 30402/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, is responsible for the distribution of funding to sport in the north of Ireland.

Currently, Sport NI has no funding programmes open for sporting organisations to apply, including golf clubs. However, Sport NI has advised it is in the process of developing the following funding programmes to which golf clubs may be eligible to apply:

A New Capital Investment Programme - which aims to partially address the under-provision in high performance sports facilities, partially address the identified shortfalls in community sports facility provision, and to significantly increase community participation in sport and physical recreation. It is anticipated that the programme will open to applicants in the latter half of 2014.

Awards for Sport - is a small grants programme primarily aimed at increasing participation in community based sport, especially amongst under-represented groups. The programme will be open to a range of organisations including sports clubs, governing bodies for sport, community/voluntary groups, and charities. It is anticipated that Awards for Sport will open to applications in February 2014.

The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme 2014

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the cost of The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme 2014.

(AQW 30485/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: This year 100 bursaries are being offered at an estimated total cost of £50k. Final costs will not be known until all the applications are received and assessed against the eligibility criteria. The closing date for the 2014 Gaeltacht Bursary is 4th April 2014.

Windsor Park

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the development of Windsor Park.
(AQO 5467/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The IFA Integrated Supply Team tenders have been assessed and the Most Economically Advantageous Tender has been identified. As no challenges were received during the Alcatel period the Funding Agreement was issued to the IFA and the successful contractor (O'Hare and McGovern) was appointed in December 2013.

Design development by the contractor is currently underway and it is anticipated that construction works will commence on site in the next few months.

Provided that significant delays around any legal challenges are avoided, then the Windsor Park development can remain on programme with completion of the construction works planned for September 2015.

Performing Arts

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline any discussions she has had with the Minister for Employment and Learning on developing a framework for the performing arts.
(AQO 5459/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have not had any discussions with the Minister for Employment and Learning about developing a Performing Arts Framework and the Arts Council have also confirmed that they do not have a Performing Arts Framework nor have they had any contact with the Department for Employment and Learning on the issue.

Libraries NI

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether Libraries NI are experiencing any budgetary or administrative difficulties caused by the on-going operation of Education and Library Boards as a result of the delay in the Education Bill.
(AQO 5460/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Chief Executive of Libraries NI has informed me that the organisation is not experiencing any budgetary or administrative difficulties arising from its current operating arrangements with the Education and Library Boards.

Libraries NI has developed a range of beneficial working arrangements with the Education and Library Boards. These include a number of Service Level Agreements which are reviewed annually and work well.

The services provided to Libraries NI by the Boards cover capital works, property and vehicle maintenance, legal and insurance services and job evaluation.

The Boards also provide Centres of Procurement Excellence expertise and services to Libraries NI. In addition, Libraries NI operates under the successful Belfast Education & Library Board's Strategic Partnership which delivers capital projects for libraries within the BELB area. This was the Partnership under which the Falls, Ormeau, Shankill and Whiterock libraries were recently extensively refurbished to a high standard.

Libraries NI is developing plans to ensure that the services it receives from the Education and Library Boards will continue to be available following the creation of an Education and Skills Authority.

Special Olympics Ireland 2014

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what assistance her Department is providing to people who wish to participate in the Special Olympics Ireland games in Limerick in June 2014.
(AQO 5461/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department is providing £459k core funding to Special Olympics Ireland, along with OFMDFM, DHSSPS, DSD and DE, towards a £2.295m cross-departmental package covering the 4-year period 2011/12 to 2014/15. This funding package is enabling the organisation to expand its activities throughout the north of Ireland and extend its reach in providing sports training and competition opportunities for people with an intellectual disability. This includes for those wishing to take part in this year's Special Olympics Ireland Games in Limerick.

I understand that, thanks to the support received through the Executive, Special Olympics Ulster has been able to put in place the largest number of training sessions to prepare athletes for the Games of any region in the Special Olympics Ireland programme.

Fish Ladder, Ballyshannon

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what discussions she has had with Inland Fisheries Ireland to ensure that there is an adequate and functioning fish ladder at Ballyshannon.
(AQO 5462/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) operates the major hydro electric generating station at Ballyshannon on the River Erne. The facility represents a barrier to fish passage and ESB is required by European law to take steps to minimise the impact on migratory fish.

My officials have regular meetings with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and ESB to monitor the operation of the fish passes and movement of fish to ensure their uninterrupted passage into the Erne system.

The fish ladder at Ballyshannon is used to enable salmon to navigate their way successfully past the hydro. Another fish pass allows eels to transcend to a holding trap where they are collected and transported by my inland fisheries staff for release into the Erne.

In certain conditions, such as the warm dry summer of 2013, there may be issues with sufficient flow of water through the dam to encourage salmon to move upstream. My officials work closely with the IFI and ESB in monitoring and resolving any issues as they arise. Despite the conditions, the number of salmon recorded passing through the fish pass in 2013 was the largest since 2007.

My officials will continue to maintain regular contact with IFI and ESB in monitoring the operation of the hydro to ensure the safe passage of migratory fish given their importance to the environment, angling, tourism and the local economy around the Erne.

Boxing: Sectarianism

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the report of the Independent Working Group into sectarianism in boxing.
(AQO 5463/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I welcome and acknowledge the findings and recommendations of the Independent Working Group (IWG). The Group were asked to assess the current governance structure of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) and its disciplinary practice to tackle racism and sectarianism. As a result of their engagement with clubs, groups and individuals associated with boxing, a comprehensive report has been provided that raises a number of key issues to be addressed.

While this report was dealing with a small minority of cases, based on factors which originate outside the sport, it has highlighted that there must be a robust process in place to deal with incidents of racism or sectarianism as soon as they arise. There is no room for sectarianism in sport and the IABA must take the necessary actions to address this issue.

I welcome the Group's view that a separate boxing governing body for the north of Ireland would not benefit the sport and while issues of national identity are a matter for the individual athlete, it is important that such issues do not disenfranchise our stars of the future from progressing through their sport.

It is important to acknowledge the good work which goes on throughout the sport of boxing. As well as providing health and emotional wellbeing benefits, it has helped to unite communities.

Through this report, and its recommendations, the Group have provided the IABA with a path to modernise the structure of boxing for the future which can enhance its reputation of bringing together communities from across the north of Ireland and beyond.

I encourage the IABA to take forward the recommendations without delay. My Department and Sport NI will provide the IABA with the support they need to move forward in modernising their sport.

Motorsports: Funding

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the recent success of Kris Meeke in the World Rally Championship in Monte Carlo, what plans her Department has to provide funding for local motorsport events.

(AQO 5464/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I would like to offer my congratulations to Kris Meeke in finishing third in the World Rally Championship in Monte Carlo. This is an impressive result for Kris as he goes forward into the next rounds of the Championship. I wish him well for the rest of the competition.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has responsibility for funding sporting events, including local motorsport events. My Department's interest in motorsport remains focussed on encouraging motorsport to improve the safety of competitors and spectators.

That said, officials recently met with the organisers of the Circuit of Ireland Rally, to explore how DCAL could help with the event, which will be part of this year's FIA European Rally Championship. Discussion focussed on what opportunities may be available for the event to support my Department's priorities around promoting equality and target poverty and social exclusion. Sport NI has been assisting the organisers to develop a bid for funding in this regard.

I have already stated my commitment to sustaining motorsport within the north of Ireland and met with Ministers Kennedy and Foster to explore opportunities around safety in motorsport and the provision of continued funding for motorsport into future years. Through collaborative working my department will ensure that positive outcomes continue to be delivered for motorsport within the north of Ireland.

Libraries: East Belfast

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps her Department is taking to upgrade library facilities in East Belfast.

(AQO 5465/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Our libraries are community hubs and, to ensure that they are welcoming and fit for purpose, a major investment programme is underway to maintain the buildings and provide other facilities, such as IT and appropriate levels of stock. This will enable them to deliver sustainable services to the public.

In relation to Libraries NI's buildings, condition surveys on the 5 libraries in East Belfast identified a need for redecoration work at the Ballyhackamore and Cregagh libraries. This was completed in the current financial year at a cost of £29k. In 2014/15 redecoration is planned for Hollywood Arches and

there is to be an internal refurbishment of the Woodstock library. These are estimated to cost £14k and £80k respectively.

Libraries NI's investment in IT facilities will primarily be delivered through the £28m 'e2' project. This is a new computer system which will be rolled out across all libraries in the next 9 months. It will provide a wide range of IT systems for the whole of the public library service – including both staff and customers.

The public facing aspects of this system will include:

- Greatly improved broadband speed with better equipment
- Significantly improved on-line library services, and
- Wi-Fi

In addition to providing an IT infrastructure, the levels and range of stock are continuously reviewed to ensure their relevancy for the communities that each library serves.

The ongoing investment in staff, stock and facilities and increased community engagement is helping to realise my vision of providing a flexible and responsive library service that assists people to fulfil their potential.

Fishing Tourism

Mr Milne asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the impact on fishing tourism of the mandatory salmon catch and release measures applicable to rivers and the ban on the sale of rod caught salmon.

(AQO 5466/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The introduction of mandatory catch and release measures for salmon and sea trout and the ban on the sale of rod caught salmon are important aspects of my new conservation regulations for inland fisheries.

Catch and release has been embraced by many leading fisheries organisations and is regarded as an important and effective fisheries management tool. Many angling clubs and private fisheries in the North already operate this approach.

Angling makes an important contribution to tourism and the economy, and while these new measures may have an impact initially, it will pay dividends in the longer term. The key concept underpinning catch and release is that by releasing fish they will continue to be available for natural purposes including breeding and for other anglers to catch again.

Salmon or sea trout are too valuable a resource to be caught only once and the new measure will lead to an improvement in the quality of fishing with improved stock levels and in furthering the economic benefits of the existing fisheries resource.

In addition to salmon, we also have world class coarse and brown trout fisheries such as Lough Erne and these waters continue attract a significant number of visiting anglers each year.

I am confident that the introduction of the new fisheries conservation measures will lead to the improvement of salmon and sea trout stocks, encourage more anglers to visit Ireland and make a greater contribution to the local economy.

Ulster Rugby

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department supports Ulster Rugby.
(AQO 5468/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department is currently delivering the redevelopment of the Ravenhill Rugby Grounds which is the Headquarters of Ulster Rugby. My Department's investment in the Stadium will total £16.4 by the time the whole project is complete.

In support of my Department's key priority of promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion Ulster Rugby has been awarded £1.5m (£0.5 each year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15). This funding to Ulster Rugby will be applied to increasing participation in the sport in the top 30% of areas of multiple deprivation, to increasing the number of accredited coaches working within Disability by 10% and also to increase female participation including coaches.

In addition to this support, my Department over the past three years, through Sport NI has awarded just under £850,000 to Ulster Rugby through programmes which include the 'Investing in Performance Sport Programme', the 'Stadia Safety (Urgent Works) Programme' and the 'Sport Matters Capital Equipment Programme.'

In terms of planned support, a further £917,000 is anticipated, predominantly through Sport NI's Performance Focus Programme.

Department of Education

Education and Library Board: Staff Annual Increments

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 27166/11-15, for an update on the current position.

(AQW 30013/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The appropriate documentation was submitted to DFP for approval to pay Education and Library Board staff's annual increments and 2013 pay award, due in April 2013, on 31 January 2014.

Defibrillators: Training

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what training his Department provides to teachers on the use of defibrillators.

(AQW 30020/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The decision on the part of a school to acquire a defibrillator and train staff in its use is a matter for each school individually. The health and safety of pupils and staff is the responsibility of the school management, accountable in the first instance to the Board of Governors.

Training for teachers is delivered to student teachers (in the form of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses) by the Higher Education Establishments (HEIs). For serving teachers training is provided by the Education and Library Boards (ELB) through, for example, the ELBs' Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) or the Health and Safety teams reflecting the specific training requirement identified by schools.

The Department for Employment and Learning has confirmed that the four locally based teacher training institutions do not currently provide ITE students with training on the use of defibrillators.

I am pleased to advise, however, that in light of requests from schools seeking guidance on the purchase of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and on the availability of training on their use, the ELBs and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) established an Inter-Board/CCMS working group (the Group) - which includes representation from the NI Ambulance Service - to consider and address these matters.

The Group is working to develop a specification for the AED and to progress the AED procurement process in line with the statutory requirements under European Union procurement regulations. The ELBs have confirmed that draft school guidelines have also been developed.

In recognition that training in the use of AEDs is required alongside the development of the AED specification, the Group is also working to develop an AED training pack for schools.

A separate tender for training is being developed and it is hoped that the Group will be able to conclude the tender in the very near future.

Ballymoney, Ballymena and Moyle Council Areas

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education how much his Department has spent in the (i) Ballymoney; (ii) Ballymena; and (iii) Moyle council areas since May 2011.

(AQW 30114/11-15)

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

Council Area	Spend from April 2011 to Date
Ballymoney	£65,690,516
Ballymena	£196,007,839
Moyle	£42,788,679

Minor Works in Schools

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education to detail all instances where minor works were carried out in schools in the (i) South Down; and (ii) Strangford constituencies, including the total financial investment this represented.

(AQW 30152/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following tables details minor work schemes that have been approved in the (i) South Down; and (ii) Strangford constituencies during the period April 2011 to December 2013:

(I) SOUTH DOWN

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
Castlewellan Primary School	Upgrade & widen driveway	Sep-11	60,058.56
Castlewellan Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	402.08
Newcastle Primary School	Kitchen refurb	Sep-11	55,534.84
Newcastle Primary School	New play equipment	Sep-11	12,402.12
Newcastle Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	19,427.02
Newcastle Primary School	Play equipment	Jul-13	20,080.16
Spa Primary School	Upgrade front entrance	Dec-11	371,863.20
Spa Primary School	Landscaping	Dec-11	3,483.86
Spa Primary School	New heating system	Jun-12	142,853.52
Downpatrick Primary School	Forming covered play space	Feb-12	29,032.24
Downpatrick Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	15,199.02
Downpatrick Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	385.86
Cumran Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	166.17
Glasswater Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	1,752.52
Glasswater Primary School	Pupil entrance	Nov-12	200,335.12

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
Glasswater Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	134.30
Glasswater Primary School	SEN rooms	Nov-13	3,031.50
St Francis' Primary School	Double mobile accommodation	Feb-12	188,066.66
St Francis' Primary School	Perimeter fencing / gate	Jul-12	4,200.00
St Francis' Primary School	Car parking facilities	Dec-12	7,500.00
St Francis' Primary School	Severy & remodelling	Feb-13	45,422.09
St Mary's Aughlisnafin	Additional classroom accommodation	Feb-11	82,552.50
St Macartan's Primary School	Pedestrian gate	Aug-12	2,700.00
The Holy Family Primary School	Fencing	Sep-11	21,000.00
The Holy Family Primary School	Secure door access	Dec-12	9,720.00
St Brigid's Primary School	Provision of PE store	Feb-12	13,589.54
St Colmcille's Primary School	Toilet refurb	Mar-13	125,265.42
St Malachy's Primary School	Refurb of staff toilets	Jan-11	111,719.41
St Malachy's Primary School	Re-roofing	Mar-13	255,662.50
St Patrick's Primary School	Replacement modular accommodation	Mar-13	501,631.92
Annsborough Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	8,598.93
All Childrens Integrated Primary School	Micro hydro system	Dec-11	619,248.73
All Childrens Integrated Primary School	Landscaping	Dec-11	7,973.63
All Childrens Integrated Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	900.22
All Childrens Integrated Primary School	New play area	Feb-13	41,664.17
Cedar Integrated Primary School	Sewer division	Jul-11	9,600.00
Downpatrick Nursery School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	176.91
St Mary's High School	Convert classroom to 6th form accommodation	Mar-13	43,725.15
St Mary's High School	School Meals Kitchen refurb	Jun-12	126,634.02
St Mary's High School	Traffic improvements	Nov-13	18,000.00
St Mary's High School	Convert classroom	Mar-13	44,187.00
St Colmcille's High School	Refurb of changing rooms	Mar-11	122,585.97
St Colmcille's High School	HE refurb	Feb-12	340,380.00

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
St Colmcille's High School	Drainage to grass pitch	Nov-13	90,000.00
St Malachy's High School	Install of new phone system	Oct-11	9,720.00
De La Salle High School	School Meals Kitchen improvements	May-13	135,060.00
Shimna Integrated College	New HE facility	Mar-12	568,339.00
Shimna Integrated College	Upgrade Science & Tech accommodation	Mar-13	538,506.90
Ardmore House Special School	Refurb of classroom (Cluster 2)	Sep-11	51,048.41
Ardmore House Special School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	1,158.51
Ardmore House Special School	Legionella prevention	Feb-13	8,757.02
Knockevin Special School	Mobile classroom refurb	Jul-11	165,889.47
Knockevin Special School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	3,606.55
Knockevin Special School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	5,401.23
Knockevin Special School	Parking / playground	Feb-13	125,016.79
Knockevin Special School	Legionella prevention	Sep-11	14,060.00
Down High School	Fitness suite	Oct-12	42,444.14
Down High School	New pavillion	Oct-12	502,163.65
Down High School	External fitness equipment	Oct-12	38,498.39
Down High School	Conversion to gas heating in mobiles	Dec-12	8,819.09
Dromore Road Primary School	Ext & Refurb to ancillary areas	Aug-13	485,514.81
Dromore Road Primary School	Platform lift	Oct-12	42,000.00
Ballydown Primary School	Nursery Unit - Disabled access works	Nov-13	13,213.40
Ballydown Primary School	Disabled Access works	Jul-12	12,195.00
Kilkeel Primary School	Provision of front porch & DDA access	Jul-12	34,732.18
Annalong Primary School	Ext & Refurb	Dec-13	563,512.14
Annalong Primary School	Refurb of nursery unit & covered play area	Oct-13	105,000.00
Brackenagh West Primary School	Ext & Alterations	Mar-13	333,685.39
Bronte Primary School	New nursery unit	Apr-13	401,423.87
Drumadonnell Primary School	New nursery unit	Feb-12	437,406.73
Killowen Primary School	External storage container	Aug-12	3,360.00

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
St Joseph's Primary School	Toilet refurb	Apr-13	6,278.40
St Joseph's Primary School	Toilet refurb	Dec-12	72,254.40
Holy Cross Primary School	New modular school meals servery	Aug-12	84,683.02
St Patrick's Primary School	Conversion of rooms to Nursery	Dec-12	107,196.00
St Patrick's Primary School	Purchase of Land	Mar-13	900.00
St Patrick's Primary School	Conversion of rooms to nursery	Sep-13	113,574.99
St Patrick's Primary School	Secure door access	Jul-11	120,900.00
St Paul's Primary School	Replace fencing	Aug-12	18,900.00
St Marys Primary School Dechomet	Security fencing	Mar-13	18,300.00
St Marys Primary School Dechomet	Provision of multi purpose hall	Oct-12	253,965.00
St Patrick's Primary School	SEN adaptations - grab rails	Oct-13	2,146.38
St Patrick's Primary School	Provision of 2 disabled parking spaces	Feb-11	1,200.00
St Mary's Primary School	Door entry system	Aug-11	8,407.80
St Mary's Primary School	Replacement perimeter fence	Jul-11	19,200.00
St Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit	Nursery Unit	Dec-13	210,600.00
St Dallan's Primary School	Provision of 2 gated exits	Mar-13	900.00
St Patrick's Primary School	Staffroom / Storage for C2K	Dec-11	77,446.00
St Bronagh's Primary School	Traffic management	Nov-12	36,000.00
St Bronagh's Primary School	Bin compound	30-Jul-12	2,040.00
Kilbroney Integrated Primary School	Health & Safety works to playground & fencing	Jan-13	7,501.59
Seaview Nursery School	Additional classroom & storage	15-Feb-12	291,095.85
Rathfriland High School	New modular unit music suite	Jan-12	186,527.96
St Columban's College	Conversion of disused staff toilet	Feb-11	2,970.00
St Mark's High School	Hold open devices linked to fire alarm	Feb-13	92,599.00
St Mark's High School	Provison of modular building for drama suite	Mar-11	198,779.88

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
St Louis Grammar School	Replacement boiler / store roof	Jan-11	19,026.54
St Louis Grammar School	Remedial electrical works	Feb-11	26,041.50
St Louis Grammar School	Heating to mobiles	Apr-11	16,640.40
St Louis Grammar School	Upgrade fire alarm	Jun-11	11,103.75
St Louis Grammar School	Replacement windows	Jul-11	16,209.00
St Louis Grammar School	Leaking heating	Dec-12	13,436.55
St Louis Grammar School	Provision of mobile technology	Jan-12	228,912.00
St Louis Grammar School	Provision of kiln room	Jul-12	2,490.00
St Louis Grammar School	Additional parking / new car parking spaces	Sep-12	24,000.00
St Louis Grammar School	Replace drains & manhole covers	Oct-12	7,500.00
St Louis Grammar School	Leaks in boiler house & assembly hall	Oct-12	3,258.41
St Louis Grammar School	Leaks in flat roof	Nov-12	2,388.00
St Louis Grammar School	Fire protection/safety works for visually impaired pupil	Aug-13	1,824.00
St Louis Grammar School	Disabled access	Oct-13	40,800.00
St Louis Grammar School	Drainage	Nov-13	10,800.00
St Louis Grammar School	Gas conversion	Dec-13	18,363.60
St Louis Grammar School	Disabled access	Sep-12	64,200.00
Sacred Heart Grammar School	General classroom extension	Mar-13	23,964.00
Sacred Heart Grammar School	HE refurb		207,009.00
		Total	11,101,712.55

(II) STRANGFORD

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
Loughries Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	227.24
Grey Abbey Primary School	New office	Dec-11	85,411.62
Grey Abbey Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	134.30
Carrickmannon Primary School	Convert WC to office	Feb-12	22,206.25
Carrickmannon Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	195.66
Carrickmannon Primary School	Covered walk ways	Feb-13	26,585.54

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
Newtownards Model Primary School	Dining hall	Oct-11	546,016.18
Newtownards Model Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	2,288.54
Newtownards Model Primary School	New roof	Nov-13	39,237.56
Kirkistown Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	183.90
Kirkistown Primary School	New classroom & associated works	Nov-13	6,543.15
Castle Gardens Primary School	CCTV system refurb	Nov-11	6,151.00
Castle Gardens Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	535.31
Castle Gardens Primary School	Landscaping	Feb-13	7,383.53
Victoria Primary School (Ballyhalbert)	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	2,958.02
Portavogie Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	1,753.52
Portavogie Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	929.85
Portavogie Primary School	Extension to classrooms	Dec-13	1,407.45
Ballywalter Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	45,160.68
Ballynahinch Primary School	New security lobby	Nov-11	20,523.60
Ballynahinch Primary School	Landscaping	Sep-11	3,393.97
Derryboy Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	197.22
Killyleagh Primary School	New playground & play equipment	Sep-11	45,614.66
Killyleagh Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Sep-11	6,607.00
Victoria Primary School	New heating boiler	Sep-11	10,801.00
Victoria Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	6,266.29
Victoria Primary School	Access reader	Feb-13	14,471.44
Moneyrea Primary School	Extension to classroom	Feb-12	131,990.00
Moneyrea Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	132.66
Alexander Dickson Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	48,412.56
Londonderry Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Feb-12	3,949.54
Londonderry Primary School	Extension & refurb	Nov-12	505,700.01
Londonderry Primary School	Moving mobiles to site	Feb-13	104,103.20
Carrowdore Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	3,729.17
Carrowdore Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	869.63

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
Andrews Memorial Primary School	DDA works & new lift	Dec-11	347,072.81
Academy Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	51,250.42
Academy Primary School	Enclosing covered links (cluster 10)	Feb-12	40,507.42
Academy Primary School	School Meals Kitchen refurb	Jun-12	2,134.44
Academy Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	57,317.44
Killinchy Primary School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	16,071.03
Abbey Primary School	Replacement windows	Sep-11	136,538.56
Abbey Primary School	Play area & retaining wall	Feb-13	60,191.75
Abbey Primary School	Windows	Feb-13	35,164.56
St Joseph's Primary School	Traffic management improvements	Aug-13	36,000.00
St Patrick's Primary School	Refurb girls & staff toilets	Feb-11	100,367.00
St Patrick's Primary School	Toilet refurb / DDA / Access control	Jun-11	23,625.00
St Patrick's Primary School	External storage container / bin compound	Jan-13	7,800.00
St Patrick's Primary School	Outdoor play area	Jan-13	420.00
St Patrick's Primary School	External storage container & bin compound	Jan-13	7,800.00
St Finian's Primary School	School Meals Kitchen refurb	Sep-11	28,662.40
St Patrick's Primary School	Additional modular classroom	Feb-12	75,589.91
St Patrick's Primary School	School Meals Kitchen refurb	Sep-11	12,395.59
St Patrick's Primary School	Additional modular classroom	Feb-12	82,655.26
St Patrick's Primary School	Staffroom & staff toilets	Jan-13	91,819.58
St Mary's Primary School	Toilet refurb	Feb-12	76,021.37
St Mary's Primary School	Reposition of perimeter fence	Sep-11	14,400.00
St Mary's Primary School	Replacement roof	Oct-11	150,588.45
St Mary's Primary School	Fire risk improvements	Feb-13	55,977.35
St Mary's Primary School	Fire risk improvement	Feb-13	63,177.35
Kircubbin Primary School	2 classroom extension	Nov-11	383,847.99
Kircubbin Primary School	Canopy	Feb-13	38,486.41
Portaferry Integrated Primary School	Landscaping	Sep-11	6,133.00

School Name	Scheme Description	Month Approved	Total Cost
Millennium Integrated Primary School	External doors - health & safety	Jul-11	65,475.00
Millennium Integrated Primary School	Secure oil tank	Feb-13	4,500.00
Millennium Integrated Primary School	More car parking spaces	Sep-13	69,600.00
Drumlins Integrated Primary School	Rental of classroom & resurface car park	Mar-11	18,725.63
Drumlins Integrated Primary School	Provision of boom barrier	Sep-12	94,360.03
Newtownards Nursery School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	224.86
Newtownards Nursery School	SEN rooms	Nov-13	2,447.75
Glenbrook Nursery School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	170.31
Movilla High School	Extend CCTV system	Sep-11	4,254.72
The High School Ballynahinch	External fitness equipment	Oct-12	46,488.91
The High School Ballynahinch	Changing pavillion	Nov-13	6,620.80
Glastry College	Mobile classroom & IT suite improvements	Dec-11	123,409.12
Glastry College	External fitness equipment	Oct-12	45,982.78
Glastry College	New mobile toilet block	Nov-13	352.00
Saintfield High School	Changing pavillion	Oct-11	348,503.54
Saintfield High School	Boundary fencing at playing fields	Sep-11	37,983.41
Saintfield High School	External fitness equipment	Oct-12	51,929.99
St Columba's College	School Meals Kitchen refurb	Sep-11	23,217.62
St Colman's High School	Upgrade HE facilities	Aug-12	202,230.00
Regent House School	Fire risk assessments Phase 3	Nov-11	94,138.53
Regent House School	Fitness suite	Sep-11	18,095.29
Regent House School	Boundary fencing at playing fields	Sep-11	13,014.52
Regent House School	Landscaping	Sep-11	12,201.80
Regent House School	Fire risk assessments Phase 4	Feb-13	12,841.26
Regent House School	External fitness equipment	Feb-13	51,182.12
Regent House School	Artificial hockey pitch & floodlighting	Jul-13	189,776.56
		Total	5,241,812.29

Teachers' Negotiating Committee

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education for an update on the progress of the Teachers' Negotiating Committee discussions regarding the 2013/14 pay award for teachers; and when these negotiations are scheduled to conclude
(AQW 30238/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am aware that on 9 September 2013, NITC (NI Teachers Council), made up of the 5 teaching unions, submitted a claim for uplift on teachers pay from September 2013.

I have urged Management Side of the Teachers Negotiating Committee (made up of employer and departmental representatives) to consider this claim and bring negotiations to conclusion.

Blind and Visually Impaired Children and Young People

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education to outline the timescale for a cross-departmental review into the provision of habitation services in blind and visually impaired children and young people.
(AQW 30245/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As part of the Action Plan 2014-2016 contained in the Royal National Institute of the Blind's Vision Strategy for the north of Ireland, Visually Impaired sector organisations have agreed to pursue a statutory review of habilitation services for blind and partially sighted children including referral pathways.

Looked After Children and Young People

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of looked after children and young people in each Education and Library Board.
(AQW 30283/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The most up-to-date validated figures for looked after children relate to the 2012/13 school year, these are detailed in the table overleaf. Updated 2013/14 figures will be available following the completion of the annual school census which is currently being undertaken.

'Looked after' pupils by Education and Library Board - 2012/13

	Belfast	Western	North Eastern	South Eastern	Southern	Total
Looked after children	223	254	366	315	293	1,451
Total enrolments	57,396	56,572	72,165	63,077	75,045	324,255
% of pupils that are looked after	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: NI school census

Note:

- Figures include pupils in nursery schools, primary (including nursery, reception and year 1-7 classes), post-primary and special schools.
- 'Looked after children' includes children defined in 'The Children (NI) Order 1995', i.e., 'a child who is looked after by an authority is a reference to a child who is—
(a) in the care of the authority; or
(b) provided with accommodation by the authority.'
This includes children who are fostered.
- ELB refers to the school location rather than the ELB in which the pupil is resident.

Personal Education Plans

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education for an update on the implementation of Personal Education Plans for looked after children and young people.

(AQW 30284/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department co-chairs the Regional Personal Education Plan (PEP) Implementation Group, which is representative of the Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs), Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and the Youth Justice Agency.

Following the first year of PEP implementation, feedback from schools, social workers and young people suggested that the PEP should be refined. Work is now underway to do this and to revise the associated guidance.

My expectations for looked after children are no less than for any other child. Given the potential impact of robust PEPs on raising educational attainment for looked after children, I have provided funding for substitute teacher costs to release teachers from the classroom to complete PEPs and to attend looked after children review meetings.

Educational Psychology Services

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education what is the unit cost of Educational Psychology services in each Education and Library Board.

(AQW 30288/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards have advised that the unit cost of Educational Psychology services, in the 2012/13 financial year, was as follows:-

	Unit Cost
BELB	£32
NEELB	£26
SEELB	£34
SELB	£27
WELB	£29

The above figures have been calculated based on costs in respect of both core and earmarked funding for psychology services and psychology administration.

Looked After Children and Young People

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the attendance rates for looked after children and young people in each Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 30290/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is detailed in the table below. The most recent data available is for the school year 2011/12. Updated figures for 2012/13 will be available at the end of February.

**ATTENDANCE RATE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN EACH EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD,
2009/10 - 2011/12**

	ELB	Status	Percentage of total half days attended			
			2009/10	2010/11	2011/12*	
Total	Belfast	Looked after Children	87.9	90.2	91.5	
		Other	93.0	93.2	93.6	
	Western	Looked after Children	92.7	92.4	90.6	
		Other	93.4	93.6	94.1	
	North Eastern	Looked after Children	91.1	90.6	91.7	
		Other	94.1	94.3	94.5	
	South Eastern	Looked after Children	90.5	91.2	92.4	
		Other	93.6	93.9	94.3	
	Southern	Looked after Children	92.8	93.1	93.3	
		Other	93.7	94.0	94.4	
	Total	Looked after Children	91.0	91.5	91.9	
		Other	93.6	93.8	94.2	
	Average attendance			93.6	93.8	94.2
	Primary schools	Belfast	Looked after Children	92.6	93.9	93.5
Other			93.8	93.9	94.2	
Western		Looked after Children	96.0	95.1	95.1	
		Other	94.5	94.7	95.2	
North Eastern		Looked after Children	96.3	95.7	94.7	
		Other	95.3	95.4	95.6	
South Eastern		Looked after Children	96.2	96.4	95.9	
		Other	95.0	95.1	95.4	
Southern		Looked after Children	95.8	94.8	96.0	
		Other	94.7	94.9	95.3	
Total		Looked after Children	95.5	95.2	95.2	
		Other	94.7	94.9	95.2	
Primary average attendance			94.7	94.9	95.2	

	ELB	Status	Percentage of total half days attended			
			2009/10	2010/11	2011/12*	
Post-Primary schools	Belfast	Looked after Children	84.6	87.1	90.1	
		Other	92.5	92.8	93.2	
	Western	Looked after Children	90.3	90.7	87.3	
		Other	92.2	92.4	92.8	
	North Eastern	Looked after Children	86.1	85.0	88.0	
		Other	92.6	92.9	93.2	
	South Eastern	Looked after Children	86.6	88.0	89.1	
		Other	91.7	92.3	92.8	
	Southern	Looked after Children	89.8	91.7	90.9	
		Other	92.5	92.8	93.2	
	Total	Looked after Children	87.4	88.4	89.0	
		Other	92.3	92.7	93.1	
	Post-primary average attendance			92.3	92.6	93.0
	Special schools	Belfast	Looked after Children	87.7	92.0	90.6
Other			87.5	88.3	88.7	
Western		Looked after Children	92.5	91.6	89.5	
		Other	88.3	89.4	91.2	
North Eastern		Looked after Children	95.0	96.4	95.9	
		Other	89.9	91.2	91.2	
South Eastern		Looked after Children	87.3	93.6	94.9	
		Other	89.3	89.9	89.7	
Southern		Looked after Children	94.8	89.4	85.0	
		Other	90.0	89.8	90.9	
Total		Looked after Children	92.0	93.5	92.4	
		Other	88.9	89.7	90.1	
Special school average attendance			89.0	89.8	90.2	

* The care status of 1,676 enrolments was not available in 2011/12, representing 0.6 per cent of the total enrolments.

Development Proposals for Schools

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education when he will make a decision on the development proposals for (i) St. Mary's Junior High School, Lurgan; (ii) St. Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan; and (iii) St. Michael's Grammar School, Lurgan.

(AQW 30337/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: On 2 September 2013, the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) published Development Proposal (DP) No. 294, which proposes that St Michael's Grammar School, St Mary's

High School and St Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan amalgamate to form a new co-educational 11-18 voluntary grammar school with effect from 1 September 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter. The statutory two-month objection period ended on 4 November 2013.

DE officials are in the process of preparing advice for my consideration and I anticipate being in a position to make a decision on the proposal in the near future.

Suspensions and Expulsions

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupil (i) suspensions; and (ii) expulsions in each Education and Library Board in each of the last three years.

(AQW 30338/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department publishes statistics on pupil suspensions and expulsions on its website. The information is provided annually by the Education and Library Boards (ELBs). The table below details the number of pupil suspensions in each ELB in each of the last three years.

SUSPENSIONS

ELB	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
BELB	835	816	757
WELB	746	753	630
NEELB	1045	866	800
SEELB	879	828	788
SELB	735	616	581
Total	4240	3879	3556

The table below details the total number of school expulsions which have occurred in each of the last three years. This information cannot be broken down by individual ELB as the numbers involved are so small that doing so would carry a high risk of allowing individual pupils to be identified.

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

EXPULSIONS

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Totals	38	24	19

Vacancies for Principal Posts

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education (i) how many vacancies for Principal posts occurred in each employing authority, in each sector, during the last school year; (ii) what was the number of applicants for each post; and (iii) how many were not filled following the initial advertisement.

(AQW 30343/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have provided the figures, in relation to Principal vacancies for the 2012/2013 academic year, in the tables below.

BELB

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Nursery	0	0	0
Primary	2	12	1
		7	
Post-Primary	1	1	1
Special	1	5	0

NEELB

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Nursery	0	0	0
Primary	11	15	5
		14	
		10	
		15	
		22	
		8	
		12	
		5	
		3	
		17	
		7	
Post-Primary	6	6	4
		3	
		7	
		9	
		14	
		7	
Special	0	0	0

SEELB

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Nursery	1	6	0
Primary	8	5	1
		8	
		13	
		7	
		7	
		6	
		1	
		0	
Post-Primary	4	2	2
		9	
		6	
		2	
Special	1	3	0

SELB

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Nursery	1	6	0
Primary	7	6	2
		7	
		3	
		7	
		7	
		7	
		5	
Post-Primary	4	5	0
		5	
		4	
		6	
Special	0	0	0

WELB

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Nursery	1	3	1
Primary	0	0	0
Post-Primary	0	0	0
Special	0	0	0

CCMS

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Nursery	2	15	0
		7	
Primary	20	12	2
		17	
		9	
		7	
		9	
		8	
		7	
		9	
		5	
		3	
		4	
		7	
		7	
		7	
		18	
		6	
		9	
3			
11			
14			

Sector	Vacancies for Principal Posts	Number of Applicants for each Post	Not filled following Initial Advertisement
Post-Primary	4	4	0
		15	
		7	
		9	
Special	0	0	0

Travel and Subsistence Costs

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the travel and subsistence costs of (i) his Department; and (ii) its Arms-Length Bodies, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 30345/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The travel and subsistence costs of (i) my Department and (ii) its Arms-Length Bodies in each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	Department £'000	Arms-Length Bodies £'000
2008-09	503	6,045
2009-10	496	6,061
2010-11	451	5,739
2011-12	408	5,673
2012-13	413	5,539

Middletown Centre for Autism

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 30039/11-15, in relation to the twenty children referred to outreach support, to detail the total hours of support received in each case; and for a breakdown of the support provided.

(AQW 30350/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Chief Executive of the Middletown Centre for Autism has advised that the total hours of support received by the twenty children is as follows:

Referral Number	Hours of Direct Support
1	214
2	197
3	77
4	137
5	191
6	109
7	118
8	228

Referral Number	Hours of Direct Support
9	110
10	40
11	28
12	34
13	89
14	39
15	85
16	29
17	47
18	39
19	30
20	13

The support received can include specialist interventions from the following disciplines in order to meet the individual needs of each child:

- Specialist Occupational Therapy;
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapy;
- Autism Interventional Specialist Support;
- Educational Psychological Assessment;
- Specialist Teacher Support;
- Specialist Learning Support in the classroom;
- Home Support.

Unused School Premises

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the unused school premises in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 30395/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following is a list of all unused school premises in the South Eastern Education and Library Board, as at 31 January 2014.

- 1 Newtownbreda Primary School
- 2 Kindle Primary School, Ballykinler
- 3 Brookfield Special School
- 4 Hilden Integrated Primary School
- 5 Newport Primary School
- 6 Ballykeigle Primary School
- 7 Cottown Primary School*
- 8 Rathvernette Primary School

*recently used as Cottown Reading Unit until Autumn 2013.

This list includes only assets where there are still buildings/premises on site. Most have been officially declared surplus and are at some stage of the disposal process.

Schools Enhancement Programme

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Education for an update on the Schools Enhancement Programme. (AQO 5475/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There are currently 51 applications to the Schools Enhancement Programme (SEP) going through Economic Appraisals to ensure any investment that is made represents best value for the public purse.

As detailed within the SEP Protocol, and in recognition of the range of infrastructure issues facing schools, the programme will consider proposals within one of 3 streams: rationalisation proposals; insufficient accommodation to meet educational needs; and significant accommodation inadequacies.

Proposals considered as having met the necessary criteria will be considered and ranked within each work stream.

An announcement of projects which will receive funding, and the level of that funding will be made in due course..

Shared Education

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Education how shared education is being enhanced in the Area Planning process. (AQO 5476/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As the member will be aware my Department has a strong commitment to Shared Education as witnessed by the commitments made in the Programme for Government. I believe the work that I and my Department have been undertaking on a range of fronts will help to advance Shared Education here.

In relation to Area Planning the Terms of Reference I set require engagement by all sectors. They explicitly encourage creative and innovative solutions, including opportunities for shared schooling across sectors.

The Area Planning Guidance emphasise my commitment to shared education and that in bringing forward area solutions or proposals I expect the Planning Authorities to explore opportunities for sharing at all levels.

I would take the opportunity to remind members that in addition to moving forward with the recommendations flowing from the work of the Advisory Group on shared education, I recently launched the Shared Education Campuses Programme. As part of the "Together: Building a United Community Strategy" this programme will help provide shared education facilities as part of delivering sustainable long term area provision.

Education and Library Board Staff

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has budgeted for the incremental payments that are part of recognised contractual arrangements with existing Education and Library Board employees. (AQO 5477/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I can confirm the Department of Education Budget 2011-15 takes account of incremental progression payments in respect of Education and Library Board employees.

Strategy for 14-19 Year Olds

Mr Douglas asked the Minister of Education for an update on the development of a strategy for 14-19 year olds in conjunction with the Minister for Employment and Learning.

(AQO 5478/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I will continue to work closely with my colleague the Minister for Employment and Learning on issues that affect the education and training of our young people. We both agree that the needs of our young people must be put first and that the coherent and joined up delivery of our respective policies is of a high priority. I regularly meet with the Minister for Employment and Learning to discuss how we can achieve even better cooperation and my officials from the most senior level down engage directly with their colleagues in the Department for Employment and Learning. This will continue to be the case.

This work will focus on what is important – the young people in our schools, colleges and training organisations. Supporting them, equipping them with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to drive the economic future of this island we live on. That is my focus, and Minister Farry's focus. And that will continue to be our focus.

Area Learning Communities are where this partnership working is delivered on the ground. Excellent partnerships have been developed between schools and colleges and senior officials from my department have recently visited each Area Learning Community to find out the views and experience of principals and learn how we can make Area Learning Communities even more effective.

I appreciate that Members may be seeking a strategy document but my focus has been on the working strategic partnership between our two departments which remains robust. My officials continue to develop this strategic partnership, building on earlier work and to consider the development of a 14-19 Strategy in conjunction with DEL.

Education: Minor Works Scheme

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education for an update on his Department's minor works scheme. **(AQO 5479/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: In 2013/14 the Minister allocated £46m for a programme of minor works in controlled schools and £31m to advance a programme of minor capital works in the non controlled sectors.

The budget to progress a programme of minor works for controlled schools is delegated to the each of the Education and Library Boards (ELBs).

Furthermore, to enable a programme of non controlled minor works projects to be taken forward by the ELBs a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been implemented. This MoA established an approach upon which the ELBs and DE will progress minor works for the non controlled sector.

Free School Meals

Mr Boylan asked the Minister of Education to outline any correspondence he has had with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development regarding the use of the Free School Meal Entitlement as an indicator of social disadvantage among the school population.

(AQO 5480/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There has been no correspondence with the OECD specifically relating to Free School Meal Entitlement as an indicator of social disadvantage.

The OECD recently published its Review of Evaluation and Assessment in Education here, which made reference to the use of free school meal entitlement as a measure of social disadvantage. They observed that whatever measure is used, we need to be transparent about the analysis and research that has informed this decision. This point was also re-iterated at a recent OECD dissemination event in Stranmillis.

My Department takes the view that entitlement to free school meals is an effective indicator of social disadvantage. Free school meals entitlement has a number of characteristics that make it the most reliable indicator for identifying social deprivation:

- It relates to the individual pupil so is more robust than a spatial measure which assumes everyone in an area is alike;
- It is updated on a yearly basis, so is current;
- It is easily gathered at school level and is available, to us, a part of the census return;
- It is highly correlated with the multiple deprivation measure and with the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

The view of the Independent Panel that conducted the Review of the Common Funding Scheme was that free school meals entitlement provides an indication of the relative concentration of potentially disadvantaged pupils in a given school in a way that no other indicator currently does.

I remain open to hearing suggestions as to better indicators that meet the characteristics I have just outlined.

Woodburn Primary School

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Education, in relation to his visit to Woodburn Primary School, Carrickfergus on 23 January 2014, for an update on the proposals for a replacement school building. **(AQO 5481/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: At present, there are no specific plans for a new build project for Woodburn Primary School.

A process is underway within the department to assess potential capital investment schemes. Woodburn PS has been forwarded by the North Eastern Education & Library Board as part of a list of potential candidate projects, and these projects will now be assessed together with potential schemes from the other Boards areas and from the non-controlled sectors.

The reality is that many schools are in need of investment and proposed projects are therefore competing for a limited pot of available capital. I will continue to examine the case for capital investment across the estate and any proposals for Woodburn Primary School will be considered as part of that process.

Department for Employment and Learning

Steps 2 Success Programme

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the scoring criteria for local companies who tendered for the Steps 2 Success program; and (ii) any disparity in the scoring criteria for companies outside Northern Ireland tendering for the same program. **(AQW 29993/11-15)**

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):

- (i) All companies who submitted bids were marked against the following scoring criteria.

(Reference) Requirement
(SC 1) Using an example(s) detail how you planned for and implemented the business model to deliver the service. Your answer should cover the organisational structure, staffing and other resources required to deliver the service.

(Reference) Requirement
(SC 2) With respect to the example(s) at SC1 above was the timetable of the organisation who awarded you the contract met? If not detail the reasons why and how this was overcome. What challenges did you face in implementing this service? What actions did you take to address these challenges and what was the result of these actions?
(SC 3) Using an example(s) detail the processes and approaches you used to identify and meet the needs of both individuals and groups with different employability barriers to achieve the targets and other measures set by the organisation who awarded the contract?
(SC 4) Using an example(s) detail how you have managed your own staff and/or sub- contractors to ensure that the targets and other measures set by the organisation who awarded you the contract were met.
(SC 5) Using an example(s) detail how your organisation/ business model adapted to changing circumstances, both in terms of changing economic circumstances and changes to the requirements by the organisation who awarded the contract(s)? How was this managed and did it remain within budget.
(SC 6) Using an example(s) detail the practical processes and arrangements put in place in order to work in partnership with employers, trade bodies, the Third Sector and/ or statutory bodies to deliver the service and maximise employment opportunities. Detail the obstacles you encountered and the action taken to overcome these.
(SC 7) Using an example(s) detail how you have managed performance, describing the management structure, systems (including IT systems) and processes in place to deliver the service.
(SC 8) Using an example(s) detail the financial management, administrative and control systems in place to ensure the delivery of the service. Were control weaknesses identified in your systems and if so how were these addressed?
(SC 9) Using an example(s) detail the quality management systems and processes in place and the actions taken to identify, report and manage quality issues in delivering the service. Note: it is not sufficient to list quality standards achieved. The actual system and processes used must be detailed.
(SC 10) Using an example(s) detail the risk management systems and processes in place, and the actions taken to identify report and manage risk in relation to the delivery of the service.

The Economic and Financial Standing of all bidding organisations were assessed on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

- (ii) All companies were scored against the same published criteria, regardless of their geographical location.

Steps 2 Success Programme

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to (i) detail any local based tenders for the Steps 2 Success program, (ii) confirm which of the these were successful.

(AQW 29994/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) To protect the integrity of the procurement process of the Steps 2 Success competition, it is not possible to release information relating to those organisations who applied for each of the contract areas but were not successful.
- (ii) Details of the successful bidding organisations for all three contract areas have been published on the DEL website. These are as follows:

Contract Area 1: Andersonstown, Bangor, North Belfast, Falls, Holywood Road, Knockbreda, Lisburn, Newtownards, Shaftesbury Square, Shankill.

Successful Organisations

- Avanta Enterprise Ltd
- EOS Works Ltd
- Ingeus UK Ltd
- Pertemps People Development Group
- Reed in Partnership
- Sencia Ltd

Contract Area 2: Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Foyle, Larne, Limavady, Lisnagelvin, Newtownabbey, Strabane.

Successful Organisations

- Avanta Enterprise Ltd
- EOS Works Ltd
- Ingeus UK Ltd
- Pertemps People Development Group
- Reed in Partnership
- Sencia Ltd

Contract Area 3: Armagh, Ballynahinch, Banbridge, Cookstown, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Kilkeel, Lurgan, Magherafelt, Newcastle, Newry, Omagh, Portadown.

Successful Organisations

- Avanta Enterprise Ltd
- Reed in Partnership
- Sencia Ltd
- Maximus Employment & Training Ltd
- South West College

G4S has withdrawn from the competition for the Steps 2 Success competition for Contract Area 3.

North Coast College: Body Workshop Course

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of whether insurance costs have prevented students from (i) attending the Body Workshop course at the North Coast College; (ii) attaining placements within the industry; and to detail the action he will take to assist these students and the college.

(AQW 30004/11-15)

Dr Farry: Students attending the Vehicle Body and Paint course at the North West Regional College are participants on my Department's Training for Success programme.

All Suppliers delivering the Training for Success programme have a contractual obligation to ensure that every participant is fully insured during their time in training. Suppliers must also ensure that employers offering work placements hold appropriate insurance.

North West Regional College has assured my officials that no one has been prevented from attending the Vehicle Body and Paint course due to any issue with insurance.

Whilst it is accepted that difficulties exist in securing work placements, insurance costs cannot be isolated as the only factor; the present economic conditions have also contributed to the availability of work placements.

College records show that there are currently 27 participants on the Vehicle Body and Paint course, with 21 participants placed with employers. Please be assured that college staff will continue to engage with employers and make every effort to secure work placements for all participants on the Training for Success programme.

IT Sector: Skill Shortage

Mr Rogers asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline what steps his Department is taking to address the skill shortage that exists within the IT sector, given the continued inward investment by multi national companies.

(AQW 30201/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Assured Skills programme in partnership with Invest NI is designed to help attract new foreign direct investment companies to Northern Ireland, by assuring them that the skills they need to be successful are available in Northern Ireland.

Employers within the IT sector have raised concerns regarding skill shortages and the impact they are having on their ability to grow the sector. In response to those concerns I convened an ICT working group, to identify the skills challenges faced by the sector and put in place an ICT Skills Action Plan which sets out how these issues will be addressed by business, Government and education and training providers in the short, medium and longer term.

The ICT Skills Action Plan was launched in June 2012 and implementation of the actions has been progressing steadily. This work is having a positive impact on the skills shortages in the sector.

Applications to IT-related degrees at our local universities have risen by over 24% in the last year alone and new initiatives continue to be taken forward.

Three cohorts of the Software Testers Academy have been completed. The latest cohort, completed in December 2013, saw 27 students trained as software testers with 21 students finding full time employment in the sector. Four students are currently seeking employment whilst two other students left the course and gained employment.

The Cloud Academy, which provides unemployed graduates with the skills and experience required to take up exciting new opportunities within the cloud computing sector, is an ongoing academy which commenced in September 2013, with 14 students currently being trained. Training will be completed by May 2014.

A Big Data (Deloitte Analytic Training Academy) has also been taken forward. This academy involved a nine week intensive training programme targeted at graduates and provided 17 students with the skills and accredited qualifications identified by Deloitte for new job opportunities in their Belfast Office.

My officials have also worked together with the Department of Finance and Personnel and local ICT employers to develop a Public/Private ICT Apprenticeship scheme. The pilot scheme, launched in August 2012 resulted in 32 apprentices being recruited and trained for the ICT sector. A second cohort of the scheme was launched in August 2013, in response to employer demand, which led to 42 apprentices being recruited. My officials are also working to develop the scheme and launch it in the North West to support employers in that area.

The Department has also worked with local Colleges to develop a Software Professional Course. The course is due to commence on 3 February 2014 and will provide the re-skilling of 250 non-ICT HND or graduates over the next three years.

Both of our local universities are now offering MSc courses for non-IT graduates that have resulted in over 200 graduates receiving training to ensure they are ready to work in the local ICT sector.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the ICT Skills Working Group, the Department of Education has worked with CCEA and local employers to develop a new A level curriculum in 'Software Systems Development'. This A level is now available in schools and the first teaching of the course began in September 2013. Local employers have been working with teachers to ensure they are capable of delivering the new curriculum.

Another significant development is the arrangement between e-skills UK, Sentinus and Momentum to raise the awareness and attractiveness of the ICT sector across all levels of education – from primary school right through to university.

Support for the implementation of the ICT Skills Action Plan has been widespread. In September 2013 I attended a Digital Summit, organised by Momentum, the IT trade association in Northern Ireland. The Summit was extremely positive, attracting involvement from all the stakeholders involved in the ICT sector, including a number of my Ministerial colleagues, to address the issues of access to skills, access to funds and access to markets.

The Summit provided an open forum to discuss the skills requirements of the sector and all stakeholders endorsed the progress being made as a result of the implementation of the ICT Action Plan.

However, it is imperative that we continue to strive to ensure this extremely important sector is supported by a suitably skilled workforce. For that reason the ICT Skills Working Group met again in December 2013 with the purpose of reviewing the ICT Skills Action Plan to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the local ICT sector.

The Group agreed an updated and refreshed ICT Skills Action Plan which will soon be available via my Department's website.

Expenditure on Ministerial Travel

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the total expenditure on Ministerial travel from (i) January to June 2013; and (ii) July to December 2013.

(AQW 30356/11-15)

Dr Farry: From January to June 2013 the total expenditure for Ministerial overseas travel was £1,963; and from July to December 2013 the total expenditure was £4,612.

These figures include travel by train, aeroplane and hire car.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Tourism: Scotch-Irish Community in the USA

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) any proposals to promote tourism to the Scotch-Irish community in the USA during 2014; and (ii) the total cost of any such plans.

(AQW 29754/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The Scots-Irish community in the USA is an important market for us to target in our marketing efforts.

As specified in its Business Plan 2014, Tourism Ireland proposes to highlight Northern Ireland to the Scots-Irish community at a number of events this year. The most prestigious event is the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia, which takes place in October and attracts up to 80,000 individuals of Scots and Scots-Irish descent over a two-day weekend cultural festival featuring music, entertainment, educational and sporting events.

Tourism Ireland plans to hold a festival opening night networking event; to sponsor the festival's music stage and music group "Stonewall"; to provide a tourist information booth with the participation of

the Ulster-Scots Association and the Ulster Historical Foundation; and to sponsor the Scots-Irish chef Judith McLoughlin, who will lecture on Scots-Irish cuisine and tours to NI.

Other events targeting the US market (including the Scots-Irish Community) which will provide opportunities for highlighting NI as a tourism destination, and to promote Scots-Irish connections between NI and the US, planned by Tourism Ireland throughout the year, include:

- The USA PGA Merchandising Show in Orlando, Florida, which attracts over 40,000 golf professionals and representation from all 50 US states and 74 other countries.
- Sales blitzes in Atlanta, Florida, Texas, Chicago/Boston and in Canada.
- At food fairs in Austin, Texas and Aspen, Colorado.
- At the Barclay's Championship PGA Golf tour and at the Deutsche Bank PGA Golf Championship in Boston.

Tourism Ireland's total budget for marketing both Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland in North America in 2014 is £8.6 million - this includes all promotional activity targeting the Scots-Irish community.

Farm Safety Measures: Budget

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the amount in her budget that has been allocated for farm safety measures in (i) 2014; (ii) 2015; and (iii) 2016.

(AQW 29949/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In 2014/15 the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) has committed over £350,000 towards its farm safety programme. This programme includes expenditure on a farm safety media campaign, a child safety campaign, farm safety awareness days and a farm safety focus at several agricultural shows.

In addition to this programme expenditure HSENI has a dedicated team of staff working on farm safety issues. Other HSENI staff also contribute to specific farm safety activities, for example the 1000 farm advisory visits currently underway.

HSENI will continue to work hard with the other partners in the Farm Safety Partnership to maximise the resources available to address farm safety issues in Northern Ireland.

The NI Executive has yet to agree and allocate budgets for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Ministerial Visits

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of ministerial visits she has made to each constituency since April 2011.

(AQW 29964/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information sought is not readily available and may only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Companies in County Fermanagh: InvestNI Funding

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the companies located in County Fermanagh; and (ii) the amount of funding each company has received from InvestNI since 2008.

(AQW 29965/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI does not hold information on (i) all the companies located in County Fermanagh; however, the table below shows (ii) those companies located in County Fermanagh that have received an offer of financial support from Invest NI during the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2013.

Assistance Offered by Invest NI to Companies Located in County Fermanagh (2008-09 to 2012-13)

Name	Assistance Offered (£)
Access Rescue Consulting at Height (ARCH)	6,700
Acheson & Glover Limited	46,160
Acorn Wood Mouldings Limited	81,201
Acos (N.I.) Limited	43,234
Annan Interiors Limited	7,435
B.McCaffery & Sons Limited	6,372
Balcas Limited	1,313
Balcas Timber Limited	703,010
Balfour Quarries	52,750
Barnlee Residential Home	2,550
Beenificial Ltd	6,980
Belcoo Pharmacy	2,659
Belle Isle Limited	17,030
Belmore Court Motel	125,868
Belmore Meats	9,178
Best Choice Garage Doors Ltd	6,100
B-In-Control Ltd	7,200
Bite Snack Foods Ltd	259,815
Bosk Ltd	10,920
Brownlees Bramleys	4,000
Care Direct 24/7 Ltd	43,094
Carewell Homes	2,600
CashTrail Ltd	45,000
Cassidy and Clarke	1,000
Castle Hume Leisure Limited	24,800
Cherrytree Home Bakery Ltd	4,000
Chimtechnology Ltd	4,000
Clareview Leisure	4,000
Class A Guttering Ltd	1,280
Conscape Ltd	474
Conwell Contracts (UK) Limited	60,640
Corsenshin Farm	9,725
Courtney's Garage Ltd	5,252
Crawford Brothers	16,072

Name	Assistance Offered (£)
Crust & Crumb Bakery Ltd	108,681
Customs House	5,850
CVC Technologies Ltd	19,314
Dairy Produce Packers Limited	15,000
Damiraco Limited	112,090
David Robert Mahon Ltd	5,840
Deane Public Works Limited	18,577
Devine and Associates Ltd	34,408
Discovery 80 Limited	1,650
Donor2Deed Limited	266,948
Douglass Windows (PVCu) Ltd	3,164
Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre	20,362
Easy Recycle Ltd	4,000
Elite Electronic Systems Ltd	244,766
Emerging Group Limited	7,200
Empire Meats Ltd	303,970
Enviro Care NI Ltd	4,000
Erne Extrusions Ltd	292,909
Erne Management Limited	16,413
Erne Stone	4,000
F Flynn Engineering	250
Fabric Fashion	11,036
Fairsandmarkets.com Limited	4,000
Fermanagh Lakeland Lodges	25,187
Fermanagh Properties Limited	49,871
Flynn's Fine Foods	8,615
Furnish Kennels	1,956
Future Renewables	36,560
Global Safety Management Ltd	5,000
Gormley Kitchens Ltd	3,108
GR White & Son Ltd	52,218
Greentown Environmental Ltd	27,135
Hill Head Engineering	1,950
Hillcrest Energy	4,000

Name	Assistance Offered (£)
Hybrid Mail Solutions Limited	38,768
iGeneration Marketing Limited	4,000
Inishmacsaintbrewery Ltd	4,410
Inspire Architectural Design	2,610
Interviews 123 Limited	1,800
ITS Plant-Tech Ltd	4,383
J.M. Engineering Limited	16,000
Jak-A-Box Limited	35,121
JCP (NI) LTD	1,000
JG Crushing and Recycling Limited	8,648
John J. Sloan and Sons Limited	855
Kerry Foods Enniskillen	12,786
KERRY GROUP PLC	1,261
Kettle Foods Ltd	153,154
Keys & Monaghan Architects Limited	1,568
Killyhevlin Hotel Limited	31,778
Kilmore Quay Resort Limited	2,740
Lady Muck Compost	16,250
Lakeland Communications Limited	19,000
Lakeland Computer Consultancy Services Ltd	66,114
Lakeland Electrical Services (NI) Ltd	21,000
Lakeland Seaplane Tours Ltd	9,022
Liberty HR	2,489
Lissan Foods Limited	4,512
Lough Erne Floating Classroom Community Interest Company	7,000
Luxrobes	12,810
M.W. CAD Solutions Ltd	14,000
Mahons Hotel	44,084
Manor House Country Hotel Limited	216,588
Manor House Marine & Cottages Limited	20,868
McCusker Engineering	1,950
McElwaine Electrical	118,911
McElwaine Security Services Limited	85,750
McElwaine Smart Technologies Ltd	121,305

Name	Assistance Offered (£)
McElwaine Technical Services Limited	49,021
McHugh Fuels Ltd	3,046
McPhillips Flyties	1,500
Millars Meats	4,000
MJS Environmental Ltd	8,460
Modern Tyre Service	1,250
Naman Leisure Ltd	4,000
OMJ Limited	146,514
Outer Space (E) Limited	4,000
P Clarke & Sons Limited	67,647
P I K Engineering Limited	4,000
Petal Postforming Limited	270,200
PM Processing Limited	4,000
Porsha Bespoke Limited	75,722
Precision Repair Solutions Limited	760
Prunty Peat Limited	31,250
Quay Garden Structures	3,170
Quinn Glass Limited	83,791
Ready Egg Products Limited	91,078
Rockview Engineering Ltd	16,918
Sean Quinn Concrete Ltd	924
Select Security & Electrical Supplies Ltd	10,000
SHAZZAM	4,710
Sloane Helicopters (Sales) Limited	49,126
Steel Solutions (N.I.) Limited	800
Steppingstone Timber Products	3,078
Struct Steel Engineering	3,178
Teemore Engineering Limited	56,213
Tenderlean Meats Limited	72,852
Terawatt UK Ltd	20,287
The Belleek Pottery, Limited	3,525
The Celebration Candle Company	11,535
The Golf Cabin	4,000
The Oil Market Journal	13,001

Name	Assistance Offered (£)
The Sean Quinn Group Ltd	4,620
The Sheelin Cottage Bread Company	3,560
The Traditional Food Company	1,000
Thomond Underwriting Limited	64,838
Tickety-Moo Limited	4,000
Tracey Concrete Limited	83
Trunk Flooring Limited	144,801
Tully Meadows Limited	3,200
Upscale Marketing	14,400
Vguard International Ltd	119,951
Vibe FM Community Radio Limited	5,000
Webtech (N.I.) Limited	1,014,185
Western Brand Poultry Products (NI) Ltd	814,425
Westville Hotel Ltd	118,691
Zenox Health Limited	14,700

Note: There were 20 offers totalling almost £78,000 made to individuals, who cannot be included in the table due to data protection regulations.

Businesses: InvestNI Assistance

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of business plans that have received InvestNI assistance; and (ii) the number of new businesses that have emerged as a direct result of InvestNI assistance, in the last 12 months.

(AQW 29981/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) Invest NI receives applications for support in many different formats, including Business Plans, Training Plans, Research & Development Plans, Application Forms etc. As a consequence, Invest NI offered support to 4,986 projects in the last financial year (2012-13), 171 of which were classified as new business start-ups. However, it is not possible to provide a more detailed analysis by type of application format used.
- (ii) During the same period Invest NI offered support to 1,574 additional new business start-ups through the Regional Start Initiative (formerly the Enterprise Development Programme).

Energy Issues: British Irish Council and the North South Ministerial Council

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the ministerial meetings on energy issues which have taken place under the auspices of (i) the British Irish Council, including the reasons for the lack of meetings; and (ii) the North South Ministerial Council.

(AQW 29983/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Details of meetings, including Ministerial meetings, held under the auspices of the British Irish Council are available from the following website: www.britishirishcouncil.org. In each case the published communiqué provides details of issues discussed, including, where appropriate, energy issues.

Details of meetings under the auspices of the North South Ministerial Council and reports on issues discussed, including, where appropriate, energy issues are available from the following website: www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org.

Employment Contracts

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the proportion of jobs (i) created; and (ii) promoted which are (a) permanent contracts versus fixed term; and (b) full-time versus part-time employment, for the most recent consecutive five years for which data is available.

(AQW 30016/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI reports jobs on a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) basis. During the period 2008-09 to 2012-13, Invest NI promoted 31,787 FTE jobs. Invest NI's support for job promotion is conditional on the maintenance of the employment created for a minimum of five years (three years in the case of SMEs). Therefore, all Invest NI employment-related assistance relates to permanent jobs.

Invest NI currently only reports on the number of jobs that have been created through the Jobs Fund. Since the scheme's inception in 2011-12 and 31 December 2013, it has created 4,177 new jobs.

InvestNI Resources: Jobs

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the amount of InvestNI resources which were targeted towards jobs in the promoted category versus jobs created category, for the most recent consecutive five years for which data is available.

(AQW 30017/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI currently reports on the basis of jobs promoted by the companies it supports. Grant support is offered at the start of a project based on a company's commitment to create a set number of new jobs. These jobs are known as promoted jobs. Funding for these jobs is then paid as the new jobs are filled by the company. These are known as created jobs; therefore, created jobs are a product of promoted jobs.

The table below shows the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI to promote jobs in the last five full financial years (2008/09 to 2012/13).

INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO JOB RELATED PROJECTS (2008-09 TO 2012-13)

	Assistance Offered £m
2008-09	76.11
2009-10	78.88
2010-11	52.59
2011-12	31.20
2012-13	49.15

Ministerial Meetings on Tourism Issues

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the ministerial meetings on tourism issues which have taken place under the auspices of (i) the British Irish Council; and (ii) the North South Ministerial Council, since May 2007.

(AQW 30033/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There were three British Irish Council Summit meetings between May 2007 and September 2008 at which Tourism issues were on the agenda and discussed. Since then my Department has provided briefing specifically requested on tourism issues related to broader agenda items on two occasions (June 2010 and June 2013).

There have been ten North South Ministerial Council meetings in Tourism Sectoral format since May 2007.

Ministerial Meetings on Trade Issues

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the ministerial meetings on trade issues which have taken place under the auspices of (i) the British Irish Council; and (ii) the North South Ministerial Council, since May 2007.

(AQW 30056/11-15)

Mrs Foster: A total of 10 North South Ministerial Council Trade and Business Development sectoral meetings have taken place since May 2007.

Trade is not one of the twelve mandated British Irish Council work sectors.

Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of applications by NI Electricity to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation for the connection of renewable projects, including the number of those that were successful, for each month since January 2012.

(AQW 30076/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland Electricity advises that it does not apply to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation for the connection of renewable projects.

Prepayment Meters for Electricity

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the definition used by her Department for self-disconnection of electricity; and (ii) the number of households that currently use prepayment meters for electricity, including the percentage of prepayment electricity users that self-disconnect at least (a) once per year; (b) twice per year; and (c) once per month.

(AQW 30079/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) While the term “self-disconnection” is not defined in legislation, there are provisions in legislation and supplier licences to protect customers from disconnection.
- (ii) I am informed by the Regulator that as at October 2013, there were 304,098 domestic prepayment customers out of a total of 781,257 domestic customers. I am further informed that the Regulator does not hold information on the percentage of electricity users that self-disconnect.

Foreign Investment in South Down

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how her Department is working to attract foreign investment to South Down.

(AQW 30107/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest Northern Ireland competes for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the global market. Invest NI promotes Northern Ireland as an attractive and viable location for inward investment opportunities to new investors, along with the parent companies of existing foreign owned investors. Northern Ireland’s investment proposition is therefore promoted on the basis of a talented and loyal workforce, advanced telecoms infrastructure, highly skilled business clusters, a pro-business environment, competitive operating costs and proximity to major markets.

The requirements will vary depending on the nature of the project, but a company will typically look at existing investors in the same business sector (Invest NI’s key target sectors being ICT, business

services, financial services and renewables); universities and colleges that offer courses relating to that sector; and suitable, available property.

Areas in which these desired features do not exist, or are not clearly presented, are unlikely to attract the attention of potential investors to visit or locate in the area. In addition, potential investors are often drawn to population centres that they consider will provide the appropriate number of suitably skilled potential employees. Therefore a clear understanding and evidence of skill demographics for any region would greatly assist a potential investor in considering a particular area.

This understanding and appreciation of South Down's key demographics and area attributes is achieved through direct engagement with interested parties. Invest NI is working closely with both Down and Newry & Mourne Councils, and other stakeholders, to develop a sales proposition which shows the strengths and opportunities in their respective areas which will attract potential inward investors to visit, locate there and grow in the surrounding South Down area.

Invest NI has also developed an 'FDI app' and a 'District Council App' which will help present a snapshot of the benefits of setting up in Northern Ireland to potential investors. Both Down and Newry & Mourne Area Councils have indicated that they wish to be involved and Invest NI is working with them on this to develop these downloadable mobile applications which will form part of each Council, or group of Councils, promotional toolkit highlighting each Council area's attractiveness as a potential investment location.

As the South Down offering develops, both councils should reflect this by updating the 'FDI app' and continuing engagement with Invest NI's Southern Regional Office - located in Newry. Continued engagement with Government to develop South Down as a competitive destination, development of relevant skills and increased availability of sites ready for business investment, all have the potential to improve South Down's visible proposition and place it in further contention to attract inward investment.

Ultimately however, the investor will make the decision as to where they locate based on their specific business needs and having considered the options available to them. I hope this provides clarification on your query. Please be assured, that my Department, including Invest NI, are working hard to improve the economic wellbeing of the whole of Northern Ireland.

North West Regional Science Park

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on InvestNI's progress in attracting tenants to the North West Regional Science Park.
(AQW 30119/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The North West Regional Science Park (NWRSP) is due for completion in August 2014 and as such, is not yet part of the Northern Ireland proposition, nor the current offering for the Foyle Constituency in attracting potential Foreign Direct Investors. Invest NI overseas sales teams are aware of the future development of the NWRSP but the lack of a completed physical entity has to date meant no commitment has been secured for an investor to locate there.

However, my Department looks forward to the completion of the NWRSP as the success of this project and the increased availability of sites ready for business investment, all have the potential to improve the North West region's visible proposition and place it in further contention to attract inward investment.

Commonwealth Games 2014

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail her Department's strategy for maximising the benefit of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, including its representation at the games.
(AQW 30129/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The 2014 Commonwealth Games offer the opportunity to highlight Northern Ireland to local and visiting international media and participants alike.

My Department, through Tourism Ireland, will identify tour operators in relevant Commonwealth countries who are packaging trips to the Games and work to influence them to include Northern Ireland in their programmes. Tourism Ireland will also work with Games committee members and others to identify any other avenues for promoting Northern Ireland.

Whilst plans are not yet finalised, engagement with the media is underway and potential activity will be rolled out through traditional and social media in advance of, during and after the Games.

Any representation at the Games will be considered as plans progress.

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and InvestNI: Agri-Food Event

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the involvement of the British Embassy in Washington D.C. in the recent agri-food event in Beltville, in which Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and InvestNI participated; and (ii) the involvement of the Irish Embassy.

(AQW 30145/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Bureau was heavily involved in initiating the lead role for Northern Ireland in securing an opportunity for the Agri Food and Biosciences Institute's Director of Sustainable Agri Food Science and five other senior scientific staff to attend and speak at the four day conference in November 2013.

The Bureau, with the support of Invest NI North America, also assisted by arranging a broader itinerary aimed at maximising the time the scientists could engage with a wider scientific audience. Relevant representatives from the Canadian and Irish embassies and the US Department of Agriculture were also present at the Forum. Invest NI North America provided financial support of \$5,000 towards the costs of the event.

The Irish Embassy played no part in organising the Forum. The Agricultural Attaché at the Irish Embassy attended some elements of the Forum and provided support to the four person team from Teagasc, the Republic of Ireland's agri-food body, who travelled to the US to participate in the Forum. Teagasc attendance at the Forum was discussed in advance between the Chief Executive of AFBI and the Head of Research and Development at Teagasc.

Electricity Generation Infrastructure

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the construction of electricity generation infrastructure will be subject to the allocation of full planning permission before any contractual arrangements are made.

(AQW 30169/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Planning permission and the conditions attached to such permission, if required, are matters for the Department of the Environment. Where any person seeking a grant of planning permission in relation to electricity infrastructure decides to enter into contractual commitments prior to obtaining that permission, that is a commercial decision and not a matter within the scope of my Department's functions.

InvestNI: Rockabill NI Ltd

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether InvestNI has provided Rockabill NI Ltd advice or financial support; and if so, to provide details of this advice or support.

(AQW 30197/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI has not provided any financial support or advice to Rockabill NI Ltd.

Decentralisation of Jobs

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given that Belfast is the most congested city in the UK, to outline how her Department is working to decentralise jobs, in particular IT roles, from Belfast.

(AQW 30198/11-15)

Mrs Foster: It is important to note that Invest NI does not determine the location of an inward investment project and is not in a position to sign up to sub-regional targets including decentralisation of jobs created from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects won. Northern Ireland competes for FDI against some much larger nation states. In order to maximise our presence in overseas markets, Invest NI focuses on selling Northern Ireland as a whole.

A typical FDI investor will make the decision as to where they locate based on their specific business needs having weighed up the options available to them - taking into account existing investors in the same business sector, universities and colleges that offer courses relating to that sector; suitable, available property and population centres that they consider will provide the appropriate number of suitably skilled potential employees.

As noted by the Independent Review of Economic Policy, it is important to allow companies the scope to locate where they can operate most profitably. To do otherwise would be detrimental to the chances of securing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Northern Ireland.

In compliance with European Commission's Regional Aid Guidelines, Invest NI can negotiate varying levels of Selective Financial Assistance (SFA) dependent upon where potential investors may choose to locate. Geographically, there are only two categories for consideration, which are FDI projects locating within 1) Belfast District Council Area and 2) Rest of Northern Ireland. The maximum contribution that Invest NI can make to a project under SFA is determined by the European Commission's Regional Aid Guidelines. Currently the maximum additional contribution threshold for a potential FDI project locating outside Belfast DCA is 5% more than the maximum contribution that can be offered towards the same project locating within Belfast DCA.

Within the maximum contribution levels Invest NI will negotiate different levels of support taking into consideration factors such as job quality, a project's impact on local employment, availability of labour etc. Once again, it should be stressed that the investor will make the decision as to where they locate based on their specific business needs and having weighed up the options available to them.

The Independent Review of Economic Policy also acknowledged Invest NI's approach to Inward Investment as being the most appropriate, recognised the importance of FDI in building a more dynamic and innovative private sector and acknowledged that, per capita, Northern Ireland has been one of the most successful UK regions at attracting FDI.

Farm Safety Measures

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the level of funding her Department apportioned to on-farm safety measures in each of the last three years, including each project that received funding.

(AQW 30202/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment continues to raise awareness of key safety messages for the farming industry through the work of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI).

In 2011/12, £75,000 was attributed to the delivery of farm safety messages by the HSENI. In response to the increase in farming fatalities, the expenditure was increased to exceed £400,000 in 2012/13. Within the first three quarters of the current financial year (2013/14), over £300,000 has been dedicated to creating a safety first culture amongst the farming community through media, education, publication and events.

DARD also provides ongoing financial contributions towards the work of the HSENI in this area, by means of their involvement in the Farm Safety Partnership and through funding towards the farm safety media campaign. The DARD contributions are included in the figures shown above.

Kurdistan Regional Government

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, following recent activity between Northern Ireland and the Kurdistan Regional Government, what potential exists for firms based in the East Londonderry constituency to build trade links.

(AQW 30204/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Kurdistan is a market with potential for Northern Ireland companies. It is, however, not a market for inexperienced exporters. Companies will need to visit this market regularly over a reasonable time period and research the market before selecting the correct partner. Invest NI has worked with a number of businesses located in the East Londonderry constituency, from across a range of industry sectors. Many have been introduced to potential customers or have discussed opportunities in the Kurdistan region.

Newsprint Limited: Local Newsagents

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what representations she has made to Newsprint Limited in relation to the substantial increase in service charges to local newsagents.

(AQW 30225/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The issue of a service charge increase by Newsprint Limited has not been raised with me therefore no representations have been made. I have asked my officials to investigate this issue.

The National Federation of Retail Newsagents (NFRN) representatives have raised the issue of a separate increase in carriage charges by EM News. DETI Officials met with representatives from the NFRN on 27 November 2013 to discuss that issue and with representatives from the Competition & Markets Authority on 4 February 2014 to outline the concerns expressed by NFRN members.

Third Sector Organisations Funded by Department

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the departmentally funded third sector organisations providing services to the public; and (ii) the value of each funding package.

(AQW 30236/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

(I) Departmentally Funded Third Sector Organisation	(II) Value of Each Funding Package
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (Service Level Agreement 2013/14)	£120,000
Mourne Heritage Trust (Service Level Agreement 2013/14)	£ 55,000
Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (Service Level Agreement 2013/14)	£ 20,000
Visit Belfast – Business 2 Business (Service Level Agreement 2013/14)	£225,000
Visit Belfast – Visitor Information (Service Level Agreement 2013/14)	£177,000
Social Enterprise Northern Ireland	Maximum of £450,000 over 3 years

(I) Departmentally Funded Third Sector Organisation	(II) Value of Each Funding Package
AdviceNI funded through a commercially tendered 3 year contract to deliver debt advice across NI. We do not fund AdviceNI as a third sector body other than through the commercial contract and we have no long or medium term commitment to fund outside of this contract.	2012/13 £669,374 2013/14 £953,808 2014/15 £955,430

Tamboran Resources: Figures

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) whether she is aware of discrepancies between the figures presented to her Department by Tamboran Resources and the figures presented by AMEC plc in the UK Strategic Environmental Assessment; (ii) for her assessment and explanation of those discrepancies; (iii) what independent verification of Tamboran's figures her Department has completed; and (iv) what independent verification will her Department carry out on onshore petroleum licence holders.

(AQW 30251/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) Yes.
- (ii) The figures presented by Tamboran Resources relate to the possible development of shale gas in the Lough Allen Basin (including parts of County Fermanagh) whereas the figures produced by AMEC relate to future shale gas development in Great Britain. Different development scenarios and parameter values are used in the two models.
- (iii) Any estimates about the financial benefits that might arise from shale gas development depend on the production scenario used in the calculation, and ultimately on the quantity and quality of the reserves and the costs of production. At this stage of exploration, before any deep boreholes have been drilled, figures produced in connection with any future shale gas production inevitably contain a large degree of uncertainty and must be treated with caution.
- (iv) My Department will carry out verification of information presented by onshore petroleum licence holders as and when it is appropriate to do so.

Port of Larne: Job Promotion

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assistance her Department can provide to the Port of Larne for job promotion and creation measures.

(AQW 30260/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI principally supports businesses in the manufacturing and tradeable services sectors to grow through support for a range of activities including research and development, people management, strategic development, e-business, environmental impact and export development.

Invest NI has previously provided support to the Port of Larne through a Carbon Trust Loan and a scoping study into opportunities within the sustainable energy supply chain.

Invest NI continues to engage with the Port of Larne to scope any potential project and provide advice on the potential for Invest NI to support the growth of the business and create additional jobs. Invest NI may be able to provide further support to the Port of Larne in the future based on the business satisfying Invest NI eligibility criteria and Invest NI intervention principles.

Irish Bank Officials Association: Job Cuts

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with the senior management of The Ulster Bank or The Royal Bank of Scotland in relation to the Irish

Bank Officials Association fears that an announcement of compulsory job cuts, reductions to pay and further branch closures is imminent.

(AQW 30478/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Banking is a reserved matter and, as such, my Department has no statutory oversight of the banking sector. However, I recognise the importance of growing the financial sector in Northern Ireland. I am also aware of the challenges banks are facing as they seek to recapitalise and restructure and the implications this has on local operations and staff.

Along with the Finance Minister, I meet with representatives from Ulster Bank on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues including restructuring and the impact this may have on Northern Ireland. We are scheduled to meet with Ulster Bank officials again on 20 February. At this meeting I will be seeking an update on proposed branch closures and job losses and will emphasise how important it is that senior management in these banks are working to minimise the impacts of these closures.

Department of the Environment

Planning Application K/2013/0072/F

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to planning application K/2013/0072/F, to detail (i) the current status of the planning application; (ii) why he announced approval of a goldmine in Gortin, near Omagh, on 4 December 2012; and (iii) the outstanding issues that are currently referred to on his Department's website.

(AQW 29650/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): The current status of this application is 'Permission Granted' as of 22 January 2014.

The 4 December announcement I made followed a presentation to the Omagh District Council with an opinion to approve application K/2013/0072/F to the Omagh District Council's November Planning Committee meeting. Having heard subsequent representations from 3rd parties, I had instructed my officials to consider their concerns before the issue of formal planning approval.

The outstanding issues referred to on the Portal related to the preparation and issue of formal planning approval.

Listed Buildings in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 29284/11-15, why his Department is operating on the 1974 boundaries.

(AQW 29721/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The 'listing' of buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' was introduced in 1973. Since then, all historic buildings have been given a seven figure reference number to identify them, both for internal record purposes, as well as for consistency for external, interested parties - including owners. These figures happen to relate to the district council area and electoral ward in which they were located in 1974 - for example - the Town Hall at Bangor Castle is recorded as HB 23/07/001A, with 'HB 23' being the North Down Council area.

The Department's focus is upon identifying and protecting listed buildings. Changing references to reflect changing electoral boundaries has a significant resource implication, and would be potentially confusing to owners and researchers.

Drivers: Fatal Road Accidents

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment how many (i) men; and (ii) women aged (a) 17-19; (b) 20-29; (c) 30-39; (d) 40-49; (e) 50-59; (f) 60-69; (g) 70-79; (h) 80-89; and (i) over 90 years old hold a

valid driving licence; and how many drivers in each category have been the contributing driver in fatal road accidents in each year since 2004.

(AQW 29954/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Details of the number of licence holders with entitlement to drive cars or motorcycles in each of the age categories requested is attached at Annex A. Figures include those with Group 1 licence entitlement – i.e. cars and motorcycles and do not include those with entitlement to drive Group 2 vehicles (lorry and bus) as these drivers hold entitlement to drive cars in addition to the Group 2 entitlement.

It should be noted that drivers with motorcycle entitlement may also hold entitlement to drive a car, so the 2 tables should not be totalled.

Figures in relation to drivers who have been the contributing driver in fatal road accidents in each year since 2004 by age are attached at Annex B. These figures have been supplied by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Please note that these figures are based on the perception of responsibility by the police officer at the time of the collision. This data is collated for statistics purposes only and does not reflect the outcome of any court proceeding.

ANNEX A

BREAKDOWN OF LICENCE HOLDERS BY GENDER, AGE AND ENTITLEMENT PRIVATE CARS / LIGHT VANS (AT 30 SEPT 2013)

		Entitlement				
Gender	Age (years)	Full	Full (Restricted)	Passed (not upgraded)	Provisional	Grand Total
Female	15 - 16	0	0	0	373	373
	17 - 19	12,501	18	284	11,635	24,438
	20 - 29	86,726	1,022	575	21,598	109,921
	30 - 39	95,983	836	251	8,969	106,039
	40 - 49	104,309	564	72	5,011	109,956
	50 - 59	86,921	468	13	2,811	90,213
	60 - 69	64,030	470	*	1,217	65,719
	70 - 79	33,944	300	*	161	34,405
	80 - 89	10,104	112	*	*	10,236
	90+	555	10	*	*	567
Total		495,073	3,800	1,197	51,797	551,867

		Entitlement				
Gender	Age (years)	Full	Full (Restricted)	Passed (not upgraded)	Provisional	Grand Total
Male	15 - 16	*	*	*	1,130	1,131
	17 - 19	14,290	18	214	11,846	26,368
	20 - 29	88,883	739	546	23,043	113,211
	30 - 39	100,320	445	282	8,856	109,903

Gender	Age (years)	Entitlement			Provisional	Grand Total
		Full	Full (Restricted)	Passed (not upgraded)		
	40 - 49	113,193	402	87	5,238	118,920
	50 - 59	99,703	403	19	3,080	103,205
	60 - 69	78,071	405	*	1,674	80,155
	70 - 79	45,420	286	0	402	46,108
	80 - 89	15,722	107	0	53	15,882
	90+	1,250	*	*	*	1,253
Male Total		556,852	2,808	1,153	55,323	616,136

These are DOE Official Statistics

* Small number suppressed to protect individual confidentiality

ANNEX B

NUMBER OF DRIVERS¹ PERCEIVED TO BE RESPONSIBLE² FOR A FATAL COLLISION BY AGE GROUP AND GENDER 2004 TO OCTOBER 2013

		17-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
2004	Male	14	29	12	10	5	2	5	4	0	81
	Female	2	5	1	4	2	1	4	0	0	19
	Total	16	34	13	14	7	3	9	4	0	100
2005	Male	16	24	13	5	6	6	2	4	0	76
	Female	2	4	5	3	2	1	0	0	0	17
	Total	18	28	18	8	8	7	2	4	0	93
2006	Male	15	21	14	12	7	4	0	1	0	74
	Female	0	7	3	2	1	2	0	1	0	16
	Total	15	28	17	14	8	6	0	2	0	90
2007	Male	16	21	13	10	4	6	5	2	0	77
	Female	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	12
	Total	17	24	15	11	5	8	6	3	0	89
2008	Male	15	24	8	12	8	1	2	1	1	72
	Female	0	4	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	10
	Total	15	28	8	13	8	2	6	1	1	82
2009	Male	8	27	13	8	10	1	2	2	1	72
	Female	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Total	11	32	13	8	10	1	2	2	1	80

		17-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
2010	Male	8	11	6	4	2	3	0	2	0	36
	Female	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Total	9	11	7	5	2	3	0	3	0	40
2011	Male	7	7	3	4	2	2	2	2	0	29
	Female	1	3	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	11
	Total	8	10	6	6	2	3	3	2	0	40
2012	Male	2	7	6	5	2	3	2	1	1	29
	Female	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
	Total	4	8	7	6	2	3	2	2	1	35
(to 31 Oct) 2013	Male	3	15	4	3	2	2	0	1	0	30
	Female	1	3	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	9
	Total	4	18	6	3	2	2	3	1	0	39

- 1 Includes all drivers of vehicles which require a valid driving licence with the exception of quad bikes but excludes riders of pedal cycles, horses and other non motorised vehicles.
- 2 Responsibility is perceived by the officer at the time of the collision, is collated for statistics purposes only and would not necessarily reflect the outcome of any court proceedings.

Source: Statistics Branch, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh

Roadside Enforcement Initiative: Inspections

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment how many inspections under the Roadside Enforcement Initiative were carried out in (i) each county; and (ii) Belfast, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 29958/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Driver and Vehicle Agency publish an annual compendium of statistics which details total vehicle checks carried out by enforcement section. The reported statistics for the last three years are as follows:

2010/11	6086 checks
2011/12	6288 checks
2012/13	5706 checks

DVA does not routinely record vehicle checks by county, however, statistical analysis of enforcement data for 2012/13 shows the following:

County	Vehicle Checks 12/13
Antrim	887
Down	1164
Tyrone	972
Armagh	327
Fermanagh	234

County	Vehicle Checks 12/13
Derry	1134
Belfast	988
Total	5706

It has not been possible to provide figures in the format requested for 2010/11 or 2011/12.

Taxi Companies: Wheelchair Users

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment how his Department is ensuring that wheelchair users are not being overcharged by taxi companies.

(AQW 29976/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Equality Commission has advised that DDA legislation makes it unlawful for organisations such as transport service providers, including taxi operators, to discriminate against disabled people in the way in which they provide or do not provide their services.

Currently only Belfast Public Hire taxis operate under a regulated taximeter and fare regime. However, it is intended that the new Taximeter and Maximum Fare Regulations to be introduced in September 2014 will set a maximum fare tariff for all taxis in Northern Ireland and introduce a requirement for all taxis to fit a taximeter. These Regulations will make it an offence to charge any consumer more than the maximum fare regardless of the size and type of vehicle being provided, and will therefore provide protection for all taxi users.

Further to this, I have asked officials to liaise with Disability Action and the Inclusive Mobility & Transport Advisory Committee to see what further advice can be provided by the Department to operators regarding their responsibilities around these issues.

Taxi Companies: Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment how his Department is ensuring that taxi companies provide sufficient wheelchair accessible vehicles to meet demand.

(AQW 29977/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Whilst there is currently no requirement for operators to have a minimum number of wheelchair accessible vehicles in their fleet, my Department does however have powers under section 2(5) of the Taxis Act (NI) 2008 to specify a minimum percentage of taxis of a different class of use on an operator licence. We therefore keep the situation under review, to determine whether market activities achieve a balancing of supply and demand, or whether there is market failure requiring the Department to intervene.

As part of this, my Department has recently received the conclusions of research undertaken into the taxi industry in Northern Ireland, including the provision of wheelchair accessible vehicles. This research is currently being considered and will shortly be forwarded to the Environment Committee for their information.

The research will assist my Department in determining whether there is undersupply of wheelchair accessible vehicles in taxi fleets in Northern Ireland and, if this is the case, what actions may be appropriate to take to address this situation.

I would be content to share the results of the research with the Member upon its release to the Committee.

Enforcement Notices

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the enforcement notices served in November 2011, prior to the immunity timeframe change that were (i) appealed; (ii) successfully defended by the Department; and (iii) quashed.

(AQW 30001/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In November 2011 the Department served 110 Enforcement Notices. Of these 37 were appealed. Of the appeals heard, 14 were dismissed (notice upheld), 9 upheld (notice quashed). 7 notices were withdrawn by the Department, 6 appeals were withdrawn by the appellant and 1 made a nullity. The detail of this is laid out below.

Notice Reference	Site	Appeal Yes/No?	Appeal Outcome Notice upheld/ Notice quashed?	Date of Appeal Outcome
A/2010/0124CA	Adj to 15 Edenreagh Road, Eglinton,	Yes	Notice Upheld	11 February 2013
B/2008/0006CA	211 Seacoast Road, Limavady	Yes	Notice Quashed	21 December 2012
D/2009/0015CA	Village Inn, Bellaghy Rd, Dunloy	Yes	Notice Quashed	07 June 2012
D/2010/0041CA	195 Frosses Road, Dunloy	Yes	Notice Quashed	13 August 2012
E/2004/0056CA	Adj. 23 Ballinlea Rd, Ballycastle	Yes	Withdrawn by appellant	14 August 2012
EN/A/2007/0011/CA/01	Tullyally Road, Derry	Yes	Notice Quashed	28 August 2012
EN/A/2010/0246/CA/01	23 Heather Road, Derry	Yes	Notice Upheld	20 August 2013
EN/A/2010/0246/CA/01	23 Heather Road, Derry	Yes	Notice Upheld	20 August 2013
EN/G/2010/0073/CA/01	Land at the junction of Broughdone Lane / Shellinghill Road, Cullybackey	Yes	Notice Upheld	28 June 2012
EN/H/2007/0046/CA/01	Moneymore Rd, Magherafelt	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	11 September 2012
EN/I/2007/0003/CA/01	Killybearn Road, Cookstown	Yes	Withdrawn by appellant	27 September 2012
Notice Reference	Site	Appeal Yes/No?	Appeal Outcome Notice upheld/ Notice quashed?	Date of Appeal Outcome
EN/J/2008/0057/CA	Park Rd Strabane	Yes	Notice Upheld	01 August 2012
EN/K/2009/0130/CA	Tummery Rd Dromore	Yes	Notice Upheld	27 June 2012

Notice Reference	Site	Appeal Yes/No?	Appeal Outcome Notice upheld/ Notice quashed?	Date of Appeal Outcome
EN/M/2011/0012/CA	Rossmore Rd Dungannon	Yes	Notice Upheld	04 April 2013
EN/N/2011/0063/CA/01	Lands opposite and South of 66 Annesborough Road, Lurgan	Yes	Notice Upheld	07 October 2013
EN/O/2004/0084/CA/01	NWP, Cargaclogher Rd, Crossmaglen	Yes	Notice Quashed	01 February 2013
EN/P/2009/0245/CA/01	Approx 60 Metres NW of 16 Aughnaloooy RoadKilkeel	Yes	Notice Upheld	25 June 2013
EN/P/2010/0128/CA/01	OM Tyres, Chapel Hill Road, Mayobridge	Yes	Notice Quashed	20 November 2012
EN/P/2010/0258/CA/01	Adjacent to 37 Carrickrovaddy Road Dorsey	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	24 May 2012
EN/S/2006/0114/CA/02	39 Groganstown Road, Dunmurry	Yes	Notice Upheld	04 December 2012
EN/T/2005/0037/CA/01	Creeve Road, Randalstown	Yes	Notice Upheld	07 August 2013
EN/T/2007/0090/CA/01	Roguary Rd, Randalstown	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	28 December 2012
EN/T/2007/0090/CA/02	Roguary Rd, Randalstown	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	28 December 2012
Notice Reference	Site	Appeal Yes/No?	Appeal Outcome Notice upheld/ Notice quashed?	Date of Appeal Outcome
EN/T/2007/0090/CA/03	Roguary Rd, Randalstown	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	28 December 2012
EN/T/2009/0127/CA/01	Land North of 181 Templepatrick Road, Ballyclare	Yes	Withdrawn by appellant	25 February 2013
EN/T/2009/0127/CA/02	Land North of 181 Templepatrick Road, Ballyclare	Yes	Withdrawn by appellant	25 February 2013
EN/T/2011/0028/CA/02	Land at 15 Lurgan Road, Crumlin	Yes	Withdrawn by appellant	04 October 2012
EN/X/2005/0087/CA/01	Comber Bypass, Comber	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	22 November 2012

Notice Reference	Site	Appeal Yes/No?	Appeal Outcome Notice upheld/ Notice quashed?	Date of Appeal Outcome
EN/X/2005/0087/CA/02	Comber Bypass, Comber	Yes	Withdrawn by appellant	22 November 2012
R/2005/0067CA	Lands opposite 59 Clealough Road, Killyleagh	Yes	The Enforcement Notice is a nullity and there is therefore no valid appeal.	11 December 2012
R/2006/0164CA	Land adjacent to 183 Dundrum Road, Newcastle	Yes	Notice Quashed	30 December 2012
R/2008/0097CA	Land at 60 Valentia Place, Newcastle	Yes	Notice Quashed	13 June 2012
S/2006/0147CA	Lands adjacent to 23 Budore Road, BT29 4JD	Yes	Notice Upheld	08 October 2012
W/2006/0122CA	Lands adjacent to 50 Holywood Road, Newtownards	Yes	Withdrawn by Dept	10 October 2012
Notice Reference	Site	Appeal Yes/No?	Appeal Outcome Notice upheld/ Notice quashed?	Date of Appeal Outcome
X/2007/0228CA	Lands adjacent to Quintin Castle, 3 Kearney Road, Portaferry	Yes	Notice Upheld	28 August 2012
EN/Z/2007/0070/CA/01	56 The Boulevard, Wellington Square	Yes	Notice Quashed	20 August 2012
EN/Z/22010/0383/CA/01	Lands between Hope Street and Wellwood Street, to the rear of 69-85 Great Victoria Street and 54-78 Sandy Row, Belfast	Yes	Notice Upheld	05 November 2012

Hydroelectric Projects

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the status of the document, co-published by the Planning Service, entitled “Small Hydroelectric schemes – Impacts on River Fisheries in Northern Ireland”; and whether this document is being taken into account in the assessment of applications for hydroelectric projects.

(AQW 30002/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The report referred to was commissioned by the former Department of Enterprise (now the Department of Enterprise and Investment – DETI) and was funded by Northern Ireland Electricity PLC. The planning policy context for assessing small hydroelectric schemes is contained within Planning Policy Statement 18 ‘Renewable Energy’ and Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18, both published August 2009.

Following the introduction of the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, NIEA, as the implementation body, introduced a Northern Ireland wide water resource management regime in order to control and licence activities that sustainably use water. Where an activity will or is likely to have, a significant or serious adverse impact on a waterway, protected habitat or protected species, under the terms of the Water Framework or Habitats Regulations the development will be refused. This research document has been referenced and taken into consideration in relation to the determination process for considering abstraction licences submitted for hydro power developments.

River Faughan Special Area of Conservation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, following the Head of Planning's written commitment to the Ombudsman on 7 September 2012 that his Department fully intends to respond in detail on all issues raised by River Faughan Anglers in relation to small scale hydroelectric schemes on the River Faughan Special Area of Conservation, why fifteen months later no response has been forthcoming.
(AQW 30003/11-15)

Mr Durkan: While many of the issues raised pertain to live planning applications and will be dealt with through the course of processing these applications, I have instructed my officials to assess all of the representations made by the River Faughan Anglers Ltd with a detailed response by the 14th February 2014.

RPA: Update

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Review of Public Administration.
(AQO 5341/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Local Government Reform programme remains on target for 1 April 2015.

The Local Government Bill was introduced into the Assembly on 23 September 2013 and is currently at Committee Stage. It is my aim to have the remaining Assembly stages scheduled for March 2014 with Royal Assent needed by early May 2014. The Bill is a major step towards making local government reform a reality and will provide the legislative framework necessary to give effect to the Executive's decisions on the future shape of local government.

Plans remain on track for elections to the new councils in May 2014. The Secretary of State has brought forward two pieces of legislation to make arrangements for the elections in May 2014. The District Electoral Areas (Northern Ireland) Order 2014 was laid before Parliament on 18 December.

All 11 Statutory Transition Committees (STCs) are now established and operating as required by the Regulations. The work of the STCs is monitored by the Regional Transitional Committee, which I chair, and I am in the process of conducting a series of visits to all the Statutory Transition Committees to engage with elected members at a local level.

Councils will operate in shadow form for a period of time until April 2015 when the new councils assume full powers and responsibilities. The newly elected councils, acting in shadow form, will have the statutory authority and democratic mandate to make policy decisions.

The advertisement for 10 Chief Executive posts was placed in the press with a closing date for receipt of applications of 9 December 2013. The Chief Executive post for Belfast will be advertised before the end of January 2014. The successful candidates should be selected by the end of March 2014.

Car Parking: City Airport

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact of his decision to reverse the planning approval for a private car park at George Best Belfast City Airport.
(AQO 5342/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In this case the Planning decision was not reversed. The Department's opinion changed during the processing of the application, following consideration of further material matters. The

decision was taken on 16 December 2013 following consultation with Belfast City Council Town Planning Committee.

In this case, the application did not come to me for consideration. It is not a major planning application of the type where I often act as a decision maker. This decision was made locally and was not a decision taken at Ministerial level. The Department must make decisions based on the prevailing Planning Policy, which has been subject to a rigorous public consultation process.

In terms of impact, the decision appears to be consistent with decisions made in relation to similar cases elsewhere. Mr Boal has the right to challenge this decision through the appeals process.

Councillors: Remuneration

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment when he will publish the details of the remuneration package affecting councillors in the new council structure.

(AQO 5343/11-15)

Mr Durkan: It is important that the new scheme of allowances recognises the commitment of councillors and the work that will be required of them if they are to deliver the Executive's vision of strong, effective local government that has the needs of citizens at its core.

At present, I am carefully considering the recommendations made to me by the NI Councillors Remuneration Panel in November last year and the rationale for those recommendations.

I discussed the recommendations with the Political Reference Group for the Local Government Reform Programme in December. At that meeting, it was agreed that officials would examine the evidence for the Report's recommendations and that we would meet again to discuss the issues in more detail. This further meeting has been scheduled for 4th February.

After the meeting with the Political Reference Group in February, I will seek further views and opinions as necessary to allow me to reach final conclusions. I will then publish the new scheme of allowances.

South Eastern Regional College: Theatre in Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether enforcement measures will be taken against South Eastern Regional College for beginning the construction of a theatre in Bangor despite the relevant planning permission having expired; and if so, to detail (i) what action can be taken; and (ii) the cost of renewing the planning application.

(AQW 30160/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Planning permission was granted on 4 November 2008 for the construction of a performing arts and technology innovation centre with associated car parking and landscaping. Planning officials inspected the site on 23 January 2014 and established that a vehicular access has been constructed in accordance with planning permission. Information is currently awaited from the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) to verify that the access was constructed before the planning permission expired on 4 November 2013. Therefore at the present time there is no evidence to demonstrate that the planning permission has expired or that any unauthorised development has been carried out which would give rise to enforcement action.

I am advised the fee for a similar application would be £18,330.

Exploris Aquarium: Business Case

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of the Environment for his response to the business case produced by Ards Borough Council for keeping the Exploris aquarium open.

(AQW 30473/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Ards Borough Council approved an outline business plan at their meeting on 29th January. They have not yet considered or approved a business case with the necessary detailed costings and

assumptions supporting the options under consideration. It is this detailed business case on which I and the Executive must make our decisions. A business case has been prepared by the consultant who also prepared the business plan and my officials, including the Department's economist, are currently scrutinizing the case. They are in discussion with the consultant and Council officials and they will report back to me on the outcome of these discussions.

The Council will have to agree the business case which must also be approved by DFP

I remain committed to my Department funding all reasonable costs associated with running the seal sanctuary, and to bringing an agreed business case to the Executive at the earliest opportunity.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Vacant Domestic Properties

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail how many domestic properties since October 2011 have been established as vacant; and how many owners has there been a successful request for rates payment (a) in full, or (b) in part.

(AQW 29795/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): Domestic properties move in and out of occupancy on an ongoing basis. From 1st October 2011, vacant domestic property rating liability changed from zero to full liability, with the exception of a number of prescribed exclusions.

During the period from 1st October 2011 to 31st March 2013, 40,143 domestic properties with a known owner were established as vacant.

Due to exclusions, only 28,332 rate assessments were raised and bills issued. A total of (a) 18,213 of these have been fully paid and (b) 1,987 partially paid. LPS has not received payment for the remaining 8,132 bills.

North West Regional Science Park

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the funding provided by her Department to the Northern West Regional Science Park.

(AQW 30118/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The North West Regional Science Park was awarded funding of £12,051,825 under the INTERREG IVA Programme. Of this, the match funding provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel is £2,334,739.

Land and Property Services: Rate Payments

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail how many (i) domestic; and (ii) residential rate payers have had their rates payments returned to them in each of the last three years because Land and Property Services are unable to accept advance payments.

(AQW 30143/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The information requested is not available.

Civil Service Grades

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide a breakdown of the three highest ranking civil service grades, for each of the last ten years, broken down by gender.

(AQW 30165/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The information requested is set out in the attached table.

BREAKDOWN OF GRADES 1, 2, AND 3 FOR EACH OF THE LAST TEN YEARS, BROKEN DOWN BY GENDER

Year*	Gender	NICS Grades		
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
2003	Male	1	12	38
	Female	0	2	7
2004	Male	1	12	39
	Female	0	2	9
2005	Male	1	10	34
	Female	0	2	9
2006	Male	1	9	35
	Female	0	1	12
2007	Male	1	10	35
	Female	0	1	12
2008	Male	1	12	33
	Female	0	1	10
2009	Male	1	13	34
	Female	0	1	12
2010	Male	1	15	34
	Female	0	2	11
2011	Male	1	14	31
	Female	0	1	9
2012	Male	1	11	28
	Female	0	2	7
2013	Male	1	11	29
	Female	0	1	8

Notes

* Data is at 01 October in each year except 2009 when the date reference is 01 December.

Does not include staff seconded outside the NICS or staff on a career break.

Departmental Ministerial Travel

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel pursuant to AQW 29680/11-15, can the information be supplied in respect of his Department.

(AQW 30186/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The total expenditure on Ministerial travel in my Department was (a) £280 for the period January to June 2013; and (b) £3,458 for the period July to December 2013.

Training Programmes: External Groups and Organisations

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the procurement procedures with which all departments have to comply in relation to the awarding of training programmes to external groups and organisations.

(AQW 30193/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: All NICS departments, their agencies, non-departmental public bodies and public corporations are subject to the Executive's Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy. This policy requires compliance with the obligations set out in the European Directive, 2004/18/EC, the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the overarching principles of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

The Public Contracts Regulations divide services into "Part A" (or "priority") services and "Part B" (or "residual") services. The award of training programmes to external groups and organisations is defined as a Part B service as listed in Schedule III of the regulations.

Part B tenders must comply with the Regulations in that they must be "adequately advertised", must include a technical specification, and feedback must be available. Part B services are also bound by the general obligations of transparency, equal treatment, non discrimination and proportionality that derive directly from the TFEU. The Treaties and UK competition law also require that "nothing shall be done which in any way prevents, restricts or distorts competition."

Disabled Personal Allowance Rates Rebate

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail whether people who have had adaptations carried out in their home, at the recommendation of an Occupational Therapist or Health Professional, are contacted by a member of the Disabled Persons Allowance team, to inform them of their potential eligibility for Disabled Personal Allowance Rates Rebate.

(AQW 30199/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: There is no prerequisite for the Disabled Persons Allowance (DPA) team to contact either Occupational Therapists or Health Professionals as it is up to the ratepayer to submit an application if they think that adaptations made to property qualify for DPA. Land & Property Services, through its Outreach events, regularly makes informal contact with Health Care Professionals while promoting rate reliefs such as DPA. Many of the adaptations recommended by them during these discussions do not fall within the terms of the DPA scheme however, the Disabled Facilities Grant administered by Northern Ireland Housing Executive covers them.

Commerical Enterprises: Rates

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail how many commerical enterprises, who have previously been paying rates, have successfully been registered as a charitable foundation, in the last five years

(AQW 30218/11-15)

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

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Appointment of Locums: Cost

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the cost of the appointment of locums in each Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 29710/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The Health and Social Care Trusts advise that it is not possible to separately identify the appointment costs of locums. Locums are appointed from different sources. The main one is the Trusts internal electronic locum sourcing system which is supplemented by the use of agencies who are on a procured contract call off list. On rare occasions agencies not on the call off list can also be used to engage locums. The locum hourly rate includes the agency commission fee.

Needlestick Injuries

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the cost of needlestick injuries in each of the last three years.

(AQW 29923/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is only possible to provide the compensation and legal costs of needle stick injuries for settled Employers Liability claims for the past three years, as follows:

2012/13 £	2011/12 £	2010/11 £
99,746	151,917	210,033

January Monitoring Round

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of his intended spend of the extra £30m of resource which he secured from the January Monitoring Round.

(AQW 30035/11-15)

Mr Poots: The January Monitoring allocation will play a critical role in helping to address a range of pressures in those front line services that affect the most vulnerable in our society, including looked after children and our elderly population.

Trusts have been experiencing increasing pressures and demands within unscheduled care / emergency admissions and domiciliary care services. There is also a focus on maintaining and improving the safety and quality of patient care across all our settings. In terms of children's services, there has been an increase in the numbers of Looked After Children during 2013/14, requiring additional expenditure on child protection registration, costs of care (in foster care or residential care), legal costs and social work costs.

January Monitoring Round

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the £30m allocated to his Department in the January Monitoring Round will be spent; and whether it will be used to deal with medical negligence cases.

(AQW 30037/11-15)

Mr Poots: The January Monitoring allocation will play a critical role in helping to address a range of pressures in those front line services that affect the most vulnerable in our society, including looked after children and our elderly population.

The Health and Social Care Trusts have been experiencing increasing pressures and demands within unscheduled care / emergency admissions and domiciliary care services. There is also a focus on maintaining and improving the safety and quality of patient care across all our settings. In terms of children's services, there has been an increase in the numbers of Looked After Children during 2013/14, requiring additional expenditure on child protection registration, costs of care (in foster care or residential care), legal costs and social work costs

Funding has not been provided at this stage for clinical negligence cases.

January Monitoring Round

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the £30m allocated to his Department in the January Monitoring Round will be spent.

(AQW 30038/11-15)

Mr Poots: The January Monitoring allocation will play a critical role in helping to address a range of pressures in those front line services that affect the most vulnerable in our society, including looked after children and our elderly population.

Trusts have been experiencing increasing pressures and demands within unscheduled care / emergency admissions and domiciliary care services. There is also a focus on maintaining and improving the safety and quality of patient care across all our settings. In terms of children's services, there has been an increase in the numbers of Looked After Children during 2013/14, requiring additional expenditure on child protection registration, costs of care (in foster care or residential care), legal costs and social work costs.

January Monitoring Round

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much of the £30m awarded to his Department in the January Monitoring Round will be allocated to the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 30064/11-15)

Mr Poots: The January Monitoring allocation will play a critical role in helping to address a range of pressures in those front line services that affect the most vulnerable in our society, including looked after children and our elderly population.

Trusts have been experiencing increasing pressures and demands within unscheduled care / emergency admissions and domiciliary care services. There is also a focus on maintaining and improving the safety and quality of patient care across all our settings. In terms of children's services, there has been an increase in the numbers of Looked After Children during 2013/14, requiring additional expenditure on child protection registration, costs of care (in foster care or residential care), legal costs and social work costs.

As the extent of each of these pressures will be different in each Trust, the Health and Social Care Board and Local Commissioning Groups are currently working with Trusts to ensure that the funds are prioritised to meet the needs of patients and clients in each of the Trust areas.

Looked After Children Enrolled in Universities

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how many looked after children are currently enrolled in universities in (i) Northern Ireland; (ii) England; (iii) Scotland; (iv) Wales; and (v) the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 30078/11-15)

Mr Poots: This question has been interpreted to mean the number of looked after children from Northern Ireland enrolled at university in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts have informed the Department that there were no looked after children from Northern Ireland enrolled at university in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales or the Republic of Ireland. HSC Trusts do however support a number of care leavers attending university across these nations. Table 1 below details the number of care leavers attending university in each of the requested nations.

TABLE 1: CARE LEAVERS ATTENDING UNIVERSITY BY NATION

Nation	No. of Care Leavers
Northern Ireland	28
England	18
Scotland/Wales	9
Republic of Ireland	0
Total	55

* Due to small numbers the Scotland and Wales categories have been merged.

Source: HSC Trusts

January Monitoring Round

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the £30m allocated to his Department in the January Monitoring Round will be spent.

(AQW 30087/11-15)

Mr Poots: The January Monitoring allocation will play a critical role in helping to address a range of pressures in those front line services that affect the most vulnerable in our society, including looked after children and our elderly population.

Trusts have been experiencing increasing pressures and demands within unscheduled care / emergency admissions and domiciliary care services. There is also a focus on maintaining and improving the safety and quality of patient care across all our settings. In terms of children's services, there has been an increase in the numbers of Looked After Children during 2013/14, requiring additional expenditure on child protection registration, costs of care (in foster care or residential care), legal costs and social work costs.

Critical Care Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Critical Care Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital will become operational.

(AQW 30088/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Belfast HSC Trust intends to bring the Critical Care Building into operation on a phased basis from January 2015 to March 2015.

Legislation Banning Smoking in Cars

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that he announced on 14 November 2011 and 28 February 2012 that a public consultation on legislation banning smoking in cars was to be launched during 2012, for an update on these proposals.

(AQW 30092/11-15)

Mr Poots: Banning smoking in private vehicles is one of a range of tobacco control measures under consideration by my Department. While I had intended to launch a consultation seeking views on this issue towards the end of 2012, work on other important measures such as the Tobacco Retailers Bill, and standardised packaging for tobacco products, has meant that progress on smoking in cars has been delayed. I have written to Executive colleagues on a range of options relating to smoking in private vehicles, and I intend to address the issue in the near future.

In the meantime, my officials are continuing to monitor developments in other jurisdictions with regard to the banning of smoking in private vehicles where children and young people are present.

Looked After Children: Personal Education Plan

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many looked after children in each Education and Library Board have a completed Personal Education Plan.

(AQW 30095/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not available by Education and Library Board. Figures below have been provided by the Health and Social Care Board and Trusts.

Looked After Children of school age 'in care for 12 months or longer' to have a completed Personal Education Plan

HSC Trust	Completed Personal Education Plan	When collated by Trusts
Belfast	281	January 2014
South Eastern	154	January 2014
Northern	140	December 2013
Western	133	January 2014
Southern	169	November 2013
Total	877	

Source: Health & Social Care Board and Trusts

My Department is for the first time collecting information on Personal Education Plans from Health and Social Care Trusts. Provisional information on PEPs for 2012/13 is expected to be available centrally from March 2014.

Air Ambulances

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety who ensures that air ambulances are airworthy for the duration of their contract.

(AQW 30099/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has a contract with a private provider for air ambulance services to and from Northern Ireland. The service specification for the contract sets out in detail the requirements the provider must meet in providing safe, responsive, value for money air transport and associated services for the population of Northern Ireland.

The United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issues the Air Operator Certificate, the Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation Approval Certificate, the Maintenance Organisation Approval Certificate and Dangerous Goods Approval. I am assured by the HSCB that the air ambulance service provider for Northern Ireland holds valid certifications issued by the CAA. The air ambulance service provider undergoes stringent regular auditing by CAA inspectors, who also carry out continuing airworthiness monitoring on the fleet.

Under the scope of the certificates issued by the UK CAA the air ambulance service provider for Northern Ireland is approved to undertake air ambulance activities.

Air Ambulances

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether aircraft used as air ambulances are licensed for that purpose.

(AQW 30100/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has a contract with a private provider for air ambulance services to and from Northern Ireland. The service specification for the contract sets out in detail the requirements the provider must meet in providing safe, responsive, value for money air transport and associated services for the population of Northern Ireland.

The United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issues the Air Operator Certificate, the Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation Approval Certificate, the Maintenance Organisation Approval Certificate and Dangerous Goods Approval. I am assured by the HSCB that the air ambulance service provider for Northern Ireland holds valid certifications issued by the CAA. The air ambulance service provider undergoes stringent regular auditing by CAA inspectors, who also carry out continuing airworthiness monitoring on the fleet.

Under the scope of the certificates issued by the UK CAA the air ambulance service provider for Northern Ireland is approved to undertake air ambulance activities.

Cycles of IVF Treatment

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has made an assessment of the ability of other UK regions to commission more than one full cycle of IVF treatment.

(AQW 30134/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has not carried out an assessment of other regions of the UK in relation to the provision of IVF treatment as it can vary between the individual Healthcare Trusts; however, I recognise that some regions across the UK provide a greater number of treatment cycles than the available resources currently permit in Northern Ireland.

Access criteria in Northern Ireland, which were developed following public consultations in 2006 and 2009, are however wider than in some other regions of the UK, e.g. offering treatment to couples who already have a child, thus allowing more people to avail of publicly funded treatment. To increase the number of individual treatments provided within current funding could limit the number of women who could access the service.

Cycles of IVF Treatment

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has made an assessment of the ability of other UK regions to commission a full cycle of IVF treatment where there is no cap on the number of viable frozen embryos transferred.

(AQW 30135/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has not carried out an assessment of other regions of the UK in relation to the provision of IVF treatment as it can vary between the individual Healthcare Trusts; however, I recognise that some regions across the UK provide a greater number of treatment cycles than the available resources currently permit in Northern Ireland.

Access criteria in Northern Ireland, which were developed following public consultations in 2006 and 2009, are however wider than in some other regions of the UK, e.g. offering treatment to couples who already have a child, thus allowing more people to avail of publicly funded treatment. To increase the number of individual treatments provided within current funding could limit the number of women who could access the service.

Cycles of IVF Treatment

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, based on current eligibility criteria, what extra funding would be needed to ensure Northern Ireland had the capacity to provide NHS patients with two full cycles of IVF treatment.

(AQW 30136/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care (HSC) Board currently invests £3 million per year in infertility services, which includes ovulation induction (OI) by oral medication (clomiphene citrate / gonadotrophins) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), as well as IVF and ICSI.

NICE Clinical Guideline CG156 on Fertility has recently been considered and endorsed by my Department, and it is now the responsibility of the HSC Board, as commissioner of services, to prepare a Draft Service Notification, which will set out its approach to implementing the guidance in the context of currently available resources and other HSC priorities. The matter of funding required to provide additional IVF cycles will be considered as part of the Draft Service Specification.

NHS Fertility Treatment

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the current commissioning plans for an improved patient pathway through NHS fertility treatment in order to bring Northern Ireland in line with the revised National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Guidance, 2013.

(AQW 30137/11-15)

Mr Poots: Since 2006, my Department has established formal links with NICE whereby all Clinical Guidelines and Technology Appraisals published by NICE from that date are locally reviewed for their applicability to Northern Ireland and, where appropriate, endorsed here.

NICE Clinical Guideline CG156 on fertility has recently been considered and endorsed by my Department, and it is now the responsibility of the HSC Board, as commissioner of services, to prepare a Draft Service Notification (formerly known as a “commissioning plan” or “Board response”), which will set out its approach to implementing the guidance within the context of currently available resources and other HSC priorities.

Cycles of IVF Treatment

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 23041/11-15, to outline how his Department can provide up to three cycles of IVF treatment as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.

(AQW 30140/11-15)

Mr Poots: Since 2006, the Department has formal links with NICE whereby all Clinical Guidelines and Technology Appraisals published by NICE from that date are locally reviewed for their applicability to Northern Ireland and, where appropriate, endorsed here.

NICE Clinical Guideline CG156 on fertility has recently been considered and endorsed by my Department, and it is now the responsibility of the HSC Board, as commissioner of services, to prepare a Draft Service Notification which will set out its approach to implementing the guidance within the context of currently available resources and other HSC priorities.

Families Matter Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the progress of the Families Matter Strategy.

(AQW 30153/11-15)

Mr Poots: Families Matter, launched in March 2009, emphasised the need to prioritise early intervention and prevention services to support families in Northern Ireland. The strategy focuses on joint and partnership working at strategic and operational levels.

The strategy acts as a framework to support early intervention and prevention family support services. In addition to the £2.8m allocated by the Department, additional funding has been allocated by the HSC to deliver services in support of the aims and objectives of Families Matter.

Since 2009, a wide range of services have been supported, including;

- Family Support Hubs;
- A regional directory of family support and child care services across Northern Ireland - www.familysupportni.gov.uk;
- Parenting education and support programmes;
- Relationship counselling;
- Family mediation;
- Child Contact Centres;
- Children's Court Officers.

Since 2009, the development of new health and social care structures and the formation of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has created new opportunities for partnership working in the field of early intervention family support services. My Department has taken advantage of the opportunities afforded by these new operational structures as it has reviewed and amended the various activities in the Strategy.

In the last year, the Family Support Hub concept has been developed and is being rolled out across Northern Ireland. 10 Family Support Hubs are being opened in the Northern and Belfast HSC Trust areas utilising funding through Delivering Social Change.

The Family Support Website has been a particular success and receives up to 30,000 hits per month. The information available continues to provide a valuable service to families and service providers, and is increasingly used as a platform for delivery of information by other Departments. For example, there has been significant development of the Family Support NI website to help support the Executive's Child Care Strategy, Bright Start.

Officials are in process of reviewing the operation of Child Contact Centres to identify best practice and future support needs for this valuable service.

My Department is leading on a review of alternative dispute resolution services, which will inform the development of family mediation and relationship support work under Families Matter.

The intention of Families Matter was to serve the needs of all families with children. As we have reviewed the implementation of the Strategy, we have identified that the needs of some specific groups are best served by explicitly addressing the issues that they face. For example, in future we will include recognition of the role of fathers, and particularly the importance of a separated father's continued involvement in his child's life. We will also highlight the needs of parents of children with a disability.

Working collaboratively with other Departments and private philanthropy, we are in the process of establishing an Early Intervention Transformation Programme, supported by a £30m fund. The aim of the programme and fund is to transform how we engage with children and families by acting earlier and in different ways to prevent family difficulties emerging or escalating and to produce improved outcomes in later life.

Families Matter has provided the strategic framework that has enabled my Department to collaborate effectively with other Departments and Agencies to improve outcomes for families and children.

Separated Fathers

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of (i) Parental Separation: A Father's Guide; and (ii) Separated fathers: Fathers, Separation and Co-Parenting policy paper.

(AQW 30154/11-15)

Mr Poots: I would like to commend the partnership behind Man Matters for their excellent work in publishing these documents.

Separated fathers often find it difficult to know where to go for advice and support. A Father's Guide is an excellent resource that can help guide separated fathers through a very difficult period. The Separated Fathers briefing paper highlights a number of key messages to be considered by policy makers and service planners and I can confirm that they reflect the principles set out in my Department's Families Matter strategy.

Parents and families seeking additional information and support can also access the HSCB website www.familysupportni.gov.uk, which is a comprehensive directory of family support and childcare services across Northern Ireland.

A child's best interests are almost always enhanced by a safe and loving relationship with both parents. While divorce is an all too common occurrence in today's society, it is important to remember the important role that each parent plays in their child's development.

A number of my Executive colleagues share my views on this subject and I am committed to working with them to improve the support available to families who have separated, or who are in the process of separation.

Accident and Emergency Unit: Downe Hospital

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people were treated at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the Downe Hospital in each of the last five years.

(AQW 30168/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on attendances (new, unplanned and/or planned reviews) at emergency care departments is published on an annual basis and is available to view or download from:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/emergency_care-3/emergency-care-stats.htm

Alternatively, information on waiting times at emergency care departments (excluding planned review attendances) is published on a monthly basis, and is available to view or download from:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/emergency_care-3/emergency_care-monthly_waiting_times.htm

Accident and Emergency Unit: Downe Hospital

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the staff costs of running the Accident and Emergency Unit at the Downe Hospital for the weeks beginning (i) 9 December 2013; and (ii) 16 December 2013; (iii) 6 January 2014; and (iv) 13 January 2014.

(AQW 30170/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has advised my department that the staff costs of running the Accident and Emergency Unit at Downe Hospital are as follows:

- (i) 9 December 2013 – £36,633.50
- (ii) 16 December 2013 - £36,633.50
- (iii) 6 January 2014 – £31,621.80 (est.)
- (iv) 13 January 2014 - £31,621.80 (est.)

The permanent staff in the trust are paid monthly and therefore the Trust has apportioned the December costs over a 4 week period. The costs for December are therefore an average weekly running cost for the Emergency Department at Downe Hospital, rather than actual.

January costs are not available as yet, therefore the answer to (iii) & (iv) is an estimation based on December costs and figures currently available. Costs are for medical, nursing and administrative staff only and do not include central services such as porters.

Mental Health Service Provision: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what mental health service provision is in place for young people in North Down.

(AQW 30174/11-15)

Mr Poots: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Northern Ireland are provided through a stepped care model, based on the clinical needs of the individual. Services are provided by four CAMHS teams, with Belfast HSC Trust providing services to both the Belfast and South Eastern HSC Trust areas, including North Down.

Inpatient care for young people, when required, is provided in Beechcroft, the Regional Child and Adolescent Inpatient Mental Health Unit at the Forster Green Hospital site in Belfast.

CAMHS to the North Down area are provided by a local community based team in James Street, Newtownards. This is a multidisciplinary team which specialises in the assessment and intervention for under 18s with mental health needs and their families/carers.

Services for children and young people presenting in crisis, and requiring assessment and intervention within 24/48 hours, are provided by a mobile Crisis Assessment Intervention Team, available 7 days per week to GPs and Emergency Departments.

There are also specialist services for young people with eating disorders or drug and alcohol issues. A number of voluntary sector organisations also provide support to young people with mental health problems.

Job Advertisements for Middle Grade Accident and Emergency Doctors

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many job advertisements for middle grade Accident and Emergency doctors have been placed in the National Press and medical journals by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last five years.

(AQW 30175/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust advises that job advertisements have been placed in the National Press and medical journals for middle grade Accident and Emergency doctors as follows -

2009 – 1 advertisement in February
2010 – 1 advertisement in July
2011 – 2 advertisements in March and July
2012 – 0 advertisements
2013 – 1 advertisement in July

A further advertisement was placed in January 2014.

Nurses Undertaking Education Programmes

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department provides financial resources, within the budget which is ring-fenced, to deploy additional nursing staff to provide cover for nurses who are undertaking education programmes.

(AQW 30179/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department provides all Health and Social Care Trusts with the budget required to fund nursing staff to cover for those nurses who are undertaking education programmes.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department paid out in clinical negligence claims in the last financial year.

(AQW 30187/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that these questions refer to the total amount paid on clinical/social care negligence cases by each Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust and Legacy HSS Board.

During 2012/13, £26.7 million was paid on clinical/social care negligence cases by HSC Trusts/Legacy HSS Boards (AQW 30187/11-15).

Between 1 April 2013 and 30 September 2013, £26.1 million was paid on clinical/social care negligence cases by HSC Trusts/Legacy HSS Boards (AQW 30188/11-15).

It should be noted that these figures are provisional and may be subject to change.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on clinical negligence in the current financial year.

(AQW 30188/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that these questions refer to the total amount paid on clinical/social care negligence cases by each Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust and Legacy HSS Board.

During 2012/13, £26.7 million was paid on clinical/social care negligence cases by HSC Trusts/Legacy HSS Boards (AQW 30187/11-15).

Between 1 April 2013 and 30 September 2013, £26.1 million was paid on clinical/social care negligence cases by HSC Trusts/Legacy HSS Boards (AQW 30188/11-15).

It should be noted that these figures are provisional and may be subject to change.

Mental Health Charities: Funding

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any funding provided to mental health charities in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area in each of the last five years, including (i) to whom this funding was awarded; and (ii) for the provision of which services.

(AQW 30192/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that it contracts with six mental health charity organisations. These organisations are as follows:

- Action Mental Health
- Carecall
- Family Caring Centre
- Mindwise
- NI Association for Mental Health
- Rehability

The services provided by these organisations include advocacy, counselling, day care, drop in facilities, support and advice and supported living. Each of these organisations provides a combination of these services.

Total funding awarded to these organisations in the last 5 years is set out below:

Financial Year	Funding (approximate) £K
2009/2010	700
2010/2011	700
2011/2012	750

Financial Year	Funding (approximate) £K
2012/2013	1150
2013/2014	1150

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment being made available to people with extreme migraine conditions.

(AQW 30214/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment is not currently available in Northern Ireland through the Trust. There are no plans for the neurology service to introduce transcranial magnetic stimulation in the future as evidence of its effectiveness is limited.

Gall Bladder Removal Operations

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many gall bladder removal operations have been carried out in each of the last five years.

(AQW 30220/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of gall bladder removal operations carried out in each of the last five years in HSC hospitals in Northern Ireland is given in the table below.

Year	Number of gall bladder removal operations carried out
2008/09	2,271
2009/10	2,302
2010/11	2,214
2011/12	2,376
2012/13	2,483

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

Note: Figures shown above are for total gall bladder removal operations (cholecystectomies) carried out and do not include partial cholecystectomies.

Looked After Child: Residential Care Home

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) why a looked after child was placed in a residential care home for older people; (ii) why it took four months to find a suitable placement for the child; (iii) whether this incident was reported as a Serious Adverse Incident; and if so (iv) by whom it was reported.

(AQW 30246/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have not been made aware of any looked after child being placed in a residential home for older people. However I have been informed by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that a young adult aged 19 was placed in a nursing home for adults with learning disabilities for a period of 15 weeks until a placement was found in a specialist unit which was deemed to offer the necessary skills, expertise and physical environment to meet their needs.

In line with current governance arrangements none of the criteria was met to report the matter to the Department as a Serious Adverse Incident.

Avastin: Availability

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether Avastin will be made available through the Health Service.

(AQW 30269/11-15)

Mr Poots: Since 2006 my Department has established formal links with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) whereby technology appraisals and clinical guidelines published by the Institute are reviewed for their applicability to Northern Ireland and endorsed where appropriate. NICE is an entirely independent body which provides guidance on the best possible and most effective treatments available using the most up-to-date evidence and expert opinion.

In Northern Ireland all NICE approved specialist drugs are either recurrently funded or available via a cost per case mechanism.

NICE has not recommended Avastin for use in the NHS and therefore I would not expect to see Avastin routinely commissioned in Northern Ireland.

However, for treatments not routinely commissioned in Northern Ireland the Health and Social Care Board has a clear process by which individual patient requests can be considered, the individual funding request (IFR), and I have attached the following link for your convenience: http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Protocol_ECR_and_IFR_arrangements.pdf.

As part of the process the patient's consultant is expected to put in writing the clinical circumstances which apply to the case and support the request for treatment. Such requests need to be supported by nominated senior clinicians and managers within the relevant Health and Social Care Trust. Clinical decisions are the responsibility of medical professionals.

Family Fund Grant Scheme

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given the demand for support through the Family Fund grant scheme, the premature conclusion in the processing of grant applications for the 2013/14 financial year and the number of families currently unable to avail of grant support, what consideration he has given to increasing the funding allocation for the 2014/15 Family Fund scheme.

(AQW 30272/11-15)

Mr Poots: Through funding support of £1.57m provided by my Department to the Family Fund in the current year, 2870 families in Northern Ireland with disabled children have been helped.

I am aware that the Family Fund has recently announced that, due to a significant increase in demand for support, all funding received from this Department for the current financial year has been allocated and it is unable to process any further applications from families in Northern Ireland.

I regret this position but due to the ongoing financial challenges facing my Department I am currently unable to increase their funding provision. However, DHSSPS officials will be meeting with the Family Fund in the near future to further discuss this issue and how best it can help support families in NI.

Department of Justice

Legal Aid: Proceedings

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total Legal Aid paid for proceedings launched by, and on behalf of, Ryan McGreechan, broken down by (i) solicitor/legal firm; (ii) junior counsel; (iii) senior counsel; and (iv) any and all other costs met by Legal Aid.

(AQW 29980/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): I am unable to provide this information as Article 24 of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (NI) Order 1981 precludes the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission from releasing the information requested.

Serious Case Reviews

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to serious case reviews, to detail how many (i) have been completed in each of the last ten years; (ii) are currently being carried out; (iii) have been released; and (iv) are completed and have yet to be released.

(AQW 30164/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is detailed in the table below:

Year	Completed	Ongoing	Released	Completed but awaiting release
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	2	0	1	0
2007	1	0	0	0
2008	1	0	1	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	2	0	0	0
2012	3	0	1	1
2013	0	0	0	0
2014 (@ 3/2/14)	1	1	0	1

Staff Hurt or Injured at Maghaberry Prison

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Justice how many members of staff have been hurt or injured at Maghaberry Prison in the last twelve months.

(AQW 30176/11-15)

Mr Ford: Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 inclusive, 274 members of staff have reported being injured at work.

Magilligan Prison: Staff Days Lost

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of working days lost due to staff at Magilligan Prison being off as a result of attacks whilst on duty.

(AQW 30271/11-15)

Mr Ford: Table A below shows the number of days lost, in the last three years, by staff following an attack /assault whilst on duty.

Table A

Date	No of working days lost	No of Staff
01/02/11 – 31/01/12	94	5

Date	No of working days lost	No of Staff
01/02/12 – 31/01/13	108	2
01/02/13 – 31/01/14	194	7

European Court of Human Rights

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to outline how he is taking forward actions to address the judgements in the McCaughey and Hemsworth cases against the United Kingdom at the European Court of Human Rights and to ensure compliance in relation, in particular, to Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

(AQW 30292/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is clear that we need a more encompassing and strategic approach to dealing with the past across the justice system, wider government and society. However, in the absence of agreement on such an approach, and reflecting the State's obligation to meet the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights, my Department is developing a proposed action plan in response to the Hemsworth judgment. The action plan will be brought before the Executive in advance of the Court's 16 April 2014 deadline. Whilst the NIO/MOD lead on the McCaughey and others case, the judgments are in substance fundamentally the same and as such one action plan will be submitted on behalf of the UK Government.

Inquests: Backlog

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to detail the current backlog in numbers of inquests in Northern Ireland, including how many of these are legacy and/or historic.

(AQW 30293/11-15)

Mr Ford: As at 29 January 2014, 584 deaths have been reported to the Coroner in which the investigation is not complete. Not all cases referred to the Coroner will progress to an inquest hearing. There are currently 21 'non – legacy' inquests listed for hearing.

As at 29 January 2014 there were 73 'legacy' deaths at various stages of investigation which will result in 45 inquest hearings.

Coroners Service of Northern Ireland: Website

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice whether he intends to list future inquests and verdicts on the website of the Coroners Service of Northern Ireland.

(AQW 30296/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) has no plans to list future inquests and findings on the NICTS website because of the personal and sensitive nature of the information involved.

Prisoners: Medication

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, if a prisoner in charge of their own medication is detected abusing the privilege either by supplying their medication to others or found to be in possession of, or to have taken medication which was not prescribed or illegal substances, are they (i) charged and dealt with by the Prison Service or a court; and/or (ii) banned from being in charge of their own medication; and if so, to detail if this a permanent ban or subject to review.

(AQW 30297/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) Those prisoners found to be abusing prescribed medication are subject to disciplinary processes; in addition many cases are referred to the PSNI with a view to prosecution.
- (ii) In cases where there has been an abuse of the privilege the South Eastern Trust will consider whether it is appropriate for a prisoner to continue possessing his own medication.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Medication

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) when; and (ii) why the Northern Ireland Prison Service agreed to allow prisoners to be in charge of their own medication.

(AQW 30298/11-15)

Mr Ford: The decision to allow prisoners to be in charge of their own medication was taken by the Northern Ireland Prison Service prior to the transfer of healthcare to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in 2008.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service first issued in-possession medication to prisoners in the early 1990s in blister packs. At the time, there was a move to professionalise Healthcare provision with the introduction of Nurses.

In-possession medication reduced the amount of time professional nurses took to distribute routine medication. In addition, providing prisoners with in-possession medication enabled them to take responsibility for their own medication, which reflects the circumstances that would exist in the community.

National Crime Agency

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Justice to outline the progress he has made in discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Home Secretary and the SDLP, regarding the expansion of the role of the National Crime Agency locally.

(AQW 30319/11-15)

Mr Ford: I wrote to the SDLP and Sinn Féin on 25 November 2013 and again on 25 January 2014 to seek to move this matter forward. I believe that the package I have proposed is reasonable and takes account of the policing architecture here. I am keen to conclude discussions soon as I am being advised that the absence of the NCA in the devolved arena is having an impact on our law enforcement effort.

Since the New Year, I have discussed this issue with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Home Office are aware of the current position. Both the Secretary of State and the Home Secretary have offered their support.

Community Safety College at Desertcreat

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Justice why the construction of the Community Safety College at Desertcreat has been set back to June 2014.

(AQW 30322/11-15)

Mr Ford: As you will be aware, there was a difference between the costs included in the business case and those submitted by the organisations bidding for the tender. The Programme Board carried out a Bill of Reductions exercise to reduce the cost of the project. The savings identified, in excess of £19m, will not compromise the functionality of the college but will ensure the provision of a high quality training facility which will meet the needs of police, prison and fire services.

On completion of the Bill of Reductions exercise, an Addendum Business Case had to be prepared and approved by the three services and two departments before being submitted to DFP for approval. On 26 November 2013 DFP formally approved the addendum business case.

The preferred bidder, FGP consortium, was appointed on 3 December 2013 and the discussions are expected to take several months which should culminate with a contract being awarded in May 2014, subject to the NI Executive's final approval before the contract is signed.

With the Addendum Business Case approved and the preferred bidder appointed with discussions ongoing, the contract is planned to be awarded by May 2014, subject to Full Business Case and Executive approvals, with construction starting June 2014.

Prisons: Drugs-Associated Problematic Areas

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to prisons that have drugs-associated problematic areas, to detail why is there not a stringent loss of privileges, such as association, for drug dealers and/or takers in order to reduce supply to other vulnerable prisoners and/or bullying of legitimately-prescribed medication from vulnerable prisoners; and in respect of drug takers, to prevent addiction.

(AQW 30336/11-15)

Mr Ford: Any prisoner who is found to be abusing drugs, including prescribed medication, is subject to disciplinary procedures. Sanctions that are available to the Governor include restriction of association, loss of privileges and referral to PSNI. Those prisoners who come under any form of bullying due to drugs are fully supported and appropriate measures are taken against those found to be bullying. Likewise support is available for those wishing to avoid drugs and for those with addiction problems.

Prisons: Drug Culture

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline why, after so many previous concerns being raised by numerous agencies, there is still a drugs culture in prisons; and whether he will introduce a zero tolerance policy, robustly administered to eradicate the problem, given the risks to all parties involved.

(AQW 30339/11-15)

Mr Ford: NIPS is fully aware of the dangers that drugs present in prisons and has a stated policy of zero tolerance. Working with partners such as PSNI, SET and drug addiction services, NIPS has in place all lawful measures available to reduce the illicit use of drugs.

Article 19 of the Magistrates' Courts (NI) Order 1981

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how many summary proceedings have not proceeded as a result of failure to comply with the limitation requirements of Article 19 of the Magistrates' Courts (NI) Order 1981, in the last twelve months.

(AQW 30353/11-15)

Mr Ford: This information is not available as it is not recorded.

Rural crimes: Conviction Rates

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Justice why it is not possible to identify between conviction rates for (a) rural and (b) agricultural related crimes.

(AQW 30381/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no specific offence of rural crime or agricultural crime under criminal law. Conviction data are recorded for generic offences, such as theft, robbery or criminal damage and datasets held by my Department currently do not contain information on the location and circumstances in which offences were committed. Therefore, it is not currently possible to identify from the data whether a conviction relates to rural or agricultural-related crime.

The recently established Rural Crime Unit is working to identify trends and patterns in crimes, that the PSNI have identified as having occurred in rural settlements and offences where the victim is involved in an agricultural-based activity, in order that resources can be effectively targeted to tackle this type of crime.

HM Young Offenders Centre Hydebank Wood

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice why a prison escapee was invited to talk about his experiences to prisoners in HM Young Offenders Centre Hydebank Wood.

(AQW 30480/11-15)

Mr Ford: During 2013 a book club was established for inmates at Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and on a number of occasions individual authors have attended to discuss their works. They include Eoin McNamee, Sheena Wilkinson and Lucy Caldwell.

In December 2013, the group expressed an interest in Gerry Kelly MLA's book "The Escape", and when it became known that Mr Kelly might be interested in attending, an invitation was made for him to visit.

The visit was scheduled for the evening of 4 February 2014, although these arrangements were made without the knowledge of the establishment's Governor. When all the circumstances of these arrangements were considered, he made the decision that the event should no longer go ahead as he did not feel it was appropriate for a Young Offenders Centre.

Leaving the Scene of an Accident

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the current legislation; and (ii) the range of penalties available in relation to a person leaving the scene of an accident without providing any contact details or informing the PSNI.

(AQW 30496/11-15)

Mr Ford: Article 175(2) of the Road Traffic (NI) Order 1981 provides that it is an offence for a driver to fail to stop his/her vehicle after an accident and give to a constable, or any person with reasonable grounds for asking, his/her name and address, the name and address of the owner of the vehicle and the identification mark or number of the vehicle. The driver must also keep the vehicle stationary at, or near, the place where the accident occurred, for as long as is reasonable, to provide his/her name and car details.

Part 1, Schedule 1 of the Road Traffic Offenders (NI) Order 1996 provides that the offence is punishable summarily and carries a penalty of up to a level 5 fine (£5,000) or 6 months' imprisonment or both. The court must also endorse the driver's licence with 5-10 penalty points and has discretion to order the disqualification of the driver.

Department for Regional Development

New Cycle Lanes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many extra cycle lanes have been provided, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 26170/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): In total, for the years 2008-09 to 2013/14 (to date), my Department has provided 65 extra cycle lanes, including a small number of extensions to existing facilities.

However, with the creation of the new Cycling Unit within my Department, which is developing an ongoing programme of work as it aims to ensure that cycling provision is a key element in both transport strategy and delivery, I expect this figure to rise in future years

Translink Belfast to Dublin Train Tickets: Online Booking

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the average cost to process and deliver a Translink Belfast to Dublin train ticket that is booked online; (ii) why the company offers a discount on such tickets booked online given the extra expense of postage; (iii) why users cannot print

their own tickets after purchasing online; and (iv) when the system will be updated to enable users to print their own tickets.

(AQW 29915/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have liaised with Translink officials who advise as follows:-

- i) Vouchers are posted out by 1st class post (at 47p) with up to 4 vouchers per booking.
- ii) The discount reflects a yield management approach similar to, for example, airlines where early booking/purchase is rewarded with a discount. This practice is also common among most rail operators in an effort to generate additional revenue. The lowest fares are offered on off-peak Enterprise services which generally have a lower level of patronage.
- iii) For reasons of fraud prevention – to prevent copying and multiple use of a ticket – current Translink ticketing infrastructure does not facilitate an e-ticketing option to enable self-fulfillment of on line purchases.
- iv) Translink are currently preparing a business case for a system where the ticket can be printed at a machine in station – although it should be noted passengers can opt for tickets purchased on line to be collected in station as opposed to delivered by post. Some train operating companies and other commercial sellers in Great Britain offer ‘print at home’, ‘redeem at station’ or ‘post’ similar to what Translink offers. Most are moving to ‘print at home’ / ‘redeem in station’ and Translink is doing likewise.

A6 Dungiven to Londonderry Dualling Scheme

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development when he plans to announce the next stage of the A6 Dungiven to Londonderry Dualling Scheme.

(AQW 29936/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The A6 Londonderry to Dungiven dualling scheme has been through Public Inquiry. My officials have considered the Inspector’s recommendations and I expect to make a Departmental Statement on the way forward later this financial year.

However, progression of these schemes to construction will be dependent upon the successful completion of the statutory processes and the availability of funding.

Illegal Landfill Site at Mobouy Road

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the discovery of the illegal landfill site at Mobouy Road is likely to prejudice the construction of the A6 dual carriageway.

(AQW 29942/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The discovery of illegal landfill at Mobouy Road will not prejudice the construction of the proposed A6 dual carriageway. At Mobouy, the new road is aligned around the eastern periphery of the City Industrial Waste and Campsie Sand and Gravel sites, avoiding the illegal landfill.

The A6 dual carriageway scheme includes a proposal to reinstate part of the Campsie Sand and Gravel quarry, located between Mobouy Road and the River Faughan, to replace flood storage capacity lost to the new dual carriageway. If the illegal landfill is still present when the road is being constructed, I am content that installation of appropriately engineered measures to contain the illegal waste will ensure that the compensatory floodplain can be constructed as planned.

Average Percentage Increase in Bus and Train Fares

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average percentage increase in fares for (i) Ulsterbus; and (ii) NI Railways journeys, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 29953/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that the average percentage fare increase for Ulsterbus in each of the last 3 years was as follows: 2012 -3% and 2013- 3%; for NI Railways the increase was 2012-3% and 2013- 5%.

You will note that I recently announced that there will be no increase on fares for Ulsterbus, Metro services and NI Railways for 2014.

Residents' Parking Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has considered the inclusion of areas of North Down in the proposals for residents' parking schemes.

(AQW 29960/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has considered areas within North Down for Residents' Parking Schemes. The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) identifies the centre of Bangor as being an area of parking restraint and it is my intention to progress Residents' Parking Schemes in some residential areas in due course.

Whilst Holywood has not been similarly identified, officials are currently carrying out an initial assessment of the eligibility of residential streets within the town centre for a Residents' Parking Scheme. Surveys are currently underway in a number of streets within the town centre to inform a summary report that will be available at the end of February 2014.

Officials have also received requests for schemes within other areas and these will be given due consideration in the future.

The timing of schemes outside of Belfast will be dependent upon the progress of those being developed at present elsewhere in Northern Ireland and a future prioritisation of remaining areas.

Residents' Parking Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria being used to pilot or implement resident's parking schemes.

(AQW 29961/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's policy allows for the introduction of residents' parking schemes in residential areas where parking from nearby businesses, sports facilities, hospitals, schools, universities, theatres, shopping areas, etc penetrates residential streets and prevents residents from parking in reasonably close proximity to their houses. However, two thirds of households within a scheme boundary must be in favour of the proposed scheme, subject to a minimum response rate of one third of all households.

The policy also allows for the introduction of residents' parking schemes for transportation reasons where, for example, local transport plans stipulate that commuter parking needs to be controlled, or for areas where my Department is implementing an area wide parking strategy that could potentially displace parking to adjacent areas.

To determine whether a parking problem exists in an area, an assessment of the extent of available on-street and off-street parking is undertaken. Where parking difficulties exist during the working day (normally Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm), a scheme is deemed justified if the following criteria are met:

- more than 60% of the available kerbside space is estimated to be occupied by non-residents' vehicles for more than 5 hours; and
- more than 80% is occupied in total for the same 5 hours.

Where parking difficulties occur outside of the working day, the following criteria are used:

- more than 40% of the available kerbside space estimated to be occupied by non-residents' vehicles for more than any consecutive 4-hour period outside of the working day; and

- more than 80% occupied in total for the same 4-hour period.

Residents' Parking Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria used to determine whether a street will be included in a residents' parking scheme.

(AQW 29962/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's policy allows for the introduction of residents' parking schemes in residential areas where parking from nearby businesses, sports facilities, hospitals, schools, universities, theatres, shopping areas, etc penetrates residential streets and prevents residents from parking in reasonably close proximity to their houses. However, two thirds of households within a scheme boundary must be in favour of the proposed scheme, subject to a minimum response rate of one third of all households.

To determine whether a parking problem exists in an area, an assessment of the extent of available on-street and off-street parking is undertaken. Where resident parking difficulties exist during the working day (normally Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm) a scheme is deemed justified if the following criteria are met:

- more than 60% of the available kerbside space is estimated to be occupied by non-residents' vehicles for more than 5 hours; and
- more than 80% is occupied in total for the same 5 hours.

Where parking difficulties occur outside of the working day, the following criteria are used:

- more than 40% of the available kerbside space estimated to be occupied by non-residents' vehicles for more than any consecutive 4-hour period outside of the working day; and
- more than 80% occupied in total for the same 4-hour period.

It is recognised that adjacent streets may also need to be included in a scheme if there is the potential for displacement of parking into them. When identifying an area to be zoned for consideration as a residents' parking scheme, the area will normally be geographically linked and generally seen as being within the same area or part of the same community. The area identified should not be too large and the boundaries of the scheme will normally be defined by main roads, railways, large open space, large commercial areas, etc. In some cases, however, an area with these boundaries may need to be subdivided to reduce it to a manageable size.

Residents' Parking Scheme: Bogside Area

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 29139/11-15, to detail when the residents' parking scheme in the Bogside area of Derry will be implemented.

(AQW 29985/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: It is anticipated implementation of the Bogside residents' parking scheme will take place in the autumn of 2014, however, this is subject to no objections being received to the proposals when they are formally advertised.

Maintenance of Roads

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail how much of his Department's budget has been allocated to (i) maintaining, updating and creating new roads; (ii) maintaining road signs; and (iii) updating road markings, in each of the past five years.

(AQW 30014/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of my Department's outturn allocation in each financial year since 2008/09 for maintaining, updating and creating new roads, maintaining road signs and updating road markings are included in the table below:

ALLOCATION OF ROADS SERVICE BUDGET

Activity	Financial Year £m				
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Major Road Improvements	132.9	148.5	227.5	32.3	52.0
Minor Local Road Improvements and Road Safety	35.4	31.5	14.6	35.1	11.3
Road Signs	6.8	6.83	6.26	6.34	6.7
Road Markings Inc. Road Studs	2.0	2.1	1.95	2.31	2.32
Structural Maintenance	62.98	85.19	88.31	120.44	109.69

A6 Dungiven to Derry Dualling Scheme

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the next stages of the A6 Dungiven to Derry Dualling Scheme, including when tender opportunities will be published.

(AQW 30021/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The A6 Londonderry to Dungiven dualling scheme is well advanced in terms of development. It has been through Public Inquiry and publication of the Departmental Statement is expected before the end of the financial year. However, progression of the project would, subject to final approval of the business case, be reliant upon funding being made available.

The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-21 sets out plans to augment Executive funds by accessing alternative finance for some projects that are suitable to be funded in this way. This includes the progression of a package of high priority road schemes amounting to around £390 million, which would embrace improvements to the A6. However, a commitment to fund the revenue consequences of this road package will be required and so the timing depends on future resource budgets. I will, however, continue to bid for conventional funding for the A6 dualling schemes.

Millennium Way Phase II Project

Mr Moutray asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the progress the Millennium Way Phase II project following the submission of a planning application, including whether the project will be delivered in 2014.

(AQW 30030/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is continuing to develop this scheme and a new Planning Application for a revised alignment was submitted early in September 2013. I am hopeful planning permission will be granted in the near future.

In the meantime, work is ongoing to finalise the detailed design for the proposal, which will inform the extent of land required for the scheme. Upon receipt of planning approval, my officials will meet with lands owners involved, to commence land acquisition procedures. However, the acquisition of this land is likely to require a Vesting Order and a Public Inquiry may also be required, to determine if the level of land take identified is appropriate.

Progression of the proposal onto my Department's Construction Programme remains subject to the proposal continuing to have a satisfactory economic appraisal, clearing the statutory procedures and funding being made available in future budget settlements.

Ministerial Meetings on Transport Issues

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the ministerial meetings on transport issues which have taken place under the auspices of (i) the British Irish Council; and (ii) the North South Ministerial Council, since May 2007.

(AQW 30034/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Minister for Regional Development has attended six Summit meetings of the British Irish Council since May 2007. All eleven work sectors of the British Irish Council, including transport issues were discussed at these meetings. Details of the meetings are set out below.

16 July 2007, Belfast
 26 September 2008, Stirling
 20 February 2009, Cardiff
 20 June 2011, London
 26 November 2012, Cardiff
 21 June 2013, Londonderry

There have been no specific British Irish Council Ministerial meetings for the Transport work sector.

The Minister for Regional Development has attended 9 Plenary and 14 Transport Sectoral meetings of the North South Ministerial Council since May 2007 where transport issues were discussed. Details of the meetings are set out below.

17 July 2007, Plenary
 14 September 2007, Transport Sectoral
 12 December 2007, Transport Sectoral
 21 May 2008, Transport Sectoral
 23 January 2009, Plenary
 3 April 2009, Transport Sectoral
 6 July 2009, Plenary
 4 November 2009, Transport Sectoral
 14 December 2009, Plenary
 3 March 2010, Transport Sectoral
 5 July 2010, Plenary
 20 October 2010, Transport Sectoral
 21 January 2011, Plenary
 9 February 2011, Transport Sectoral
 10 June 2011, Plenary
 21 October 2011, Transport Sectoral
 18 November 2011, Plenary
 20 April 2012, Transport Sectoral
 15 June 2012, Plenary
 5 October 2012, Transport Sectoral
 28 March 2013, Transport Sectoral
 17 April 2013, Transport Sectoral
 28 November 2013, Transport Sectoral

Independent Review: A5 Road Project

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the Terms of Reference in relation to the independent review of advice received from a consultant on the A5 road project.

(AQW 30045/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has commissioned a consultant to independently review the environmental work associated with the A5 Western Transport Corridor (WTC) project.

The scope of the independent review includes the following:

- review the Habitats Directive work carried out by the A5WTC project consultant prior to the court judgement in April 2013 and provide a report on its adequacy;
- review the A5WTC project consultant's proposals, methodology and timeline to comply with the Habitats Directive in light of the Court ruling; and
- carry out a review of the published Environmental Statement (ES) and the proposals, methodology and timeline to provide an Addendum to update the ES.

Reopening of the Hillhead Road, Newry

Mr Brady asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the reopening of the Hillhead Road, Newry.

(AQW 30048/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member will be aware, my Department's Roads Service initially closed a section of the Hillhead Road, Newry on 26 January 2007. A further section of the road was closed on 21 August 2008 and, in December 2012, the closure was again extended.

Roads Service issued legal proceedings against three previous quarry owners in early 2009. Whilst these processes have been progressing, until they are complete, I am unable to comment further on the future of the Hillhead Road.

Off-Street Car Parks: Lisburn and Banbridge

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the location of off-street car parks operated by Roads Service in (i) Lisburn; and (ii) Banbridge council areas.

(AQW 30057/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the locations of off-street car parks operated by Roads Service, in the Lisburn and Banbridge Council areas, are included in the table below:

OFF-STREET CAR PARKS OPERATED BY ROADS SERVICE IN LISBURN AND BANBRIDGE COUNCIL AREAS

Lisburn Council Area	Antrim Street, Lisburn	Benson Street, Lisburn
	Barrack Street, Lisburn	Quay Street, Lisburn
	Governors Road, Lisburn	Saintfield Road Roundabout, Lisburn
	Laganbank Road, Lisburn	Union Bridge, Lisburn
	Longstone Street, Lisburn	Sprucefield Park and Ride, Lisburn
	Queens Road, Lisburn	Glenburn Road, Dunmurry
	Smithfield Square, Lisburn	Main Street, Moira
	Ballynahinch Street, Hillsborough	

Banbridge Council Area	Downshire Place, Banbridge	Bridge Street, Banbridge
	Bridge Street East, Banbridge	Kenlis Court, Banbridge
	Commercial Road , Banbridge	Castle Street, Rathfriland
	Kenlis Street, Banbridge	Meeting Street, Dromore
	Townsend Street, Banbridge	Cross Lane (2 car parks), Dromore
	Church Square, Banbridge	Gallows Street, Dromore
	Downshire Road, Banbridge	Castle Hill, Gilford

Off-Street Car Parks: Grit

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria used when determining if off-street car parks are gritted during frosty weather conditions.

(AQW 30058/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does earmark funds to provide a salting service with the aim of helping main road traffic to move safely and freely in wintry conditions. In general, main through routes carrying more than 1,500 vehicles per day are salted and, in exceptional circumstances, roads with difficult topography carrying between 1,000 and 1,500 vehicles per day.

On the basis of this policy, my Department does not routinely salt public car parks, although it does cover areas within Park and Ride facilities where the operation of the facility requires a bus to leave the main salted road network to service it. In such cases, the route taken is treated including any portion of the bus route within the confines of the car park.

Additional secondary salting may also be undertaken during periods of prolonged and severe wintry conditions, outside of the scheduled routes on the basis of requests and in order to relieve hardship. The extent of secondary salting takes account of the availability of resources and these decisions are made by local Roads Service section engineers.

Lisburn City Council Area: Non-Adoption of Roads

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the streets in the Lisburn City Council area that have not been adopted by Roads Service, including the reason for non-adoption and the action being taken to complete the adoption process.

(AQW 30060/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, if you wish to enquire about a specific area or housing development within the Lisburn City Council area, you should contact the Network Planning Manager, Roads Service Eastern Division, Hydebank, 4 Hospital Road, Belfast.

Bond Enforcement Action in Drumbeg Mews, Lisburn

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the communication between Roads Service and NI Water in relation to Bond Enforcement Action in Drumbeg Mews, Lisburn; and (ii) when the process will be completed, given the time lapse since the dwellings were first occupied.

(AQW 30061/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Officials from my Department's Roads Service have corresponded with and met with their counterparts from NI Water regarding the Drumbeg Mews development in Lisburn, following the serving of an Article 11 enforcement notice on the developer on 8 June 2010.

They continue to work together to take forward the adoption of the sewers and streets within this development. A CCTV survey and snagging of the sewers has been completed and a schedule of defects identified. There are substantial problems with the sewers laid by the developer, in particular the storm sewer for which the developer did not construct a section of the on-site surface water sewer to comply with the requirement for a sustainable drainage system (SuDS). Additionally, the process for requisitioning the off-site storm sewers was not completed and storm water from the development does not currently have a dedicated outfall discharge point. It appears the storm water from the development is connected to a soak-a-way.

NI Water is currently undertaking the design of a scheme to provide the missing section of sewer, the SuDS system and the dedicated storm outfall to serve Drumbeg Mews and two other adjacent developments. It is expected that design of the dedicated outfall sewer will be completed by the end of February 2014.

Delivery of the necessary project will be dependent upon the availability of finance and resolution of any third party land owner issues.

Roads Service is aware of the defects in the sewers and that NIW is working towards a resolution, which will enable the streets and sewers within the development to be adopted.

Compensation Awarded: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the amount of compensation awarded from pothole and other road surface related claims in North Down, in each of the last five years.
(AQW 30110/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The NICS accounting system does not hold details of the cause of accidents and, for that reason, it is not possible to separately identify the amount of compensation awarded from pothole and other road surface claims.

Residential Car Parking Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on residential car parking schemes in North Down.
(AQW 30111/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my response to his previous related Assembly Question AQW 29960/11-15.

Fishing Rights at Reservoirs

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the procedure followed when offering fishing rights at reservoirs including specifying if this is always completed by tender, and if the process varies, to outline why.
(AQW 30146/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it currently has 28 impounding reservoirs on which fishing is permitted. Of these reservoirs, 14 are controlled or managed by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, whilst the remaining 14 are leased directly to private fishing clubs. Although not part of its core business, NIW and its predecessors have been involved in the leasing of fishing rights for some considerable time and traditionally have renewed the rights with existing clubs.

Historically NIW did not offer fishing leases to public bidding as there was no record of more than one club expressing an interest in any particular location. Clubs are normally local to a particular reservoir and clubs outside of the area are unlikely to be interested. However, in early 2011 a recently formed fly fishing club requested use of one of NIW's reservoirs. The lease had just been extended with the previous club and new club expressed concern that there had been no opportunity for the public to bid for the lease. This caused NIW to reconsider how fishing rights are managed and the decision was

taken that all future leases with private clubs or individuals will be subject to open competition. NIW considers that the public advertising of fishing leases for NIW's reservoirs is open, transparent, fair and equitable and it enables NIW to satisfy its regulatory requirement to achieve best value for the public purse. The decision to publicly advertise fishing leases did not require consultation.

All leases are now subject to public advertisement and the submissions are assessed on a 'cost alone' basis. NIW is satisfied that compliance with lease conditions provides sufficient measures to enable it to ensure that the reservoirs are properly managed and maintained. The assessment criteria is made clear in the public notice advertised in local press, therefore any interested party is aware of them.

Penalty Charge Notices

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued in each of the last three calendar years.

(AQW 30156/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued in each of the last three calendar years are set out in the table below:

Year	Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) Issued
2011	125,983
2012	112,755
2013	108,558

Bus and Rail Passengers

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail how the number of (i) bus; and (ii) rail passengers in 2013 compares to 2012.

(AQW 30157/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The relevant statistics are as outlined in the following table:

	2012 '000s	2013 '000s
Bus	67,163	67,215
Rail	11,335	12,863
Total	78,498	80,078

20mph and 30mph Speed Limit

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the proportion of roads that currently have a (i) 20mph; and (ii) 30mph speed limit.

(AQW 30158/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would advise the Member that my Department does not hold the information in the format requested.

School Transport Contracts

Mrs Hale asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the value of the Department of Education's school transport contract.

(AQW 30177/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: This information should be sought from the Department for Education.

January Monitoring Round: Bus Stations

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the bus stations that will receive funding allocated the January Monitoring Round.

(AQW 30181/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink is carrying out a programme of work aimed at ensuring that all of its bus stations, workshops and garages meet the required standards under current legislation, regulations and British Standards. The £1.5 million granted in January Monitoring will be used, in the main, towards this programme.

The current forecast expenditure associated with the bid is detailed below:

Project	Forecast Expenditure (£'000)
Antrim Integrated Bus/Rail Station	142
Bangor Integrated - Set Down Area	60
Workshop Garage Roof Replacement - Ballymena and Newcastle	81
Pennyburn Depot Storage	13
Building Service Condition Upgrade	126
Voyager Replacement Project	359
Depot Allocation System	270
Minor Capital Works at Depots & Stations	106
Replacement Workshop & Garage equipment	343
Total Forecast Expenditure	1,500

Further expenditure on bus station improvements is planned for 2014/15.

None of the allocated money will be used to fund the upgrade of Ballymena Station. A separate project is being considered by Translink for Ballymena station and this is included in the 2014/15 programme of capital projects. That project will be subject to securing the necessary approvals and funding. However, my Department has provided funding for the refurbishment of the roof at Ballymena Bus Garage and work on this project has been completed.

January Monitoring Round: Bus Stations

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total proposed additional investment in bus stations as a result of the reallocations from the January Monitoring Round.

(AQW 30287/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink is carrying out a programme of work aimed at ensuring that all of its bus stations, workshops and garages meet the required standards under current legislation, regulations and British Standards. The £1.5 million granted in January Monitoring will be used, in the main, towards this programme.

The current forecast expenditure associated with the bid is detailed below:

Project	Forecast Expenditure (£'000)
Antrim Integrated Bus/Rail Station	142
Bangor Integrated - Set Down Area	60
Workshop Garage Roof Replacement - Ballymena and Newcastle	81

Project	Forecast Expenditure (£'000)
Pennyburn Depot Storage	13
Building Service Condition Upgrade	126
Voyager Replacement Project	359
Depot Allocation System	270
Minor Capital Works at Depots & Stations	106
Replacement Workshop & Garage equipment	343
Total Forecast Expenditure	1,500

Further expenditure on bus station improvements is planned for 2014/15.

January Monitoring Round: Bus Stations

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the bus stations that will receive funding for improvements as a result of the January Monitoring Round.

(AQW 30289/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink is carrying out a programme of work aimed at ensuring that all of its bus stations, workshops and garages meet the required standards under current legislation, regulations and British Standards. The £1.5 million granted in January Monitoring will be used, in the main, towards this programme.

The current forecast expenditure associated with the bid is detailed below:

Project	Forecast Expenditure (£'000)
Antrim Integrated Bus/Rail Station	142
Bangor Integrated - Set Down Area	60
Workshop Garage Roof Replacement - Ballymena and Newcastle	81
Pennyburn Depot Storage	13
Building Service Condition Upgrade	126
Voyager Replacement Project	359
Depot Allocation System	270
Minor Capital Works at Depots & Stations	106
Replacement Workshop & Garage equipment	343
Total Forecast Expenditure	1,500

Further expenditure on bus station improvements is planned for 2014/15.

Door-2-Door Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the performance of the Door-2-Door scheme.

(AQW 30396/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Door-2-Door scheme ended on 31 March 2013.

An interim scheme, the Disability Action Transport Scheme, operated by Disability Action was introduced on 01 April 2013 and is operating well. Disability Action regularly report on user views to my officials and these are positive.

Currently my Department is undertaking an evaluation of the transport policies and schemes initiated by the Department to promote social inclusion. The outcome of the evaluation will assist my Department to develop proposals to meet the transport needs of elderly and disabled people across Northern Ireland.

At this time it is planned to maintain the interim scheme with Disability Action.

Department for Social Development

High-Rise Flats: Insulation

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has any plans to insulate high-rise flats.

(AQW 29937/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Housing Executive has advised that they are proposing a pilot scheme at Culchulainn House, Belfast, which is a 13 storey block in the New Lodge area for the provision of a contractor designed ventilated insulated rain screen system to the external walls and balconies. The contractor has been successful in obtaining a Building Research Establishment (BRE) Certification for this proposal and the work is programmed to commence shortly. This is the first high rise block to receive such a proposal and following its completion there will be an evaluation carried out to determine the effectiveness and suitability of this proposal which will shape the Housing Executive's strategy for these types of construction.

The Housing Executive is also about to commission research to undertake a survey of all of their multi-storey residential blocks. The appointed consultant will be expected to produce a comprehensive report analysing the findings of their research and to make recommendations on cost effective improvement measures relating to the refurbishment, upgrade, maintenance and management of the blocks. The overall aim of the research project is to establish the short, medium and long term requirements for the multi-storey blocks with the appointed consultant producing a multi-storey report/strategy document.

Housing Executive Properties: Change of Tenancy

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development what work is carried out on Housing Executive properties when there is a change of tenancy.

(AQW 29939/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that a Change of Tenancy pre-inspection is carried out by their Maintenance Officer who determines the amount of works to be carried out in order to ensure that the property is in a good state of repair. No tenancy should commence until a property has been brought within lettable standards; has passed Health and Safety checks; and has an Energy Performance Certificate. The level of works appropriate may depend upon the nature of the Change of Tenancy which could include Direct Exchange, Assigned and Succession tenancies.

The following work should be considered mandatory in all Change of Tenancy situations:

- Testing and certification of the electrical installation.
- Testing and certification of hard wired smoke detectors.
- Testing and certification of all heating appliances and associated flues.
- Carry out visual safety inspection of solar water heating system and controls.
- Flush out and disinfectant Domestic plumbing system where the property is vacant for more than 30 days.

The following minimum standards will apply at change of tenancy:

- External fabric - items such as roofs, gutters, windows, doors and external joinery must be in good condition and weather proof.
- Security - locks must be working properly and all window panes intact.
- Services – Change of Tenancy electrical inspection and certification. Water and heating system to be checked and free from defect. Roomheater and flueways to be tested. Gas and Oil Heating to be serviced and tested. Visual inspection of Solar water heating and controls. Testing of smoke and heat detectors where fitted by the Housing Executive. Detectors which have not been fitted by the Housing Executive should be removed.
- Internal doors - all doors must be complete and must close properly.
- Kitchen - existing units, doors, cupboards must fit properly. Work tops and sink units should not be prejudicial to health. All units should be silicone sealed.
- Bathroom - All sanitary fittings should be complete, clean and free from cracks. All units should be silicone sealed.
- Tiles - Cracked tiles to be replaced with identical or close matching tile and re-grouted as necessary.
- Walls and ceilings - Large holes to be filled.
- Mould or fungus to be washed and cleaned using anti-fungicide.
- Infestation - Properties must be fumigated if required.
- Gardens - grass and hedges to be trimmed if appropriate.
- Overall - property must be free from debris, rubbish etc. Previous carpets, floor coverings, previous tenant's possessions should be cleared from the property. Floors will be swept or mopped as necessary. All kitchen and bathroom units, window sills etc will be washed down. All Health and safety risks must be removed.
- Re-let dwellings should be thoroughly cleaned to the NIHE specification before the new tenant moves in.

Housing Executive: Offices

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development how much the Housing Executive has spent on (i) furniture; and (ii) double glazing in its offices in each of the last two years.

(AQW 29969/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised of the following expenditure on (i) furniture and (ii) double glazing in its offices in the last two years:-

(I) FURNITURE:-

2012	£134,961
2013	£123,731

(II) DOUBLE GLAZING TO NIHE OFFICES – COMMENCED NOVEMBER 2012 AND COMPLETED MAY 2013:-

2012/13	£260,132
---------	----------

Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Direct Labour Organisation

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development what is the current extent and operational cost of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's direct labour squad; and by how much these costs have changed since April 2013.

(AQW 29987/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) provided cover for all eight response maintenance contracts vacated by contractors who had gone into administration between April and August 2013. Those contracts * were as follows:-

- West Belfast
- South Belfast
- East Belfast
- North Belfast
- Shankill
- Lisburn Antrim Street
- Lisburn Dairy Farm
- Craigavon

The DLO total turnover including grounds maintenance, void property security and health and safety electrical inspections will have increased from £7.4m in 2013/14 to approximately £19m in 2014/15. The additional costs arise from the DLO taking on some of the contracts formerly undertaken by contractors who went into administration. To do that the Housing Executive has taken on 219# employees (prior to this DLO employed 127 operatives) under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) and some additional staff where there was a shortfall in the contractors' structures, for example where they did not employ electricians directly but used sub-contractors. The additional costs include the cost of these staff and all the other costs associated with the work that they do, for example, material, transport, overheads.

Notes

* The DLO is now no longer engaged in the East Belfast or Lisburn contracts.

A small number of these staff have since left.

Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development what criteria will be used to ascertain the success of the Neighbourhood Renewal programmes.

(AQW 30043/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the lessons learned.

In taking forward the evaluation, there are three key areas of work:

- An assessment of the overall impact of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy against its stated purpose, key issues, overall aim, goals and objectives;
- An assessment of the effectiveness model for the operational delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal as set out in People and Place; and
- Consideration of the lessons learned from Neighbourhood Renewal that can be provided to Councils in 2015 in the context of their new statutory duty to produce community plans for their areas.

Double Glazing of Housing Executive Homes: East Londonderry

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development when the double glazing of Housing Executive owned homes in East Londonderry will begin.

(AQW 30044/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that it has completed the appointment of contractors to its low rise Double Glazing Framework. It has also completed the secondary competitions for the award of contracts under this Framework. Those contracts have now been signed by the successful contractors and the scheme briefs have been issued to these contractors. The following schemes are in the programme for East Londonderry:-

Greysteel	110 dwellings currently programmed for May 2014
Kennaught/Roe Mill	159 dwellings currently programmed for July 2014
Coleraine	304 dwellings currently programmed for July 2014

Social Housing Stock: Carrickfergus

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister for Social Development what plans there are to increase the social housing stock in Carrickfergus.

(AQW 30055/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I recently approved the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) for the period 2014/15 – 2016/17 and details of the schemes included in it for the Carrickfergus Borough Council area are included in the table attached. Currently there are no schemes included in 2016/17 but the SHDP is reviewed annually and there is potential for additional schemes to be added in-year subject to social housing need and availability of finance.

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Work Category	Need Group
Oaklee	Sunnylands Ave/ Sunnylands Grove, Carrickfergus (T)	12	New Build	General Needs
Total SHDP 2013/14		12		
Clanmil	Governors Place, Carrickfergus	16	New Build	General Needs
Connswater	4-6 Cheston Street, Carrickfergus	6	New Build	General Needs
Oaklee	Irish Quarter West, Carrickfergus (T) & Private Lands @ Irish Quarter West	23	New Build	General Needs
Oaklee	Davy's Street/ Stannus Place, Carrickfergus (T)	12	New Build	Elderly (CAT 1)

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Work Category	Need Group
Trinity	Greenisland Frail Elderly Replacement (91 Shore Road, Greenisland)	32	New Build	Frail Elderly
Total SHDP 2014/15		89		
Connswater	5-7 Woodburn, Carrickfergus	30	New Build	General Needs
Connswater	Lower Woodburn, Carrickfergus (T)	10	New Build	General Needs
To be decided	McKeens Avenue, Carrickfergus (T)	11	New Build	General Needs
Total SHDP 2015/16		51		

(T) – Transfer schemes

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.

Employment Support Allowance Refusals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development how many Employment Support Allowance refusals were overturned on the grounds of special circumstances at (i) review; or (ii) appeal, in 2013. **(AQW 30062/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available. The IT system used to administer Employment and Support Allowance is not configured to separate applications that were granted on the grounds of exceptional circumstances.

Employment Support Allowance Applications

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development how many Employment Support Allowance applications in 2013 were granted solely on the grounds of special circumstances. **(AQW 30063/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available. The IT system used to administer Employment and Support Allowance is not configured to separate applications that were granted on the grounds of exceptional circumstances.

Employment Support Allowance Payments

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown by council area of the percentage figures for successful appeals against an ATOS assessment, which resulted in Employment and Support Allowance payments being stopped. **(AQW 30093/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Appeals Service (TAS) does not hold the information in the format requested as Employment Support Allowance (ESA) appeals are heard at various venues throughout Northern Ireland determined by the postal district within which the appellant resides.

TAS also does not record statistics or information relating to the reason a social security benefit claim is disallowed. However, the table below details the number of ESA appeals received by TAS during the period 1 June 2011 to 31 December 2013 that have received a final determination/outcome, how many were successful and the percentage success rate.

Tribunal Centre	Final Outcome	Successful	%
Armagh	637	180	28%
Ballymena	1,676	510	30%
Ballymoney	285	95	33%
Banbridge	468	121	26%
Belfast	7,551	2,202	29%
Coleraine	915	253	28%
Cookstown	438	128	29%
Craigavon	1,898	647	34%
Downpatrick	838	243	29%
Dungannon	1,093	327	30%
Enniskillen	838	346	41%
Limavady	496	185	37%
Londonderry	2,013	853	42%
Magherafelt	609	187	31%
Newry	1,293	336	26%
Newtownards	1,247	409	33%
Omagh	928	364	39%
Strabane	562	215	38%
Grand Total	23,785	7,601	32%

Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development how many fixed odds betting terminals operate in Northern Ireland; and what assessment he has made of their social impact.

(AQW 30096/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department does not maintain a record of the number of fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) in Northern Ireland; however, a report produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2011 estimated that there were approximately 568 of these machines in operation.

A gambling prevalence survey was carried out by my Department in 2010 as part of the Review of Gambling. The survey found that 2.2% of adults has had a problem with gambling in Northern Ireland, it was not however possible to identify the social impacts of the use of gaming machines as opposed to other forms of gambling.

Research is currently being carried out in Great Britain by the Responsible Gambling Trust to identify whether there is evidence that consumers are experiencing harm as a result of machines such as FOBTs; I look forward to reading the results of this research.

Licensed Betting Shops

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of licensed betting shops; and how this compares with five years ago.

(AQW 30097/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Records held by my Department indicate that there were 324 licensed bookmaking offices in 2013/14; the corresponding figure for 2008/09 was 359.

Supporting People Programme

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the (i) target; and (ii) actual expenditure for the Supporting People Programme, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 30101/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The annual target for the provision of housing support services to vulnerable people is 17,000. This target has been exceeded year on year since the introduction of the programme.

The table below details the Supporting People expenditure in each of the last 5 financial years compared to the budget.

Year end as at 31 March	Target £'000	Actual £'000
2013	66,384	65,915
2012	65,184	64,097
2011	63,884	63,154
2010	62,000	63,453
2009	62,570	62,635

A ring fenced budget for Supported Housing (Bamford) starts was introduced in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period 2011/12 – 2014/15.

The table below details actual spend for Supported Housing units

Year end as at 31 March	Bamford Actual Spend £M
2015	11,630
2014	10,000
2013	10,776
2012	9,566

Please note that anticipated spend has been included for year ending 2014 and 2015.

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.

Employment Support Allowance Claimants: West Tyrone

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown of Employment Support Allowance claimants from West Tyrone, broken down per council area, who have (i) challenged a decision to disallow benefits; and (ii) been successful in the last three years in overturning decisions to disallow or refuse their relevant benefit; and to detail representation provided for claimants by (a)

the Citizens Advice Bureau; (b) Omagh Independent Advice Service; (c) political representatives; and (d) others.

(AQW 30123/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information cannot be provided in the format requested as The Appeal Service (TAS) arranges for Employment Support Allowance (ESA) appeals to be heard at venues throughout Northern Ireland determined by the postal district within which the appellant resides.

The total number of ESA appeals received by TAS for claimants from West Tyrone in the last three financial years, the number who have been successful and the representation provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Omagh

Independent Advice Service, political representatives and others is set out below.

Financial Year	Number of ESA Appeals received (i)	Number of successful appeals	Representation at successful appeals				
			CAB	Omagh Independent Advice Service	Political Reps	Others	No Rep. Involved
2010/11	295	76	5	11	6	28	26
2011/12	460	161	4	44	9	50	54
2012/13	800	431	42	74	71	139	105

- (i) This is the number of appeals submitted to TAS. Not all appeals submitted to the Social Security Agency (SSA) will progress to TAS

Disability Living Allowance Claimants: West Tyrone

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown of Disability Living Allowance claimants from West Tyrone, broken down per council area, who have (i) challenged a decision to disallow benefits; and (ii) been successful in the last three years in overturning decisions to disallow or refuse their relevant benefit; and to detail representation provided for claimants by (a) the Citizens Advice Bureau; (b) Omagh Independent Advice Service; (c) political representatives; and (d) others.

(AQW 30124/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information cannot be provided in the format requested as The Appeal Service (TAS) arranges for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) appeals to be heard at venues throughout Northern Ireland determined by the postal district within which the appellant resides.

The total number of DLA appeals received by TAS for claimants from West Tyrone in the last three financial years, the number who have been successful and the representation provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Omagh

Independent Advice Service, political representatives and others is set out below.

Financial Year	Number of DLA Appeals received (i)	Number of successful appeals	Representation at successful appeals				
			CAB	Omagh Independent Advice Service	Political Reps	Others	No Rep. Involved
2010/11	295	72	9	5	6	22	30

Financial Year	Number of DLA Appeals received (i)	Number of successful appeals	Representation at successful appeals				
			CAB	Omagh Independent Advice Service	Political Reps	Others	No Rep. Involved
2011/12	203	101	11	8	8	27	47
2012/13	242	112	21	6	24	29	32

- (i) This is the number of appeals submitted to TAS. Not all appeals submitted to the Social Security Agency (SSA) will progress to TAS

Supply of Social Housing

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Social Development why the supply of social housing is outstripped by the demand.

(AQW 30205/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive, who manage the Social Housing Development Programme, assess the social housing need requirement for Northern Ireland taking account of demographic, new build, demolition and vacancy data (Net Stock Model). The annual social housing need requirement for Northern Ireland over the past ten years is set out in the table below; together with the new build social housing programme starts facilitated by the budget for each year of the same period.

The major factors that explain demand exceeding supply are: continued demographic growth, continued low level output in the private sector, availability of suitably located and priced land, and capacity constraints within the housing associations sector. The availability of funding is not considered a constraint at this time.

The cumulative shortfall between social housing need and the social housing starts over the past 10 years is 7,732 units.

	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04
Housing Need	2000	2000	2500	2500	3000	2500	2500	2200	1600	1600
New Starts based on budget	1379	1410	2418	1838	1136	1595	1032	1519	1317	1526
Shortfall	621	590	82	664	1864	1405	1468	681	283	74

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.

Warm Homes Scheme: Coleraine Borough Council Area

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of (i) applications; and (ii) approvals for the Warm Homes Scheme in the Coleraine Borough Council area in the 12 months (a) before; and (b) after 31 October 2010.

(AQW 30215/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive manages the Warm Homes Scheme on behalf of the Department for Social Development. The Housing Executive collects information on completed measures for the Warm Homes Scheme by Council area.

The Warm Homes Scheme manager arranges to have measures installed by their own contractors once it has been established that an applicant is eligible for assistance.

In the Coleraine area, a total of 644 homes have received measures under the Warm Homes Scheme. The table below shows the measures by type:

WARM HOMES SCHEME COLERAINE

Intervention	01/11/2009 – 31/10/2010	01/11/2010 – 31/10/2011	Total
Insulation	318	259	577
Heating	3	25	28
Heating & Insulation	17	22	39
Total	338	306	644

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.

Commercial Enterprise: Charitable Foundation

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what barriers exist to prevent an existing commercial enterprise becoming a charitable foundation.

(AQW 30216/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are no barriers to prevent an existing commercial enterprise becoming a charitable foundation.

A charitable foundation's purposes must be exclusively charitable and for the public benefit. Any profit from trading or commercial activity must be applied in accordance with its charitable purposes and its assets must remain within the charity sector. A charitable foundation is required to register with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Minimum Kerb Heights in Shared Surface Streets

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development to outline his Department's position on minimum kerb heights in shared surface streets.

(AQW 30244/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Social Development has been working with a number of councils on Public Realm Schemes which may involve shared surface streets. The Department does not have any specific position on shared surface streets but where these are planned the Roads Service is consulted in relation the planning approval for such schemes and must give its approval to the specification and ensure that it meets with their standards as ultimately the Roads Service will be responsible for adopting the completed scheme.

Review of Public Administration

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the areas of responsibility under his departmental remit that will be transferred to local government under the Review of Public Administration, including (i) the budget for each project or programme; and (ii) whether staff will also be transferred.

(AQW 30313/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Executive has committed to the Reform of Local Government and as part of this has agreed a package of functions that should transfer from Central Government to Local Government. The package includes an extension of powers from DSD to Councils to enable them to address area

based regeneration and community development; in addition functions to transfer include Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), Housing Unfitness and Laganside. Costs associated with HMOs and Unfitness are in the region of £2m per annum. The annualised cost for Laganside has been calculated as £2.7m per annum. In relation to the budgets for area based regeneration and community development, these are estimated at £62m although this sum may be subject to efficiency savings as part of the Executive's 2015/16 Budget process.

For the HMO, Unfitness and Laganside functions, staff involved in delivery will transfer to Councils under TUPE provisions. For staff involved in the delivery of regeneration and community development, TUPE does not apply but we are working with Councils on the principles of a scheme that will provide Councils with access to experienced DSD staff.

Privatisation of Support Grade Band Functions

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to outline the rationale for his Department's privatisation of its Support Grade Band functions; (ii) whether his Department is aware of any issues regarding the performance of other private sector providers of these services; (iii) if so, to provide further details; and (iv) to outline the rationale for the inclusion in the same tender of the unconnected function of Health and Safety Risk Assessments in departmental buildings.

(AQW 30323/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) The decision by the Department for Social Development to outsource its Soft Services was an operational one driven by a need to improve performance and achieve efficiencies.

The Department is working to support the affected staff who have the option to: (i) transfer to another NICS department; (ii) transfer laterally to an administrative post within DSD (where staff meet the qualifying conditions); or, (iii) transfer to the new provider under TUPE.

This question was previously asked and addressed under AQW 26721/11-15

- (ii) The Department is not aware of any issues regarding the performance of other private sector providers of these services
- (iii) Not applicable
- (iv) Health and Safety Risk Assessments are to be included in the same tender to assure that they are conducted in a comprehensive, timely and consistent manner across the Departments' estate by professionally trained experts.

Civil Servants Employed at Lisahally

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of civil servants employed at Lisahally to carry out tasks directly related to benefit claims and entitlements in Great Britain, whose employment is directly linked to Welfare Reform proceeding in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 30346/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are currently 179 staff located in Lisahally who carry out tasks directly related to benefit claims and entitlements in Great Britain. They are part of a wider group of staff who provide such services. The remaining 485 staff are employed in Belfast. This business area is titled the Belfast Benefit Centre and it provides processing for a number of working age benefits for the South East of England (London and the Home Counties) on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Department for Work and Pensions have already indicated that their jobs may be at risk if Northern Ireland does not progress with welfare reform because many of the competitive advantages which Northern Ireland offers the Department for Work and Pensions will disappear as the staff will no longer be operating the same social security systems.

Removal of Social Security Related Work

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development how many civil servants' jobs will be lost as a result of the removal of Social Security related work carried out locally for agencies in Great Britain should the Welfare Reform Bill not be implemented.

(AQW 30347/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Around 664 staff are currently employed in Belfast Benefit Centre which provides processing for a number of working age benefits for the South East of England (London and the Home Counties) on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. There are also 800 staff employed in the Child Maintenance Service providing services to the Eastern Region of England on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Department for Work and Pensions have already indicated that their jobs may be at risk if Northern Ireland does not progress with welfare reform because many of the competitive advantages which Northern Ireland offers the Department for Work and Pensions will disappear as the staff will no longer be operating the same social security systems.

Financial Transactions Capital

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development what projects his Department is exploring for potential delivery under Financial Transactions Capital.

(AQW 30364/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department is currently utilising Financial Transactions Capital to deliver four projects namely:-

- The purchase of vacant/repossessed homes by Housing Associations for renovation and re-sale;
- A shared equity scheme akin to the current co-ownership model;
- An affordable Home Loans scheme; and
- An empty Home Loans scheme.

Since January 2013, £27.7m in financial transactions capital funding has been made available for these four projects.

Financial Transactions Capital

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to outline any plans he has to utilise Financial Transactions Capital in the delivery of housing.

(AQW 30365/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I am of the opinion that Financial Transactions Capital funding provides real opportunity for the housing sector. My Housing Strategy "Facing the Future" outlines a number of commitments where such funding may bear fruit.

Four housing-related projects are currently being taken forward with Financial Transactions Capital. These are:

- 1 Purchase of vacant/repossessed homes by Housing Associations for renovation and re-sale
- 2 New shared equity scheme akin to the current co-ownership model
- 3 Affordable Home Loans scheme
- 4 Empty Home Loans scheme.

Since January 2013, £27.7m in financial transactions capital funding has been made available for these four projects.

These projects will help assist wider economic growth through the income generated for the construction sector in undertaking these works.

Housing: Waiting List

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the current number of applicants on the social housing waiting list that are deemed to be in housing stress.

(AQO 5430/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that at 1 January 2014 there were 21,354 applicants on the waiting list who have 30 or more housing need points under the Housing Selection Scheme Rules and are therefore deemed to be in Housing Stress.

The definition of housing stress is a household on the Housing Executive waiting list and assessed to be in the most need, for reasons of health, intimidation, insecurity of tenure and housing conditions.

Housing: Newbuilds

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the target for social home starts in the 2014/15 financial year.

(AQO 5432/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Plans, which I approved in December, are to start 2,000 new social homes in 2014/15 and in each of the following two years. The new programme, which details each of the new schemes, can be viewed on the Housing Executive website.

These plans will next year see the biggest number of new homes started for the past four years and underpins my commitment to deliver higher levels of new social housing.

Stepping up to an annual output of 2,000 new homes is a significant challenge. Whilst funding is already in place to deliver the 2014/15 programme, it has yet to be agreed for the following two years. You can be assured that I will be continuing to make the case to Executive colleagues for sufficient funding to allow these higher levels of output to be maintained.

Shared Space

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development to outline how he ensures that urban regeneration planning takes account of the need to promote shared space.

(AQO 5433/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As Minister for Social Development I have made it one of my ministerial priorities 'to bring divided communities together by creating urban centres which are sustainable, welcoming and accessible to live, work and relax in peace'. This is one of the strategic objectives in my Department's Corporate Plan for 2011 – 2015 and what we do to implement it is detailed in the Department's Annual Business Plan.

Two of my Department's main policy statements; the Urban Regeneration and Community Development Framework and the Housing Strategy reflect this priority and the need to promote shared space.

The Regeneration Framework, published in July 2013, supports the development of shared and accessible town and city centres and other development sites. But promoting shared space is not just about physical development. It is also

important that communities are supported so that they can also contribute to improving their neighbourhoods through the development of networks and partnerships within and between communities.

The Housing Strategy and its Action Plan, also published in July 2013, outlines how proposals will be developed to support shared communities 'which are welcoming to everyone' by building on the success of the Shared Neighbourhood Programme.

Another important planning tool is the Town Centre Masterplans that my Department has developed in partnership with local councils. These have been the catalyst for the successful design and delivery of many public realm schemes and other regeneration interventions which have at their core the creation of attractive open and shared places where people can live, work and visit. My Department's work in this area was highlighted in the Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring report which recognised 'the value of new confident and vibrant shared urban spaces'.

With the transfer of regeneration powers and their associated budgets to councils in 2015 I plan to bring forward the Regeneration and Housing Bill which will ensure that councils have due regard to the policy guidance provided by DSD and continue to promote shared space in our town and city centres in future.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Mr Maskey asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of whether councils are fit for purpose in relation to managing the transfer of Neighbourhood Renewal under the Review of Public Administration.

(AQO 5434/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Neighbourhood Renewal is not transferring to the new Councils in terms of a formal transfer of function. However, I would expect that many of the new Councils will wish to continue to tackle area-based deprivation, at least in the short to medium term, using the approaches that my Department has developed and managed over the last decade.

However, I am concerned that significant challenges lie ahead in ensuring that the transfer to the new arrangements is as smooth as possible. In order to assist the new councils in discharging their new responsibilities I have tasked my officials to work closely with the Statutory Transition Committees, and later the Shadow Councils, to assist them in putting in place effective arrangements to meet the needs of their communities.

Welfare Reform

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on any discussions on the implementation of welfare reform.

(AQO 5435/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Since coming into office in May 2011, I have been engaged with ministers within the Executive and in Westminster to seek ways to ameliorate some of the more negative aspects of the reform of the welfare system to meet the needs of Northern Ireland.

The outcome of this is that I have developed a package of measures designed to tailor how the reform of the welfare system is implemented in Northern Ireland. This package will not only help simplify the social security system but more importantly it will involve measures which protect the most vulnerable in our society.

I presented the current package of measures to the Welfare Reform Executive sub-committee on 27 January and indicated my intention to bring it to the Executive meeting on the 30 January; however, the ultimate decision to bring it forward rests with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Housing: Funding Bids

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the difference between the total departmental funds bid for, against those received, in the last 4 monitoring rounds, specifically in relation to funds allocated to housing.

(AQO 5436/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department submitted bids totalling £33.7million and was allocated £23.7million over the period. The difference was £10m.

- In January 2013 no bids were made.
- In June 2013 a £15million bid was made for Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association (NICHA). Of this £10million was allocated.
- In October 2013 bids valued at £18.7 million were submitted. This was made up of £10million from NICHA, £5million Affordable Home Loans and £3.7million Empty Homes Loans. £5million was allocated to NICHA and the Affordable Home Loans/Empty Home Loans bids were met in full.
- No bids were made in January 2014.

Affordable Warmth Scheme

Mr Cree asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the Affordable Warmth Scheme pilots.

(AQO 5437/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The University of Ulster's evaluation of this Affordable Warmth Pilot has indicated that the area based targeting approach to tackling fuel poverty was a success. Phase one of the pilots was primarily about testing the effectiveness of this targeting tool in identifying those vulnerable households. Phase two commenced in September 2013, testing how the energy efficiency measures can be delivered using local installers to carry out the work. My Department intends to launch a public consultation on the future delivery of energy efficiency improvements for low income households in late February 2014.

Housing: Victims and Survivors

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on how Victims and Survivors can be supported through the housing selection scheme for social housing.

(AQO 5438/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the Housing Selection Scheme includes provision for an award of intimidation points to applicants or tenants who have been the victim of hate crime and have been intimidated from their home. A Health and Social Well Being Assessment is also carried out which includes an assessment of functionality within the applicant's existing accommodation, support care needs, social needs and complex needs. This assessment includes an award of points in recognition of circumstances such as violence or risk of violence, harassment, distress or anxiety caused by trauma.

By way of additional support, the Housing Executive also operates several schemes to help victims of hate incidents. This includes a Hate Incident Practical Action Scheme (HIPA) with the NIO and PSNI. The purpose of this scheme is to provide personal and home protection measures to victims of incidents perceived to be racial, homophobic, disability, sectarian, transphobic and religious. The scheme will ensure that residents of non-Housing Executive as well as Housing Executive properties who have been the subject of a hate incident - at or close to their home - are afforded support both during and after normal working hours.

In addition, the Supporting People programme for housing related support aims to help tenants sustain their tenancies and vulnerable people live as independently as possible in the community.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Register of Interests for Members' Staff

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission to detail any consideration that has been given to introducing a Register of Interests for Members' Staff.

(AQW 29966/11-15)

Mrs Cochrane (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission has not given active consideration to the introduction of a Register of Interests for Members' staff. As support staff are employed directly by Member, it would be appropriate for each Member to assure himself or herself that no conflict of interest arises for support staff. However, this would be for each individual Member to decide upon. The eligibility criteria for the use of OCE to pay support staff are no longer a matter for the Assembly Commission. The Independent Financial Review Panel now determines such issues.

Written Answers Index

Department for Regional Development	WA 423	Department for Social Development	WA 435
20mph and 30mph Speed Limit	WA 432	Affordable Warmth Scheme	WA 449
A6 Dungiven to Derry Dualling Scheme	WA 427	Civil Servants Employed at Lisahally	WA 445
A6 Dungiven to Londonderry Dualling Scheme	WA 424	Commercial Enterprise: Charitable Foundation	WA 444
Average Percentage Increase in Bus and Train Fares	WA 424	Disability Living Allowance Claimants: West Tyrone	WA 442
Bond Enforcement Action in Drumbeg Mews, Lisburn	WA 430	Double Glazing of Housing Executive Homes: East Londonderry	WA 438
Bus and Rail Passengers	WA 432	Employment Support Allowance Applications	WA 439
Compensation Awarded: North Down	WA 431	Employment Support Allowance Claimants: West Tyrone	WA 441
Door-2-Door Scheme	WA 434	Employment Support Allowance Payments	WA 439
Fishing Rights at Reservoirs	WA 431	Employment Support Allowance Refusals	WA 439
Illegal Landfill Site at Mobouy Road	WA 424	Financial Transactions Capital	WA 446
Independent Review: A5 Road Project	WA 428	Financial Transactions Capital	WA 446
January Monitoring Round: Bus Stations	WA 433	Fixed Odds Betting Terminals	WA 440
January Monitoring Round: Bus Stations	WA 433	High-Rise Flats: Insulation	WA 435
January Monitoring Round: Bus Stations	WA 434	Housing Executive: Offices	WA 436
Lisburn City Council Area: Non-Adoption of Roads	WA 430	Housing Executive Properties: Change of Tenancy	WA 435
Maintenance of Roads	WA 426	Housing: Funding Bids	WA 448
Millennium Way Phase II Project	WA 427	Housing: Newbuilds	WA 447
Ministerial Meetings on Transport Issues	WA 428	Housing: Victims and Survivors	WA 449
New Cycle Lanes	WA 423	Housing: Waiting List	WA 447
Off-Street Car Parks: Grit	WA 430	Licensed Betting Shops	WA 441
Off-Street Car Parks: Lisburn and Banbridge	WA 429	Minimum Kerb Heights in Shared Surface Streets	WA 444
Penalty Charge Notices	WA 432	Neighbourhood Renewal	WA 448
Reopening of the Hillhead Road, Newry	WA 429	Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes	WA 437
Residential Car Parking Schemes	WA 431	Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Direct Labour Organisation	WA 437
Residents' Parking Scheme	WA 426	Privatisation of Support Grade Band Functions	WA 445
Residents' Parking Scheme: Bogside Area	WA 426	Removal of Social Security Related Work	WA 446
Residents' Parking Schemes	WA 425	Review of Public Administration	WA 444
Residents' Parking Schemes	WA 425	Shared Space	WA 447
School Transport Contracts	WA 432	Social Housing Stock: Carrickfergus	WA 438
Translink Belfast to Dublin Train Tickets: Online Booking	WA 423	Supply of Social Housing	WA 443
		Supporting People Programme	WA 441
		Warm Homes Scheme: Coleraine Borough Council Area	WA 443
		Welfare Reform	WA 448
Department for Employment and Learning	WA 376	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	WA 314
Expenditure on Ministerial Travel	WA 380	Agri-Food Strategy Board	WA 315
IT Sector: Skill Shortage	WA 379	Animal Cruelty and Animal Welfare	WA 315
North Coast College: Body Workshop Course	WA 378	Animal Cruelty: Investigations	WA 317
Steps 2 Success Programme	WA 376		
Steps 2 Success Programme	WA 377		

Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers	WA 315	Fishing Tourism	WA 354
Animal Welfare Officers	WA 317	Fish Ladder, Ballyshannon	WA 352
Areas of Natural Constraint	WA 322	Funding Available to Sporting Organisations	WA 349
Ballymoney, Ballymena and Moyle Council Areas	WA 319	Funding for Boxing: Sports NI	WA 345
Cases of Animal Cruelty	WA 317	Funding Opportunities Available to Golf Clubs	WA 350
Children's Services	WA 326	Genetic Research Project: Lough Neagh	WA 343
Coastal Defences: South Down	WA 316	Irish City of Culture 2016	WA 342
Common Agricultural Policy: Rural Development Programme Funding	WA 323	Irish City of Culture 2016	WA 342
Credit Unions in Rural Areas	WA 317	Irish Language Act and the Ulster Scots Language: Spend	WA 343
Delay in Single Farm Payments	WA 314	Irish Language Agency and the Ulster Scots Agency	WA 338
Departmental Headquarters: Ballykelly	WA 321	Legacy Trust UK: Connections Programme	WA 339
Department Headquarters in Ballykelly	WA 323	Libraries: East Belfast	WA 353
Farms: Health and Safety Measures	WA 316	Libraries NI	WA 351
Fish Farms: Pig and Poultry Protein	WA 320	Lough Neagh	WA 337
Fish Farms: Pig and Poultry Protein	WA 321	Major Capital Projects: Foyle Constituency	WA 327
Fish Products: Pig and Poultry Protein	WA 321	Major Capital Projects: Foyle Constituency	WA 327
Flood Defences	WA 324	Motorsports: Funding	WA 353
Golf Clubs in Rural Areas: Funding	WA 323	Performing Arts	WA 351
Level 3 Qualification in Agriculture	WA 316	Redevelopment of Brandywell Stadium	WA 350
North Down: Stolen Livestock	WA 322	Redevelopment of Glentoran Football Club	WA 338
Proposed Pre-Notification Legislation for Tree Species	WA 322	Salmon Levels	WA 347
Rural Crime	WA 325	Single All-Island Fishing Licence	WA 343
Rural Crime Reduction	WA 319	Special Olympics Ireland 2014	WA 352
Rural Cultural Heritage	WA 324	Studies on Fish Stocks	WA 338
Rural Development Programme	WA 324	The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme 2014	WA 351
Rural Health	WA 326	The Irish Language Agency and the Ulster Scots Agency: Spend	WA 343
Single Farm Payments: Delay	WA 326	Third Sector Organisations Funded by Department	WA 327
Single Farm Payments: Remote Sensing	WA 325	Travel Expenditure	WA 347
Welfare of Animals Act 2011: Custodial Sentences	WA 318	Ulster Rugby	WA 354
		Windsor Park	WA 351
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	WA 327	Department of Education	WA 355
Amendments to Fisheries Legislation	WA 341	Ballymoney, Ballymena and Moyle Council Areas	WA 356
Arm's-Length Bodies	WA 349	Blind and Visually Impaired Children and Young People	WA 364
Board of Sport Northern Ireland	WA 350	Defibrillators: Training	WA 355
Boxing Clubs: Child Protection Obligations	WA 345	Development Proposals for Schools	WA 367
Boxing: Sectarianism	WA 352	Educational Psychology Services	WA 365
Capital Projects Funded by the Department	WA 340	Education and Library Board Staff	WA 374
Capital Works in Football Stadia	WA 344	Education and Library Board: Staff Annual Increments	WA 355
Commemoration Pertinent to 1916	WA 342	Education: Minor Works Scheme	WA 375
Commonwealth Games 2014	WA 344	Free School Meals	WA 375
Conservation Limits for Salmon Stocks	WA 348		
Cultural Tourism	WA 344		
Departmental Office in the North West	WA 341		
Fishing Licences	WA 346		

Looked After Children and Young People	WA 364	Department of Finance and Personnel	WA 404
Looked After Children and Young People	WA 365	Civil Service Grades	WA 404
Middletown Centre for Autism	WA 372	Commerical Enterprises: Rates	WA 406
Minor Works in Schools	WA 356	Departmental Ministerial Travel	WA 405
Personal Education Plans	WA 365	Disabled Personal Allowance Rates Rebate	WA 406
Schools Enhancement Programme	WA 374	Land and Property Services: Rate Payments	WA 404
Shared Education	WA 374	North West Regional Science Park	WA 404
Strategy for 14-19 Year Olds	WA 375	Training Programmes: External Groups and Organisations	WA 406
Suspensions and Expulsions	WA 368	Vacant Domestic Properties	WA 404
Teachers' Negotiating Committee	WA 364		
Travel and Subsistence Costs	WA 372	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	WA 406
Unused School Premises	WA 373	Accident and Emergency Unit: Downe Hospital	WA 414
Vacancies for Principal Posts	WA 368	Accident and Emergency Unit: Downe Hospital	WA 414
Woodburn Primary School	WA 376	Air Ambulances	WA 410
		Air Ambulances	WA 410
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	WA 380	Appointment of Locums: Cost	WA 406
Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and InvestNI: Agri-Food Event	WA 390	Avastin: Availability	WA 418
Businesses: InvestNI Assistance	WA 386	Clinical Negligence Claims	WA 415
Commonwealth Games 2014	WA 389	Clinical Negligence Claims	WA 416
Companies in County Fermanagh: InvestNI Funding	WA 381	Critical Care Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital	WA 409
Decentralisation of Jobs	WA 391	Cycles of IVF Treatment	WA 411
Electricity Generation Infrastructure	WA 390	Cycles of IVF Treatment	WA 411
Employment Contracts	WA 387	Cycles of IVF Treatment	WA 411
Energy Issues: British Irish Council and the North South Ministerial Council	WA 386	Cycles of IVF Treatment	WA 412
Farm Safety Measures	WA 391	Families Matter Strategy	WA 412
Farm Safety Measures: Budget	WA 381	Family Fund Grant Scheme	WA 418
Foreign Investment in South Down	WA 388	Gall Bladder Removal Operations	WA 417
InvestNI Resources: Jobs	WA 387	January Monitoring Round	WA 407
InvestNI: Rockabill NI Ltd	WA 390	January Monitoring Round	WA 407
Irish Bank Officials Association: Job Cuts	WA 393	January Monitoring Round	WA 408
Kurdistan Regional Government	WA 392	January Monitoring Round	WA 408
Ministerial Meetings on Tourism Issues	WA 387	January Monitoring Round	WA 409
Ministerial Meetings on Trade Issues	WA 388	Job Advertisements for Middle Grade Accident and Emergency Doctors	WA 415
Ministerial Visits	WA 381	Legislation Banning Smoking in Cars	WA 409
Newsread Limited: Local Newsagents	WA 392	Looked After Children Enrolled in Universities	WA 408
Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation	WA 388	Looked After Children: Personal Education Plan	WA 410
North West Regional Science Park	WA 389	Looked After Child: Residential Care Home	WA 417
Port of Larne: Job Promotion	WA 393	Mental Health Charities: Funding	WA 416
Prepayment Meters for Electricity	WA 388	Mental Health Service Provision: North Down	WA 415
Tamboran Resources: Figures	WA 393	Needlestick Injuries	WA 407
Third Sector Organisations Funded by Department	WA 392	NHS Fertility Treatment	WA 412
Tourism: Scotch-Irish Community in the USA	WA 380	Nurses Undertaking Education Programmes	WA 415

Separated Fathers	WA 413	Childcare Strategy	WA 313
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment	WA 417	Child Poverty Act	WA 313
Department of Justice	WA 418	Delivering Social Change: Audio Visual Announcements on Buses	WA 314
Article 19 of the Magistrates' Courts (NI) Order 1981	WA 422	Delivering Social Change Framework: South Tyrone	WA 312
Community Safety College at Desertcreat	WA 421	European PEACE Funding	WA 304
Coroners Service of Northern Ireland: Website	WA 420	Fiscal Powers	WA 313
European Court of Human Rights	WA 420	North South Bodies: Cost	WA 303
HM Young Offenders Centre Hydebank Wood	WA 423	Organ Donation	WA 311
Inquests: Backlog	WA 420	Planning Bill	WA 312
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	WA 423	Special Advisers: Gifts and Hospitality	WA 311
Legal Aid: Proceedings	WA 418	Victims and Survivors Service	WA 314
Magilligan Prison: Staff Days Lost	WA 419	Work Placements for Young People	WA 303
National Crime Agency	WA 421		
Northern Ireland Prison Service: Medication	WA 421		
Prisoners: Medication	WA 420		
Prisons: Drug Culture	WA 422		
Prisons: Drugs-Associated Problematic Areas	WA 422		
Rural crimes: Conviction Rates	WA 422		
Serious Case Reviews	WA 419		
Staff Hurt or Injured at Maghaberry Prison	WA 419		
Department of the Environment	WA 394		
Car Parking: City Airport	WA 402		
Councillors: Remuneration	WA 403		
Drivers: Fatal Road Accidents	WA 394		
Enforcement Notices	WA 399		
Exploris Aquarium: Business Case	WA 403		
Hydroelectric Projects	WA 401		
Listed Buildings in North Down	WA 394		
Planning Application K/2013/0072/FWA	WA 394		
River Faughan Special Area of Conservation	WA 402		
Roadside Enforcement Initiative: Inspections	WA 397		
RPA: Update	WA 402		
South Eastern Regional College: Theatre in Bangor	WA 403		
Taxi Companies: Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles	WA 398		
Taxi Companies: Wheelchair Users	WA 398		
Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	WA 450		
Register of Interests for Members' Staff	WA 450		
Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	WA 303		
Childcare Strategy	WA 312		

Revised Written Answers

Friday 7 February 2014

(AQO 5468/11-15)

My Department is currently delivering the redevelopment of the Ravenhill Rugby Grounds which is the Headquarters of Ulster Rugby. My Department's investment in the Stadium will total £16.4m by the time the whole project is complete.

In support of my Department's key priority of promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion Ulster Rugby has been awarded £1.5m (£0.5 each year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15). This funding to Ulster Rugby will be applied to increasing participation in the sport in the top 30% of areas of multiple deprivation, to increasing the number of accredited coaches working within Disability by 10% and also to increase female participation including coaches.

In addition to this support, my Department over the past three years, through Sport NI has awarded just under £850,000 to Ulster Rugby thorough programmes which include the 'Investing in Performance Sport Programme', the 'Stadia Safety (Urgent Works) Programme' and the 'Sport Matters Capital Equipment Programme.'

In terms of planned support, a further £917,000 is anticipated, predominantly through Sport NI's Performance Focus Programme.



Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

Online

www.tsoshop.co.uk

Mail, Telephone, Fax & E-mail

TSO

PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522

Fax orders: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: customer.services@tso.co.uk

Textphone 0870 240 3701

TSO@Blackwell and other Accredited Agents

ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

© Copyright Northern Ireland Assembly Commission 2014

ISBN 978-0-339-70326-1

