

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 4 November 2011**

**Volume 68, No WA2**



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Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 4 November 2011

## Written Answers to Questions

### Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

#### Child Poverty

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) what steps are being taken to fulfil the statutory obligation to end child poverty by 2020; and (ii) what targets will be included in the Programme for Government to achieve this aim.

(AQW 3003/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** In line with our statutory obligation to end child poverty by 2020, Junior Ministers have met, over the summer period, with both departmental and non-departmental members of the Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum, to discuss the departments' respective input to a Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan and seek the views of the non-departmental members on what they would like to see in the Plan.

As a result of these discussions, work is now in hand to finalise the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan and an associated Outcomes Model to monitor progress of the Plan towards eradicating child poverty.

The Stakeholder Forum, which is chaired by Junior Ministers, met again in plenary on 27 October 2011, and received an update on the proposed Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan and Outcomes Model.

Subject to the successful completion of this phase of the work, a draft Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan and Outcomes Model will issue for public consultation.

As with every priority issue identified, an appropriate set of performance indicators will be established as part of the new programme's monitoring and reporting framework.

#### Former Army Base Site in Ballykelly

**Mr Dallat** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the plans for the former army base site in Ballykelly; and will they make a statement on the matter.

(AQW 3085/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We refer the Member to the response we made to AQW 2549/11, AQW 2856/11 and AQW 2897/11, answered in October 2011.

#### Flags Protocol Review Group

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the format and the timescale of the review being carried out by the Flags Protocol Review Group.

(AQW 3210/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** As an attempt to address the issue of flag flying, a multiagency Joint Protocol in Relation to Flags Flown in Public Areas was introduced in 2005 as the agreed guidance for the removal of flags from public property. Although it is a best practice guide, its recommendations can be difficult to implement in every circumstance.

Consideration was given to revising the Joint Protocol; and the Flags Protocol Review Group met on two occasions. The meetings took place on

7 October and 23 November 2009. The review group does not have a set membership however participants included OFMDFM, DRD, DSD, DOE, NIO, PSNI, Equality Commission, Community Relations Council, Housing Executive, BT, NIE, Queen's University Belfast, Ballymena and Larne Borough Councils.

Work on the review was suspended in January 2010 whilst the new good relations policy was being developed. We are, however, reconvening the Flags Protocol Review Group and will take its work forward within the wider context of the development of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the easements that have been identified by their Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3265/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** OFMDFM identified the following current expenditure easements, totalling £1.134m, from Departmental baselines in the October 2011 Monitoring Round:

- £0.438m Commissioner for Older People;
- £0.397m Cohesion, Sharing and Integration;
- £0.126m Strategic Investment Board;
- £0.093m Maze / Long Kesh;
- £0.067m NI Judicial Appointments Commission; and
- £0.013m Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People.

OFMDFM has also registered an easement of £7 million from the Social Investment Fund for the 2011/12 financial year. We have obtained Executive agreement that this £7 million is carried forward into 2012/13, which would maintain the fund at £80 million, as allocated by the Executive in Budget 2011-15.

## Childcare Strategy

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) for an update on the £12 million earmarked for the Childcare Strategy; (ii) whether any of the £12 million has been allocated to projects in the interim; and (iii) if so, to detail the names of the projects or organisations that have received funding and the amount allocated in each case.

(AQW 3272/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Proposals from a number of departments are currently under consideration. Some of these will undoubtedly deliver substantial progress towards improving the affordability and accessibility of good quality childcare provision for all parents, and deliver key actions identified in the OFMDFM policy and economic appraisal.

We are committed to ensuring sound investment not only of the additional £3m in the current year, but of the full £12m across the term of this administration.

We plan to put proposals on the development of the Childcare Strategy to the Executive later this year.

## Special Advisers

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 1792/11-15, (i) to explain the reasons for their Department not providing the information requested, given that other Departments have supplied the information for their Special Advisers and its release is in the public interest ; and (ii) how many of their Special Adviser's salaries within their Department have increased,

following the decision of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 18 July 2011 to increase the upper limit of Band B to £90,000.

(AQW 3275/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** It is not our policy to give specific details in relation to Special Adviser pay other than to indicate the salary band in which their salary falls.

### **Staff: Third Level Education Courses**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the number of staff in their Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by their Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3394/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Number of staff undertaking a third level education course</b>	<b>Paid (a) in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid (b) in part by the Department</b>
2008/2009	3	1	2
2009/2010	4	3	1
2010/2011	2	2	0

### **WHOLLY-FUNDED COURSES.**

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Course title</b>	<b>Course fees</b>	<b>full/part time</b>	<b>Educational Institution</b>
2008/2009	MSc Innovation Management in the Public Sector 2 year course	£8,000 over 2 years	Part time	University of Ulster
2009/2010	CIPFA Professional Qualification Certificate level	£2,800	Part time	CIPFA (essential training)
	Postgraduate Diploma in Business Improvement 2 year course	£5,538 over 2 years	Part time	University of Ulster
	MSc Innovation Management in the Public Sector 2 year course	£8,000 over 2 years	Part time	University of Ulster

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Course title</b>	<b>Course fees</b>	<b>full/part time</b>	<b>Educational Institution</b>
2010/2011	CIPFA Professional Qualification Certificate level	£2,800	Part time	CIPFA (essential training)
	CIPFA Professional Qualification Diploma level	£2,800	Part time	CIPFA (essential training)

**PART-FUNDED COURSES.**

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Courses paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Course fees paid by Department</b>	<b>full/part time</b>	<b>Educational Institution</b>
2008/2009	Master of Business Administration 2 year course	£1,880 over 2 years	Part time	University of Ulster
	ACCA Certified Accounting Technician	£197.12	Part time	SE Regional College
2009/2010	Access Diploma in Computing/ Business & Multimedia 2 year course	£636 over 2 years	Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College
2010/2011	NIL			

**Child Poverty**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the Institute for Fiscal Studies forecast that child poverty is currently at 26 percent, how they intend to achieve the target of reducing child poverty to 10 percent by 2020.

(AQW 3468/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The situation has not changed since we answered AQW3003/11-15. The next Family Resources Survey child poverty figures for 2009/10 are due at the end of November.

We will produce our first Annual Report in March 2012 on progress towards eradicating child poverty by 2020 as required by the Child Poverty Act 2010.

The factors creating and sustaining poverty among children are multi-faceted and long-standing. We do not propose to respond to each press report on the issue but will focus our efforts on developing and delivering a robust and strategic approach to address both contemporary financial pressures on family resources and a long term approach which will address the inter-generational obduracy of its effects.



## Legislative Programme

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline their legislative programme for the next 12 months.

(AQW 3490/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Our answer to AQW 643/11-15 refers.

We are currently assessing our legislative requirements for this session and are working with other departments to finalise work on a legislative programme.

## Cost of Equality Schemes

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the cost to their Department of equality schemes since the publication of 'Reviewing the Effectiveness of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998' by the Equality Commission in May 2007.

(AQW 3494/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Implementation of the Departmental Equality Scheme is mainstreamed within the department as part of the policy development process. The cost of equality duties are not maintained and cannot readily be disaggregated.

## Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what consideration they have given to designating Northern Ireland as an early intervention region to help meet the outcomes listed in the ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland 2006-2016.

(AQW 3518/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We fully acknowledge that many long-term social and economic benefits can be achieved through investment in early intervention and preventative practices.

Consideration of how we can most effectively maximise the outcomes in the key areas detailed in the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People through early intervention approaches will be a key consideration in the development of the next Children and Young People's Action Plan.

We have noted that the Review of Youth Justice System report, which was published on 26th September 2011 for consultation, includes a number of recommendations specifically around early intervention and prevention, in the context of the Ten Year Strategy. We are therefore keen to see the outcome of the consultation, which we and our Executive colleagues will utilise when considering this issue further.

## Ministerial Sub-Committee for Children and Young People

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what engagement the Ministerial Sub-committee for Children and Young People has had with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

(AQW 3519/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We very much welcome the establishment of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and believe that through this initiative, we will be able to ensure that the work of government departments in relation to children and young people links much more effectively to, and complements, that at agency and local level.

The Junior Ministers, who co-chair the Ministerial Sub-Committee for Children and Young People, have met with members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in order to identify and discuss opportunities and possibilities for collaborative and co-operative working.

Junior Ministers have also recently participated in a public seminar organised by the Regional Health and Social Care Board, QUB Improving Children's Lives and Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI), at which one of the key programme items was the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

The future delivery of the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People and the structures and processes needed to support this are currently being reviewed by Junior Ministers and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Ministerial Sub-Committee for Children and Young People. This discussion will include proposals on effective strategic and operational roles and responsibilities of the Ministerial Sub-Committee and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

## Junior Ministers

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of junior Ministers being the central point of accountability in children's services planning.

(AQW 3520/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The planning and delivery of children's services is a DHSSPS responsibility and the central point of accountability in children's services planning therefore lies with that Department.

## Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they will introduce a statutory duty of departmental co-operation to ensure that Departments co-operate in the delivery of the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People.

(AQW 3589/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Children and young people remain a priority for us and the Executive. However, a statutory duty of departmental co-operation is not something that we are considering at present.

Departments already work well together within structures set up under the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People. We recognise that many children and young people's issues are cross-cutting and require co-operation across Executive departments and that is why we established the Ministerial Sub-Committee for Children and Young People. This forum encourages co-operation across departments and assists agreement of jointly identified and emerging priorities, whilst continuing to drive forward the Ten Year Strategy.

To support the Ministerial Sub-Committee, we established 'Champions' for children and young people who act as a senior point of contact within each department and help drive forward agreed policy. Champions raise awareness at Departmental Board level to encourage departments to jointly foster children and young people's issues.

We are committed to ensuring that children and young people's issues remain high on Government's agenda and to driving this work forward.

## Cost of Answering Assembly Questions

**Mr Cree** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the average cost to their Department of answering (i) an Oral Assembly Question; and (ii) a Written Assembly Question during this mandate compared to two years ago.

(AQW 3602/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** OFMDFM does not routinely estimate the cost of answering Assembly Questions and comparative information between mandates is therefore not available.

## Arm's-Length Bodies

**Mr Campbell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many of the appointees in their Department's arm's-length bodies currently earn a salary of (i) £50,000 - £70,000; (ii) £70,001 - £95,000; and (iii) over £95,000.

(AQW 3727/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The number of public appointees in our Department's arms length bodies, broken down by the specified salary bands is set out in the table below.

Salary	(i) £50,000 - £70,000	(ii) £70,001 - £95,000	(iii) Over £95,000
Number of Public Appointees	14	2	2

## Programme for Government

**Ms Ritchie** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will present the Programme for Government to the Executive for (i) discussion; (ii) amendment/agreement; and (iii) consultation with the wider community.

(AQW 3761/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We are continuing to work on the development of the new Programme for Government. It is our intention to bring this to the Executive for further discussion very soon. It is not possible to provide definitive dates in respect of the public consultation at this time. However, we intend to initiate the process as soon as possible.

## Legislative Programme for the Executive

**Ms Ritchie** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they intend to publish the Legislative Programme for the Executive.

(AQW 3762/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We refer you to our response of 29 September 2011 to your previous question on this issue – AQW 2285/11-15. This remains the position. Social Investment Fund

**Mr Flanagan** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the rationale behind the decision to hold the majority of the public consultations on the Social Investment Fund in hotels rather than facilities that are regularly used by the community, which would provide better links to the community and which would cost less for the same standard of facilities.

(AQW 3874/11-15)

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** In selecting venues for the Social Investment Fund public consultation events, our officials have tried to ensure in all cases that they have a central location, are accessible to all, including people with a disability, offer the necessary communication equipment and are large enough to cater for anticipated numbers of up to 200 people.

Mindful of value for money, officials compiled an extensive list of possible venues, including some community facilities. The venues selected were those deemed most suitable based on the requirements we have outlined above.

# Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

## Energy Prices

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given increasing energy prices, what discussions her Department has had with energy companies to assist farmers in making energy savings.

(AQW 3334/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** To date I have not had any discussions with energy companies. The drivers that influence energy prices, for example, the wholesale fuel price on international markets, are outside my control. DETI, as lead department on energy matters, has no direct role in the setting of energy tariffs but works with the Utility Regulator to create market conditions which operate to keep prices as low as possible.

I am aware that energy costs represent a major input cost to farming, averaging around 5% of total input costs, with varying levels across the different agriculture sectors. In the intensive sectors such as dairying, they can account for as much as 10% of total costs and previous Carbon Trust reports have indicated a spend of £36-40m per annum by the agriculture sector.

Saving energy is therefore vital. CAFRE delivers energy efficiency benchmarking and industry training and Knowledge and Technology Transfer programmes to assist farmers identify energy efficiency measures and adopt renewable energy technologies which combined can help to improve farm business competitiveness. During the last 4 years 2,500 farmers have participated in these programmes which are delivered in partnership with key stakeholders including PowerNI.

My Department also provide capital grant assistance for the installation of specific renewable energy technologies on-farm which can be further incentivised through Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs).

## Financial Facilities to Assist Farmers

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what discussions her Department has had with banks regarding the provision of financial facilities to assist farmers who wish to invest in their businesses.

(AQW 3335/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** Following a series of discussions my predecessor Michelle Gildernew had with banks last year about the provision of finance to rural businesses and others in the rural community, I asked officials to engage directly again with the banks to find out what processes they employ to decide whether businesses can receive a match funding loan, and to ascertain why banks in some cases are withdrawing agreements to project promoters often after a Letter of Offer has issued. In consultation with the banks, officials have developed an outline business plan for use by applicants in support of their project proposal and this has issued to Local Action Groups for review.

This work is ongoing and should assist all rural dwellers and businesses including farmers seeking to diversify into a non-agricultural activity, particularly those not having already undertaken DARD's Diversification Challenge Programme.

## Departmental Spend

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail her Department's (i) direct; and (ii) indirect spend in each of the last ten years in the Belfast City Council area.

(AQW 3362/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** As all my Department's costs, both direct and indirect, are not held on the basis of the question asked, it is not possible to respond without incurring disproportionate costs.

## Belfast Telegraph Advertisement

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why an advert for a post in her Department in the Belfast Telegraph on 14 October 2011 appeared exclusively in Irish.

(AQW 3376/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** I wish to clarify that this particular advertisement was to recruit an independent Chair of the Food Strategy Board and not for a post in my Department. I feel that it is appropriate to advertise in Irish as well as English, indeed the same advertisement also appeared in English in the Belfast Telegraph on the 14 October 2011.

## Press Advertising

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many times since May 2007 her Department has placed an advert in the press where the substantive content appeared exclusively in Irish; (ii) to list the publications in which these adverts appeared; (iii) to list the jobs which were advertised; and (iv) to detail how she expects to maintain a balance in the religious background of applicants for these posts given the number of people from the Protestant community who speak the language.

(AQW 3377/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** There were 2 occasions on which adverts of this nature were placed and further details are provided below:-

Publications in which the Adverts appeared	The jobs which were advertised
Gaelsceal	Vacancy on Livestock and Meat Commission Board
Belfast Telegraph Irish News Sunday Life	Vacancy for Chairperson of the Food Strategy Board

As outlined above, there have been few instances since 2007 where my Department has placed a job advert in the press where the substantive content has appeared exclusively in Irish. On those occasions the advert has also appeared in English in the main local daily papers and I am content that no one from the Protestant community has been disadvantaged in any way.

## Staff: Third Level Education Courses

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of staff in her Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by her Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3385/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** The information requested for business years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 is attached as Appendix A.

**AQW 3385/11-15****APPENDIX A****YEAR: 2008/2009**

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	08/09	Msc Forensic Science		√	Part time	Staffordshire University	1,000.00
1	08/09	Msc European Food Regulatory Affairs		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Magee Campus	1,676.80
1	08/09	Law with Government LLB		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	868.00
1	08/09	NEBOSH Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety	√		Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	3,927.00
3	08/09	Post Graduate Certificate in Further & Higher Education		√	Part time	University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus	1,728.18 (combined cost for 3 staff)
1	08/09	Msc Rural Development		√	Part time	Rural College & Derrynoid Centre - Draperstown	912.00
1	08/09	Doctorate in Business Administration		√	Part time	Edinburgh Business School	1,560.00
1	08/09	Msc Environmental Management		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Magee Campus	88.00
1	08/09	LLM Human Rights Law		√	Part time	University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus	912.00
1	08/09	BA Hons Degree in Business Management		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College - Bangor	506.40

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	08/09	Msc/PG Dip Organic Farming		√	Part time	Scottish Agricultural College - Aberdeen	680.00
1	08/09	Bachelor of Law (Hons)		√	Part time	Open University	1,000.00
1	08/09	Food Law LLM		√	Part time	De Montford University - Leicester	1,000.00
1	08/09	HNC Vehicle Operations & Management		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College - Lisburn	524.00
1	08/09	Bsc Hon in Business Studies		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Magee Campus	675.20
3	08/09	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	1,209.00 (combined cost for 3 staff)
1	08/09	Msc Educational Multimedia		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	912.00
2	08/09	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College	1,262.00 (combined cost for 2 staff)
2	08/09	Degree link in Business Studies		√	Part time	South West College - Omagh	1376.00 (combined cost for 2 staff)
1	08/09	BA Hons Degree in Combined Studies		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	355.51
1	08/09	BTEC HNC in Construction		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College - Lisburn	308.00
1	08/09	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	North West Regional College – Londonderry	713.90

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	08/09	Msc in Communication		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	139.20
2	08/09	MSC Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health		√	Part time	University Of London	5,885.00 (combined cost for all 2 staff)
1	08/09	MSC In Infectious Diseases	√		Part time	University Of London	1,245
1	08/09	Doctor of Education	√		Part time	Queens University Belfast	1,080.00

A total of 33 staff undertook third level education in 2008/09 at a cost of £31,543.19

**YEAR: 2009/2010**

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	09/10	Msc Forensic Science		√	Part time	Staffordshire University	1,000.00
1	09/10	Msc Geographical Information Systems	√		Part time	University of Ulster - Jordanstown Campus	585.00
1	09/10	BSc Hons Business Studies with Accounting		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Magee Campus	355.20
1	09/10	Certificate in Teaching followed by PGCE		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	524.44



<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	09/10	MSC in Sustainable Rural Development		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	936.00
1	09/10	Degree link in Business & Related Studies		√	Part time	South West College-Enniskillen	710.40
2	09/10	LLB (Hons) Law Degree		√	Part time	University of Ulster - Magee Campus	1,456.80 (combined cost for 2 staff)
1	09/10	LLM Human Rights Law		√	Part time	University of Ulster–Jordanstown Campus	912.00
1	09/10	PGC in Further & Higher Education		√	Part time	University of Ulster–Jordanstown Campus	549.47
1	09/10	BTEC HNC in Civil Engineering		√	Part time	South West College- Omagh	64.80
1	09/10	Post Graduate in Further & Higher Education		√	Part time	University of Ulster - Magee Campus	936.00
1	09/10	Msc Geographical Information Systems		√	Part time	University of Ulster–Magee Campus	1,000.00
1	09/10	BTEC HNC in Civil Engineering		√	Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	326.40
1	09/10	Food Law LLM		√	Part time	De Montford University - Leicester	1,000.00
1	09/10	HNC Vehicle Operations & Management		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College - Lisburn	200.00

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	09/10	BSC Hons Business Studies		√	Part time	University of Ulster - Magee Campus	173.60
3	09/10	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	720.00 (combined cost for 3 staff)
1	09/10	Msc Educational Multimedia		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	936.00
1	09/10	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Queens University Belfast	476.00
1	09/10	PG Certificate in Further & Higher Education	√		Part time	University of Ulster– Jordanstown Campus	666.00
1	09/10	BSC Hons Degree in Business with Accounting		√	Part time	University of Ulster - Magee Campus	710.40
1	09/10	BA Hons Degree in Combined Studies		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	362.88
1	09/10	BTEC HNC in Construction		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College - Lisburn	180.00
1	09/10	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College	476.00
1	09/10	HNC Civil Engineering	√		Part time	North West Regional College - Londonderry	400.00
1	09/10	Phd Philosophy		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	936.00
1	09/10	Masters in Public Management	√		Part time	Warwick University	3,800.00

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
3	09/10	BSc Civil Engineering		√	Part time	University of Ulster– Jordanstown Campus	1,598.40 (combined cost for all 3 staff)
2	09/10	MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health		√	Part time	University Of London	3,975.00 (combined cost for 2 staff)00
1	09/10	MSc in Innovation Management	√		Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	5,750.00

A total of 36 staff undertook third level education in 2009/10 at a cost of £31,716.79

**YEAR: 2010/2011**

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	10/11	Certificate in Teaching followed by PGCE		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	1,000.00
1	10/11	Msc Geographical Information Systems	√		Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	1,329.00
1	10/11	BA Hons Degree in Combined Studies		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	373.11
2	10/11	LLB (Hons) Law Degree		√	Part time	University of Ulster - Magee Campus	1,517.39 (combined cost for 2 staff)

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	10/11	Advanced Dip in Personal & Business Communication		√	Part time	CAFRE, Loughry Campus	145.60
1	10/11	Edexcel HNC in Business Studies		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College–Bangor	401.60
1	10/11	Bsc Hons Computing & Information Systems		√	Part time	University of Ulster–Jordanstown Campus	544.80
1	10/11	BTEC HNC in Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	707.00
1	10/11	BTEC HNC in Civil Engineering	√		Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College	806.11
1	10/11	PhD Philosophy		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	960.00
1	10/11	Doctorate in Business Admin		√	Part time	Edinburgh Business School	720.00
2	10/11	Bsc Hons Business Studies		√	Part time	University of Ulster - Magee Campus	908 (combined cost for 2 staff)
1	10/11	Msc Forensic Science			Part time	Open University	1,000.00
1	10/11	PGC in Further & Higher Education		√	Part time	University of Ulster -Magee Campus	876.40
1	10/11	Bsc Hons Degree in Business with options		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	363.20
2	10/11	HNC Civil Engineering		√	Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	602.40 (combined cost for 2 staff)

<b>Number of staff</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Titles</b>	<b>Paid for in whole by the Department</b>	<b>Paid for in part by the Department</b>	<b>Part time/Full time Course</b>	<b>Educational Institute which provided the Course</b>	<b>Fees/costs to DARD (£)</b>
1	10/11	Masters in Communication with Strategic Management for Rural Business		√	Part time	Queens University Belfast	145.60
1	10/11	Bsc Degree in Business Studies		√	Part time	Southwest College - Enniskillen	363.20
1	10/11	HND ICT		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College- Lisburn	267.20
1	10/11	Edexcel BTEC HNC Vehicle Operations Management		√	Part time	South Eastern Regional College - Lisburn	333.60
1	10/11	Phd (Veterinary Quantitative Epidemiology)		√	Part time	University of Glasgow	1,000.00
1	10/11	BTEC HND Civil Engineering		√	Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	262.40
1	10/11	Masters in Public Management	√		Part time	Warwick University	3,800.00
4	10/11	BSc Civil Engineering		√	Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	2,179.20 (combined cost for all 4 staff)
14	10/11	Introduction to Teaching (3 modules of PGCE)	√		Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	8,400.00 (combined cost for all 14 staff)
2	10/11	MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health		√	Part time	University Of London	210.00 (combined cost for 2 staff)
1	10/11	Doctorate in Education	√		Part time	Queens University Belfast	1,150.00

Number of staff	Year	Titles	Paid for in whole by the Department	Paid for in part by the Department	Part time/Full time Course	Educational Institute which provided the Course	Fees/costs to DARD (£)
2	10/11	NEBOSH Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety	√		Part time	Southern Regional College - Portadown	7,900.00 (combined cost for 2 staff)
1	10/11	MSc in Innovation Management	√		Part time	University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus	4,000.00

A total of 50 staff undertook third level education in 2010/11 at a cost of £42,265.81

### Ban on Animals in Circuses

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she intends to introduce a ban on animals in circuses; and if so, when.

(AQW 3450/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** My priorities on animal welfare over the coming period will continue to be the roll-out of the new provisions in the Welfare of Animals Act 2011, including new subordinate legislation on the welfare of farmed animals, dog breeding establishments, permitted procedures and the tail docking of dogs. Engaging with Councils as they prepare for their new animal welfare enforcement role in relation to non-farmed animals is also a key priority. The majority of the provisions of the Act were commenced from 11 July this year and the remainder of the provisions will be introduced in April 2012, as new subordinate legislation is made and enforcement powers are given to Councils.

At this time, I have no plans to introduce a ban on animals in circuses. I can assure you that I intend to take the time to assess the available evidence and give the issue detailed consideration. I will also take advice on the legal implications and on the proportionality of the options open to me for example, a ban or the introduction of a robust regulatory system so that the welfare of animals in circuses is fully protected.

I would also want to examine developments in the south of Ireland and Britain and engage with stakeholders, including circus operators and their representatives, to ensure that their views are properly considered. In addition, I would wish to take into account developments in Europe, particularly in relation to the proposed new EU Animal Welfare Strategy for 2011-2015 and any legal challenges to an all-out ban on wild animals in circuses in other European countries.

While we have no circuses based in the north, there are a number of circuses registered in the south, some of which regularly travel here. My Department has an agreed protocol with colleagues in the south which provides for an inspection of animals from these registered circuses before moving back to the south.

### Departmental Legislative Programme

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her Department's legislative programme for the next twelve months.

(AQW 3457/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** Proposals are being developed to regulate reservoir safety, and I intend to introduce a Bill to the Assembly in 2013. Prior to that, a public consultation on the policy proposals will be undertaken in early 2012.

In addition my Department plans to introduce a range of subordinate legislation relating to the Forestry Act (NI) 2010, the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 and the Dogs (Amendment) Act (NI) 2011.

Proposals are also being developed for Statutory Rules relating to the Loughs Agency and to tuition fees for students undertaking Higher Education courses at CAFRE; and to transpose various EU Directives and Regulations relating to the work of my Department including agri-environment schemes, animal and plant health, animal welfare, plant protection products, marketing of agricultural produce and products, fisheries and aquaculture, Review of Decisions and Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowance.

Proposals are also being developed jointly with the DOE for the Nitrates Action Programme.

### **Rural Proofing: Legislation**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she has any plans to introduce legislation to enforce rural proofing.

(AQW 3460/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** Reinvigorated rural proofing was a commitment under the 2007 – 2011 Programme for Government. It included the revision of guidance on rural proofing, the development of a rural proofing training programme for delivery to NICS policy makers and provision of an advice and support service for rural proofing. A review of the impact of the reinvigorated rural proofing process will be carried out in 2012. The outcomes of this review will inform the need, if any, to legislate for rural proofing.

### **Rural Support Networks**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what guidelines her Department has given to Local Action Groups in order for them to work collaboratively with the Rural Support Networks.

(AQW 3461/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** All Local Action Groups (LAGs) have been advised in writing and at various events about the formal support that has been provided by the Rural Support Networks (RSNs) since September 2010. However prior to this, the RSNs have had close links with the LAGs, with RSN members represented on most LAGs and these links have been in place since the beginning of the NI Rural Development Programme (NIRDP). The Rural Development Consortium (comprising of the RCN, 9 Rural Support Networks and the NI Rural Women's Network) currently has a contract with my Department until 31 March 2012. A key focus of this contract is about ensuring that rural community needs are effectively addressed through the Axis 3 'Quality of Life' measures. A number of 'Key Performance Indicators' have been directly linked to each of the LAGs' strategies, with clear outputs expected.

### **Flooding: Compensation to Farmers**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her Department's position on providing compensation to farmers who lose crops as a result of flood damage.

(AQW 3473/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** I sympathise with those farmers who may have lost crops as a result of flood damage or other weather events and acts of nature. The Executive faces very significant financial pressures in the present economic climate and there are no financial support measures available to farmers for losses due to severe weather, including flooding. Any potential for compensation funding is severely constrained by business case requirements and compliance with restrictive EU State Aid Rules.

Farm incomes fluctuate from year to year for a range of reasons including changes in supply and demand, the costs of production and weather events, and it is therefore important that farmers act to mitigate potential risks impacting on their businesses as far as possible. In respect of risks associated with flooding, farmers are encouraged to consider appropriate measures such as precautionary activity around best practice and investment. In addition, farmers should consider the need for private insurance provision.

My Department has provided, and will continue to provide, practical information and advice to help mitigate risks associated with severe weather. In addition, my Department has commissioned research into additional measures that farmers can take to mitigate risk associated with extreme weather events and the findings of this research will be disseminated to farmers through CAFRE when they become available.

### Cost of Equality Schemes

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the cost to her Department of equality schemes since the publication of 'Reviewing the Effectiveness of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998' by the Equality Commission in May 2007.

(AQW 3502/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** Implementation of the Departmental Equality Scheme is mainstreamed within the Department as part of the policy development process. The cost of equality duties are not maintained and cannot readily be disaggregated.

### Schools Milk Scheme: North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many schools in the North Down area offer the Schools Milk Scheme.

(AQW 3543/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** The most recent data available is for the summer 2011 term when 13 schools in the North Down parliamentary constituency area offered the EU School Milk Subsidy Scheme.

### Brucellosis Control Order (NI) 2004: BT40 Notices

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many successful cases have been taken against farmers who contravened a BT40 notice under the Brucellosis Control Order (NI) 2004 by allowing contact with animals on adjoining land in each of the last three years; and how many cases are currently pending.

(AQW 3571/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:**

Convictions	Breached BT40 by allowing contact with animals on adjoining land
25/10/2008-24/10/2009	0
25/10/2009-24/10/2010	0
25/10/2010-24/10/2011	0

  

Cases pending	Breached BT40 by allowing contact with animals on adjoining land
25/10/2008-24/10/2009	0
25/10/2009-24/10/2010	1
25/10/2010-24/10/2011	0



## Forestry Grant Scheme: East Londonderry

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farm owners in East Londonderry have (i) applied for; and (ii) received funding under a Forestry Grant Scheme in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3573/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** In the last three years, 21 new applicants applied to plant trees in this constituency and all received approval. Over the same period, 33 people received payments for planting trees. A yearly breakdown is shown in the table below. The table shows that more people received funding in some years compared with applications approved in that year. This is because an approved application is valid for two years after the date of approval.

Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Applications	1	10	10
Received Funding	13	7	13

In addition, there are approximately 70 people who received an annual farm woodland premium payment over this three year period.

## Departmental Legislative Programme

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what legislation she intends to introduce over the next four years.

(AQW 3587/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** Proposals are being developed to regulate reservoir safety, and I intend to introduce a Bill to the Assembly in 2013. Prior to that, a public consultation on the policy proposals will be undertaken in early 2012.

In addition my Department plans to introduce a range of subordinate legislation relating to the Forestry Act (NI) 2010, the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 and the Dogs (Amendment) Act (NI) 2011.

Proposals are also being developed for Statutory Rules relating to the Loughs Agency and to tuition fees for students undertaking Higher Education courses at CAFRE; and to transpose various EU Directives and Regulations relating to the work of my Department including agri-environment schemes, animal and plant health, animal welfare, plant protection products, marketing of agricultural produce and products, fisheries and aquaculture, cross compliance, Review of Decisions, Single Farm Payment and Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowance.

Proposals are also being developed jointly with the DOE for the Nitrates Action Programme.

## Travel Costs Incurred by the Minister and Departmental Officials

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3603/11-15)

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**Mrs O'Neill:** Travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister since taking up post on 16 May 2011; and (ii) departmental officials in the period for the last 12 months are shown below: -

The Minister	Departmental Officials
£1,555	£3,140,936

## Milk Production

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the annual milk production in each of the last three years; and (ii) what action is being taken to help farmers receive maximum financial return for the product.

(AQW 3609/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** (i) My Department collects information on the amount of raw milk collected from farms. The annual milk production in the last three years was:

	2008	2009	2010
Mill production (million litres)	1,903	1,772	1,849

(ii) To maximise the financial return from milk production, I believe it is vital that the dairy industry follows a market-led strategy. In practice, this means that decisions on milk production should be taken by milk producers in the context of their input costs, market requirements and market returns (i.e. the milk price achievable). Therefore, to help farmers achieve better financial returns, my Department (through CAFRE and AFBI) funds education, training, technical support and research to help improve efficiency and competitiveness. In particular, good animal husbandry and grassland management skills will continue to be the solid foundation of any dairy farm and these must be updated to take account of best practice, new technologies and other developments.

To help improve returns, financial assistance is available to the dairy sector under the Regional Food Programme and Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme. It also benefits indirectly from aid which continues to be provided under the EU School Milk scheme and from promotional aid granted by the EU to the Dairy Council. In addition, a range of financial and non-financial support measures are available to dairy processing companies from INI to help them remain competitive.

## European Grants

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail how much her Department has received from Europe for grants in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3610/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** As an accredited Paying Agency, the Department authorises and executes payments under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (2007-2013) (EAFRD). In addition, DARD administers EU funding allocated to rural areas under the Structural Funds and European Fisheries Fund.

The following amounts were received by the Department from the EU in relation to these schemes:

	<b>2008/09</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2009/10</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2010/11</b> <b>£</b>
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	256,386,998	297,017,341	269,979,141
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and EU Structural Funds	31,448,432	33,985,397	34,949,456
<b>Total</b>	<b>287,835,430</b>	<b>331,002,738</b>	<b>304,928,597</b>

These funds are paid directly by the Department to grant claimants.

### **Flooding in the West Tyrone Constituency**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail what (i) precautions and (ii) cross-departmental initiatives her Department has taken (i) in preparation for; and (ii) after instances of flooding in the West Tyrone constituency.

(AQW 3967/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:**

#### **Preparation and post-flood actions**

During the recent Flooding Event when forecasts of heavy rain were predicted my Rivers Agency staff were proactive in preparing for flood response. This included monitoring of river levels, cleaning inlet grills to culverts regularly to ensure they were free from blockage, ensuring communication links with co-respondents were in place and also filling additional sandbags and deploying these and pumping equipment to threatened properties. After all flooding events, Rivers Agency carries out investigations to establish the cause of the flooding and where it is a result of rivers, the Agency conducts pre-feasibility studies to establish if a cost beneficial solution to the problem to prevent reoccurrence is possible.

#### **Cross-departmental initiatives**

The Agency chairs 3 Flood Liaison Groups. A HQ Group and 2 Regional groups which include representatives from NI Fire and Rescue Service, Roads Service and NIWater. A representative from the Flooding Incident Line also attends the HQ Flood Liaison Group. Recently Emergency Planning Coordinating Officers (EPCO) from local councils have been invited on to the HQ Group. In the West, which encompasses West Tyrone, the Western EPCO attends this group. The remit of the groups is to improve co-ordination and co-operation between the different agencies and to assist each other where possible during an event. The HQ Flood Liaison Group is overseen by the Flood Strategy Steering Group. It is chaired by the Chief Executive of Rivers Agency and its remit is to ensure improvements in preparation and response to flooding events.

### **Undesignated Watercourse at Ashton Park, Finaghy**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the Rivers Agency's consultation on the undesignated watercourse in the Ashton Park area of Finaghy.

(AQW 3983/11-15)

**Mrs O'Neill:** Ashton Park, Finaghy (Belfast) is affected by an underground, culverted drainage system that is not designated for maintenance by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (NI) under the terms of the Drainage (NI) Order 1973. Riparian landowners, through whose land the watercourse runs, are responsible for maintenance.

There is a history of flooding problems in the vicinity of AshtonPark mainly relating to roads and garden flooding. Rivers Agency engaged Consultant Engineers to conduct investigations and ascertain the cause of the flooding experienced by residents. Obstructions and the poor structural condition of the drainage system have delayed the survey work however the Consultant Engineers concerned are due to report their findings shortly.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### Líofa 2015

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 2249/11-15, to outline the barriers and preconceptions which have surrounded the Irish Language that she hopes the Líofa campaign will address.

(AQW 3401/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** I am aware that there are differing viewpoints in relation to the Irish language across the North. I am keen to broaden the appeal of Irish and ensure that it is seen as part of our shared cultural heritage. The opportunity to learn the language is open to everyone.

### Líofa 2015

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 2251/11-15, in the absence of any analysis being carried out, how she (i) identified; and (ii) hopes to address the view that some people have sought to portray the promotion of Gaelic culture and the Irish language as the preserve of one section of our community.

(AQW 3403/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I am aware that there are differing viewpoints in relation to the Irish language across the North. I am keen to broaden the appeal of Irish and ensure that it is seen as part of our shared cultural heritage. The opportunity to learn the language is open to everyone.

I hope that the Líofa campaign and future Irish language initiatives will illustrate the benefits and opportunities that learning the Irish language can bring to everyone in our society.

### Links Between Gaeilge and Gáidhlig Speakers

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will explore how links can be built between Gaeilge speakers here and Gáidhlig speakers in Scotland, particularly in the Western Isles.

(AQW 3436/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Through the Colmcille Programme, Foras na Gaeilge and Bord na Gáidhlig are involved in promoting links between Irish and Scottish Gaelic communities and speakers.

Examples of projects funded through the Colmcille Programme are attached.

An evaluation of the impact of the programme which is funded by DCAL, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Scottish Government will be completed by the end of October. Officials will use the evaluation to consider the future direction and scope of the programme.

<b>Colmcille projects between Northwest and Scotland</b>	<b>Further information about the projects</b>	<b>Location of Organisations</b>	<b>Date of Projects</b>
Youth Exchange organised by The Ulster branch of Ógras.	Music Exchange between Young people in Glasgow Gaelic School and An Crann Óg.  Ógras is an Irish Gaelic youth group and An Crann Óg are an Irish Gaelic traditional music group for young people aged between 8-23.	The Ulster branch of Ógras is based in Gaoth Dobhair.	9 September - 2 October 2011.
School Exchange organised by Pobal Scoil Ghaoth Dobhair (Gaoth Dobhair Community School)	School exchange between Gaoth Dobhair Community School and the Scottish Gaelic units in Inverness Royal Academy and Dingwall Academy in Scotland.	Gaoth Dobhair Community School is located in Gaoth Dobhair.	May 2012.
Highlands in Harmony organised by Ceoltóirí Chloich Cheann Fhaola (The Cloughaneely Musicians).	Music Exchange between The Cloch Cheann Fhaola Musicians and the Scottish Gaelic classes in Culloden Academy, Culloden, Scotland. This project is part of an ongoing collaboration and exchange between Culloden Academy and The Cloughaneely Musicians.	The Cloch Cheann Fhaola Musicians are based in Gortahork.	27 June – 4 July 2011.
Music and Cultural Exchange to start Slí Cholmcille between An Crann Óg, The Lochaber Musicians and Glasgow Gaelic League Choir organised by An Crann Óg and The Lochaber Musicians.	The Lochaber musicians are a young group of Scottish Gaelic speaking musicians based in Fort William. The Gaelic League Choir in Glasgow consists of Irish and Scottish Gaelic singers.	An Crann Óg are based in Gaoth Dobhair.	February - March 2012

### List of Events linking Northern Ireland and Scotland 2011

**Organisation: Foras na Gaeilge & Bòrd na Gàidhlig through Colmcille:**

**Event: Slí Cholmcille ~ St Columba Trail**

**Date -ongoing**

A web site and Heritage and tourism trail to be launched November 2011 linking Gleann Cholmcille, Derry, Limavady, Cille Mhàrtain, Earra-Ghàidheal & Steòrnabhagh Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

**Organisation: Lecale Gaelic Society**

**Month: February 2011**

Visit from families from North Lanark who are involved in Gaelic-medium education for youth events programme

**Cumann Gaelach Ghlór na Móna**

**Event: Intercultural Youth Programme**

**Month: February 2008**

Visit by students and former students from Coláiste Feirste to Gaelic youth groups and students in Inverness and Skye as part of youth leadership training programme.

**Organisation: Irish Pages**

**Event: Readings and arts events Glasgow 2011**

**Months: March - June**

Literary events in community arts venues based on the Irish language edition of Irish Pages 2011.

**Organisation: Armagh Pipers**

**Event: Link with Fèis an Earraich, Isle of Skye**

**Month: April 2011**

Participation by young musicians and learners in week of events organised by Gaelic-medium programme for music training organised by Fèis an Eilein in the Isle of Skye.

**Amra Choluim Chille**

**Month June 2011**

Showing of the exhibition Amra Choluim Chille which links Ireland and Scotland in the Roe Valley Arts and Heritage Centre, Limavady.

**Ógras an Chaistil –**

**Droichead na Maoile**

**Month: June – July 2011**

Project linking young people involved in Gaelic-medium education in Ballycastle and Islay, who are relatively isolated from other Gaelic-medium groups

**Organisation: Cumann Mhic Reachtain**

**Event: Scoil Samhraidh Mhic Reachtain ~ McCracken Summer School**

**Month: July 2011**

Programme of events including Scottish Gaelic classes and conversation circle and Scottish Gaelic song, and linking with Gaelic and Irish language organisations in Glasgow.

**Cearcall na Gàidhlig Lannraig a Tuath****Event: Link with North Lanark****Month: August 2011**

Visit by families from Northern Ireland involved in Irish-medium education to a summer course in North Lanark.

**Organisation: Gael-Linn & Comunn na Gàidhlig****Event: Rì Chèile****Date: September 2011**

Link between Irish-speaking pupils in schools in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland participating in debating and public speaking competitions.

**Organisation: Comhairle Dhún Geanainn****Event: Gael-Trail****Month: Deireadh Fómhair 2011**

Link between Irish language and community groups, and Dungannon and Cookstown District Councils and Argyll & Bute Council.

**Organisation: Ariel Killick (Stát neamhspleách Sonais)****Month: October - December****Event: Study visits & seed funding for Circus Theatre project.****Organisation: Pobal****Event: Fócas****Month: 17 Samhain 2011**

Conference on language planning and legislation.

**William Kennedy International Piping Festival (Armagh Pipers Club)****Event: Lá na Meánscoileanna****Month: November 2011**

Day of events for Irish-medium secondary schools and A-level pupils including Scottish Gaelic classes and song workshops.

**Staff: Third Level Education Courses**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of staff in her Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by her Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3553/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** In complying with the NICS Essential Qualifications (EQ) and Assistance to Study (ATS), DCAL has supported a number of staff who have undertaken part-time courses of study in each of the last three years, as summarised in the table attached.

**THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION - SUMMARY DETAILS 2008/2009 - 2011/2012**

	2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011		2011/2012		TOTALS	
	Number of Staff (08/09)	08/09 Costs	Number of Staff (09/10)	09/10 Costs	Number of Staff (10/11)	10/11 Costs	Number of Staff (11/12)	YTD '11/12 Cost	Total Staff Numbers	Total Costs
EQ - 100%	3	4,543.38	6	13,095.00	7	17,355.00	1	1,508.00	17	36,501.38
ATS - 80%	6	4,046.36	6	2,508.42	9	4,074.73	4	1,063.92	25	11,693.43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8,589.74</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15,603.42</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21,429.74</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,385.52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48,194.81</b>

Further details of the Essential Qualifications and Assistance to Study schemes can be found by clicking on the following link - <http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/publication-scheme-hr-policies>

A detailed breakdown in answer to your question can be found at Annex A.



**ANNEX A**

Question	(i)	(i) a&b	(iii)	(ii) a	(iv)	(ii) b
Financial Year	No of Staff	Source	Part-Time	Course/ Description	Place of Study	Total
08/09	1	ATS - 80%	Evening Classes	BA Degree Arts Culture & Society - QUB (1st Year)	Queens University Belfast	672.00
	1			ACCA - Stage 2	Belfast Metropolitan College	823.20
	1			CIMA - Revision Course BPP Dublin	Belfast Metropolitan College	708.64
	1			Countryside & Fisheries Management	North West Regional College	495.60
	1			IATI	CIPFA Offices, Belfast	945.60
	1			IATI - Year 2	Belfast Metropolitan College	401.32
	6			ATS Total		
	1	EQ - 100%	Distance Learning	2nd Year Tuition Fees	Aberystwyth University	1,770.00
	1			2nd year Tuition Fees Msc Econ Archive Administration	Aberystwyth University	1,710.00
	1			IIA Advanced Diploma in Internal Auditing & Management - Case Study Revision Workshop	E-Learning	1,063.38
	3			Essential Qualifications Total		
	2008/2009 TOTAL			9 STAFF		8,589.74

Question	(i)	(i) a&b	(iii)	(ii) a	(iv)	(ii) b	
Financial Year	No of Staff	Source	Type	Course/ Description	Place of Study	Total	
09/10	1	ATS	Distance Learning	CIMA	Richard Clarke Academy	701.22	
	1		Evening Classes	Bsc Hons in Business Studies	University of Ulster, Jordanstown	532.80	
	1			BA Degree Arts Culture & Society - QUB (2nd Year)	Queens University Belfast	688.00	
	1			ACCA	Belfast Metropolitan College	249.60	
	1			ILEX Diploma in Paralegal Studies	SE Regional College, Bangor	136.80	
	1			IATI	CIPFA Offices, Belfast	200.00	
	6	ATS Total				2,508.42	
	1	EQ	Distance Learning	Msc Econ Archive Administration (3rd Year)	Aberystwyth University	1,770.00	
	4			Post Grad course in Records Management and Archive Administration (1st year)	Aberystwyth University	10,680.00	
	1		Evening Classes	Diploma in Marketing, Advertising and PR	Queens University Belfast	645.00	
	6			Essential Qualifications Total			
	2009/2010 TOTAL			12 STAFF			15,603.42

Question	(i)	(i) a&b	(iii)	(ii) a	(iv)	(ii) b
Financial Year	No of Staff	Source	Type	Course/ Description	Place of Study	Total
10/11	1	ATS - 80%	Distance Learning	Irish Language Course	E-Learning	127.08
	1		Evening Classes	Bsc Hons in Business Studies	University of Ulster, Jordanstown	367.20
	1			CIPD Level 3 Cert in Training Practice	Belfast Metropolitan College	384.00
	1			BA Degree Arts Culture & Society - QUB (3rd Year)	Queens University Belfast	779.00
	1			ACCA - Stage 2 Exam Fees	BIFHE	110.40
	1			CIMA - E3 Enterprise Strategy; Final Papers & Practical Assessment	BPP House, Dublin	904.65
	1			IATI - June Exam Fees	CIPFA	92.00
	1			CIMA	Belfast Metropolitan College	584.00
	1			BSc Hons in Business Studies - Semester 1&2	University of Ulster, Jordanstown	726.40
	9			ATS Total		

Question	(i)	(i) a&b	(iii)	(ii) a	(iv)	(ii) b
Financial Year	No of Staff	Source	Type	Course/ Description	Place of Study	Total
10/11	1	EQ - 100%	Distance Learning	MSC ECON in Records Management (3rd Year Tuition Fees)	Aberystwyth University	1,800.00
	1			PIIA Tuition Programme (PWC)	E-Learning	4,421.00
	4			2ND Year tuition fees Post Grad course at Aberystwyth in Records Management and Archive Administration	Aberystwyth University	9,600.00
	1			Post Grad Diploma in Information Rights Law & Practice	Northumbria University	1,534.00
	7			Essential Qualifications Total		
	2010/2011 TOTAL			16 STAFF		21,429.73

Question	(i)	(i) a&b	(iii)	(ii) a	(iv)	(ii) b
Financial Year	No of Staff	Source	Type	Course/Description	Place of Study	Total
11/12	1	ATS - 80%	Evening Classes	IATI - Level 5 Diploma	Belfast Metropolitan College	123.92
	1			CIPD Level 3 Diploma in L&D Practice (with exemptions)	Belfast Metropolitan College	160.00
	1			ACCA - Stage 3	Richard Clarke Academy	407.20
	1			BSc Hons in Business Studies - Year 2 Fees	University of Ulster, Jordanstown	372.80
	4			<b>ATS Total</b>		<b>1,063.92</b>

Question	(i)	(i) a&b	(iii)	(ii) a	(iv)	(ii) b
Financial Year	No of Staff	Source	Type	Course/Description	Place of Study	Total
11/12	1	EQ - 100%	Distance Learning	PIIA P3 & P4 Fess including Revision Workshop	E-Learning	1,508.00
	<b>1</b>	<b>Essential Qualifications Total</b>				<b>1,508.00</b>
<b>2011/2012 TOTAL</b>			<b>5 STAFF</b>			<b>2,571.92</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>42 STAFF</b>			<b>48,194.81</b>

ATS - ASSISTANCE TO STUDY: 80% FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - £1K CAP PER ACADEMIC YEAR

EQ - ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS - 100% FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Travel Costs

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3604/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Since taking up office on 16 May 2011, I have incurred travel costs of £1,229.

In the last 12 months, officials of the Department incurred travel costs of £210,428.

### Centenary of the Birth of Myles na gCopaleen

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action her Department is taking to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Myles na gCopaleen.

(AQW 3627/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** To mark the centenary of the birth of Myles na gCopaleen, Libraries NI and a range of partner organisations were involved in compiling a programme of talks, discussions and performances designed to explore his life and work.

Some of the events have already taken place, but there are more in the coming months. Further programming information has been published by The Alley Arts and Conference Centre in Strabane.

### Gilford Library

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the statement from the Board of Libraries NI on 20 October 2011, what specific library facilities will be available to the people of Gilford from March 2012.

(AQW 3686/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** This matter is operationally the responsibility of Libraries NI.

Libraries NI have informed me that it will work in partnership with Banbridge District Council and the Gilford Community Development Group to provide library services from the new Community Centre.

The exact nature of the provision is subject to discussions between Libraries NI, the Community and the Council. An initial meeting to discuss specific library facilities took place on 25 October 2011.

## Library Opening Hours: North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the opening hours of each library in North Down in each of the last four years.

(AQW 3706/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI has provided me with information regarding the opening hours of each library in the North Down Constituency for each of the last four years. Please see Annex A.

### ANNEX A

Opening Hours Current							
Branch	Total Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangor Carnegie Library	65	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00
Donaghadee Library	40	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	10.00-4.00	10.00-4.00
Hollywood Library	53.5	9.30-8.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	10.00-5.00

Summer Opening Hours July and August 2011							
Branch	Total (P/W)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangor Carnegie Library	54	9.00-8.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-8.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00
Donaghadee Library	37	1.00-5.00	10.00-5.00	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	10.00-4.00	10.00-4.00
Hollywood Library	47.5	9.30-5.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-5.00	10.00-5.00

Opening Hours 2010/11							
Branch	Total (P/W)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangor Carnegie Library	65	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00
Donaghadee Library	40	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	10.00-4.00	10.00-4.00
Hollywood Library	53.5	9.30-8.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	10.00-5.00

Opening Hours 2009/10							
Branch	Total (P/W)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangor Carnegie Library	65	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00

Opening Hours 2009/10							
Branch	Total (P/W)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Donaghadee Library	40	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	10.00-4.00	10.00-4.00
Holywood Library	53.5	9.30-8.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	10.00-5.00

Opening Hours 2008/09							
Branch	Total (P/W)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangor Carnegie Library	65*	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-5.00	9.00-5.00
Donaghadee Library	40	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	10.00-4.00	10.00-4.00
Holywood Library	53.5	9.30-8.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	10.00-5.00

Opening Hours 2007/08							
Branch	Total (P/W)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangor Carnegie Library	58**	9.00-5.30	9.00-5.30	9.00-5.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-9.00	9.00-5.30
Donaghadee Library	40	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	1.00-8.00	10.00-5.00	10.00-4.00	10.00-4.00
Holywood Library	53.5	9.30-8.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	9.30-8.00	9.30-5.00	10.00-5.00

\* Refurbished Carnegie Library opened 28 November 2008 with new opening hours.

\*\* Bangor Carnegie Library Refurbishment – temporary library sited in Flagship Centre opening hours increased from 45 to 58 to reflect Flagship opening hours (except Sunday opening).

## 2013 World Police and Fire Games

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 2767/11-15, how the application process for 'expressions of interest' for the 2013 World Police and Fire Games was advertised; and which governing bodies were approached.

(AQW 3784/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Between 2 and 29 July 2010 Sport NI placed an advertisement in the Belfast Telegraph on behalf of the Stakeholder Group (the lead body for the 2013 Games in advance of the establishment of the 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited in February 2011) seeking expressions of interest from venue owners, sporting and related organisations wishing to host events during the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast in 2013.

The advertisement was also placed on the Sport NI website and letters regarding the expression of interest exercise issued to the Chief Executive of each District Council and to the recognised governing bodies whose sport were expected to be part of the 2013 Games, as detailed.

- Cycling Ulster
- NI Pool Association
- Ulster Branch Triathlon Ireland
- Basketball NI
- Swim Ulster
- NI Volleyball
- NI Archery Society
- Tennis Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland
- Ulster Squash
- Ulster Hockey
- Ulster Rugby
- Ulster Angling Federation (freshwater)
- Canoe Association of NI
- Golf Union of Ireland
- Rowing Ireland
- Irish Bowling Association
- Irish table tennis (Ulster Branch)
- NI Ten Pin Bowling
- Softball Ulster
- Ulster Badminton
- Ulster Clay Pigeon Association
- NI Athletics
- NI Smallbore Shooting Union
- NI Judo Federation
- Boxing - AIBA (Ulster)
- NI Wrestling Association Ltd
- Irish Dragon Boat Association
- Royal Yachting Association
- Waterskiing NI
- Irish Football Association
- Irish American Football Association
- Irish Surfing Association
- Ulster Rifle Association
- Gaelic Athletic Association (Ulster Council)
- Cricket Ireland

### Promotion of Sporting Activities on Strangford Lough

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action is being taken by her Department to promote sporting activities on Strangford Lough.

(AQW 3786/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Sport NI is the lead development agency for sport in the north of Ireland with responsibility for the distribution of funding. In the last two financial years, Sport NI has provided £267,369 to projects that will enhance and promote sporting activities on Strangford Lough. Details of these projects are set out in the table below:

Year	Organisation	Project	Amount
2009/10	Strangford Lough Yacht Club	New boats, boarding and ancillary equipment	£199,544
2010/11	East Down Yacht Club	New boats	£28,331
2010/11	Quoile Yacht Club	New dinghies	£9,700
2010/11	National Trust	Bikes for new trails at Castleward	£12,627
2010/11	Comber Explorer Scouts	Canoes, Kayaks and safety equipment	£17,167

Furthermore, Sport NI is working with the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership, local councils and the Canoe Association of NI to develop a major canoeing event to be held on the Lough in June 2012.



## Sharing of Sports Facilities in the Strangford Constituency

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action her Department is taking to promote the sharing of sports facilities between local councils and the Department of Education in the Strangford constituency.

(AQW 3788/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Responsibility for promoting the sharing of sports facilities between local councils and the Department of Education (DE) in the Strangford constituency is a matter for the councils concerned and the individual school management authorities.

The embedding of a strategic and co-ordinated approach to the provision of education and district council sports facilities throughout the north of Ireland, including in the Strangford constituency, is identified as one of a number of 'Key Steps to Success' under my published sports strategy, Sport Matters. This step has recently been incorporated into a detailed Sport Matters Action Plan which has been agreed by local councils, including those in the Strangford constituency, and DE.

As part of this Action Plan, Sport NI, with DE support, is also developing an advocacy document which is designed to promote shared use of school sports facilities in all areas and all constituencies in the north of Ireland. My Sport Matters Monitoring Group (SMMG), which I chair, has recently agreed that local councils, including those in the Strangford constituency, should be consulted on the document's development prior to its wider publication and circulation.

## Post Project Evaluation on the Ulster Museum

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has received the final Post Project Evaluation on the Ulster Museum from National Museums Northern Ireland; and whether any recommendations were made as a result of this evaluation.

(AQW 3790/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** While my predecessor did meet with Departmental and National Museums officials in April to discuss a late draft of the Ulster Museum Post Project Evaluation, I have not personally seen the report. I can however confirm that the final version of the Post Project Evaluation was received by my Department in May 2011 and has since been submitted to the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The Post Project Evaluation includes a number of lessons learned from the redevelopment of the Ulster Museum upon which recommendations have been made. These lessons and recommendations fall under three categories, specifically strategic lessons, project management lessons and operational lessons.

It is the intention of National Museums to build on the expertise developed and capitalise on the learning, from both the project, and its Post Project Evaluation. Consequently the Post Project Evaluation will be disseminated at all levels of National Museums from the Board of Trustees through to individual project managers.

Many of the lessons learned equate to best practice in project management and the Post Project Evaluation will be used as a template to inform all forthcoming major capital projects. National Museums will use the Ulster Museum Post Project Evaluation as a case study and it will be incorporated into all training programmes for Senior Responsible Owners, Project Boards and Project Managers.

## Lurgan Library

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, when considering the banding of Lurgan Library, whether Libraries NI took into account the fact that the main entrance to the library was closed for three months and that this affected the footfall of the library; and whether, in light of this information, Libraries NI would consider a different banding for Lurgan Library.

(AQW 3807/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI have informed me that they were aware that the main entrance to Lurgan Library was out of action for 13 weeks and that this was taken into account when considering the banding for the Library.

The usage figures that form the basis of the Opening Hours Review for Lurgan Library do relate to a full year.

Visitor figures for Libraries across the North of Ireland are produced using what is known as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) methodology.

Every year, CIPFA produces and publishes library visitor figures for all libraries across the North.

### **Alleged Sectarianism within the GAA**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) whether she has initiated any reviews or investigations into alleged sectarianism within the Gaelic Athletic Association and if not, would she consider so doing; and (ii) whether her Department would continue to fund the GAA if it were found to be sectarian.

(AQW 3817/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The initiation and consideration of reviews into alleged sectarianism within any cultural or sporting association in the north of Ireland, including the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), is not a matter for me but entirely a matter for the organisation concerned. I am, however, aware that the GAA's constitution and rules expressly declare the Association to be anti-sectarian rather than sectarian. I understand that this constitution also sets out specific penalties against any GAA member or supporter who infringes the GAA's anti-sectarian rules including a minimum of 8 weeks suspension and potential fines, disqualifications, debarment and expulsion from the Association.

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport including setting conditions under which funding will be provided. As part of its funding conditions, SNI operates an equality scheme which requires all recipients of funding, including the GAA, to operate an equal opportunities policy and to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their facilities and services are run in an inclusive manner which will both aspire to and promote good relations. All applicants to SNI programmes, including the GAA, are required to adhere to these conditions in order to receive, and continue to receive, funding.

### **Irish Language Legislation**

**Mrs McKevitt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding has been allocated for the implementation of Irish language legislation.

(AQW 3831/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** No funding has yet been allocated to the implementation of Irish language legislation.

### **Moneymore Library**

**Mr I McCreá** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many people were registered as members of Moneymore library in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3833/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI has provided me with the following information regarding the number of registered members of Moneymore Library in each of the last five years:

Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total Registered	914	1080	816	871	968

## Association Football in the Strangford Constituency

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much public funding has been invested in association football in the Strangford constituency since 2007; and for a breakdown of where this funding has been allocated.

(AQW 3849/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Sport NI is the lead development agency for sport in the north of Ireland with responsibility for the distribution of funding. Sport NI has provided no funding to association football in the Strangford constituency since 2007 as no successful applications have been received from football organisations in that area during the period. However, Sport NI is currently considering applications under its Awards for Sport programme for funding totalling

£10,190 from Comber Young Mens FC and Dungoyne Boys FC. Decisions on these are expected in mid November.

## Appointment of Special Advisers

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 3379/11-15, whether she is bound by the guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel in September 2011 on the appointment of Special Advisers; and (ii) in the spirit of that guidance if she will review the appointment of Mary McArdle.

(AQW 3890/11-15)

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Responsibility for the appointment of Special Advisors remains with individual Ministers and should comply with the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisors and the Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order 1999 as amended.

# Department of Education

## School Transport

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Education to detail the contingency plans of the Education and Library Boards, and other agencies and Departments, for school transport including hired buses and taxis, to ensure that children arrive at school in a safe and timely manner during the severe weather conditions expected this winter.

(AQW 3139/11-15)

### Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):

The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) are responsible for providing assistance solely for pupils who meet the eligibility criteria for school transport. They have produced guidance for transport contractors who provide their home-to-school transport services in the event of periods of adverse weather conditions. The guidance includes ensuring that:

- the provider checks the latest weather forecast and prevailing conditions before setting out;
- drivers are equipped with a means to contact base/schools/Boards (e.g., mobile phones) and are aware of the numbers to call; and
- in the event of being unable to complete a journey, drivers/providers are advised to inform the school and the ELB. They are also advised to return children to their home if supervision is present or otherwise to remain with the children.

The full guidance, which applies equally to the operation of the Boards' own transport fleet and which includes advice for parents and schools, is available from Education and Library Boards.

Translink is contracted to provide school transport services by the education authorities. With respect to Translink, the Minister for Regional Development has indicated “that Translink has completed a review of winter preparedness and resilience across the organisation as a result of the lengthy period of disruption last winter due to extreme weather.

This review looked at communications plans, fleet availability, staff resources, emergency cover and associated issues, i.e. resource plans. An action plan was drawn up following last year’s review and is being progressed.

Home to school transport was given particular priority in discussions. In this particular regard Translink has updated its route risk assessment procedures to ensure that routes are appropriate and safe.

Translink has also reviewed and updated its extreme weather procedures and implemented a bus fleet engineering winterisation programme. Distribution of salt, de-icing and snow clearing products has also been reviewed.

Communications between Translink depots have also been strengthened, bearing in mind that some schools are served by more than one depot. An early warning strategy has also been put in place in order that Translink is notified in a timely manner of ad hoc school closures”.

Following last year’s severe winter weather, Minister Ruane set up a working group to consider school opening and closing arrangements in bad weather. One of the report’s recommendations is that the ELB’s meet with Translink regarding their transport contingency arrangements. The DRD Minister has reported Translink’s desire to be involved and this meeting is currently being arranged.

## Spaces on Local Education Buses

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education, in an instance where a child is not entitled to a seat on a local education bus, whether there are mechanisms in place to enable a parent to pay for a seat for a child if there are additional spaces available on the bus.

(AQW 3592/11-15)

**Mr O’Dowd:** Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Article 52 of The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, as substituted by Article 23 of The Education (NI) Order 1997, permit Education and Library Boards (ELBs) to charge for unfilled seats on Board buses provided the pupil is otherwise ineligible for transport assistance.

I am advised by the ELBs that at present, there are no mechanisms in place to enable parents to pay for additional (“concessionary”) seats. Boards currently offer such seats free of charge. I expect that all avenues to achieve best value for money in the provision of home to school transport will be explored in the current financial climate to maximise the funding available to the classroom. This is the remit of the PEDU report into school transport, to be published soon, and will also be an important aspect of the review of school transport – for which terms of reference are currently being developed.

## School Buses

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education whether there has been any research commissioned, or evidence gathered, which indicates that parents may be willing to pay for their children to have access to a free school bus in their area.

(AQW 3593/11-15)

**Mr O’Dowd:** No research has been commissioned to garner the views of parents with respect to payment for otherwise empty seats on school buses. At present, such seats, where offered by Education and Library Boards, are provided free of charge. This is an issue I expect the Boards to examine against the need to achieve best value for money in the provision of transport services to maximise the funding available to the classroom. This is the remit of the PEDU report into school transport, to be published soon, and will also be an important aspect of the review of school transport – for which terms of reference are currently being developed.

## Travel Costs

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Education to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3605/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (i) As Minister of Education I have incurred no travel costs since coming into this post on 16 May 2011. However, since 1 April 2011 the Department of Education has been responsible for the running costs of the Ministerial car which amounted to £1,340 for the 6 months from April to September 2011.
- (ii) Travel costs incurred by departmental officials amounted to £342,294 in the last 12 months, to 30 September 2011.

## Irish-Medium Education Report

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Irish-Medium Education Report.

(AQW 3619/11-15)

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

## Special Needs Education in Upper Bann

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Education (i) how much funding has been allocated for special needs education in the Upper Bann area in each of the last five years (a) in total; and (b) to each school; (ii) whether any of the funding was unspent, and, if so, how much; and (iii) whether the unspent funding was returned to his Department or re-allocated by (a) the Southern Education and Library Board; or (b) individual schools.

(AQW 3726/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Under the Local Management of Schools (LMS) arrangements, schools are provided with delegated authority and associated financial resources to enable them to make decisions on their spending priorities, for the benefit of all pupils. This enables schools to make provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) at Stages 1 to 3 of the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of SEN (COP). This funding is used by schools on the basis of an individual school's prioritisation of pupils' special educational needs.

Schools are not allowed to plan for an overspend of their delegated budget without the permission of the funding authority. Any unspent LMS funds are not returned to the Department of Education, and schools may accumulate moderate savings for specific purposes - the presence of such savings does not impact on the school's future budget share.

The costs associated with meeting a statement of SEN (Stage 5 of the COP) for individual pupils are met outside of the schools' delegated budget, by the relevant funding authority. These are shown for the Upper Bann area in the tables below.

### TOTAL FUNDING BY EDUCATIONAL SETTING

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Post Primary	1,932,810	2,047,148	2,424,438	2,526,995	2,665,917
Primary	2,775,367	2,990,925	3,437,631	3,228,346	3,032,732
Pre-school	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery	56,000	64,225	52,375	53,475	31,344

	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
Special Schools	2,195,136	2,387,953	2,929,839	2,706,187	2,800,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,959,313</b>	<b>7,490,251</b>	<b>8,844,283</b>	<b>8,515,003</b>	<b>8,530,329</b>

**FUNDING IN NURSERY SCHOOLS**

<b>School name</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
Edenderry Nursery School	2,098	5,412	6,240	9,910	4,539
Millington Nursery School	17,062	18,902	3,910	11,151	5,083
Harrison Nursery School	3,972	1,840	3,884	2,143	185
Banbridge Nursery School	7,001	6,008	4,848	479	3,308
Downshire Nursery School	5,889	3,400	12,222	8,166	6,764
St John the Baptist Nursery	7,260	6,250	5,955	5,995	1,708
Drumnamoe Nursery School	12,718	22,413	15,316	15,631	9,757

**FUNDING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

<b>School name</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
Lurgan Model Primary School	29,451	39,830	51,923	53,269	48,171
King's Park Primary School	64,596	88,159	102,599	97,903	78,905
Carrick Primary School	421,703	395,972	409,035	416,082	416,509
Hart Memorial Primary School	47,411	60,913	77,177	65,732	64,053
Rich Mount Primary School	22,004	16,714	11,732	5,624	5,631
Birches Primary School	8,500	3,563	1,761	1,710	-1,341
Edenderry Primary School	246,835	263,146	297,859	262,351	241,024
Tullygally Primary School	34,110	50,390	70,048	52,456	38,809
Abercorn Primary School	37,301	44,681	61,300	70,673	68,769

<b>School name</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
Craigavon Primary School	32,606	26,215	27,812	23,427	25,018
Waringstown Primary School	19,725	22,738	41,594	43,934	51,026
Bleary Primary School	1,499	1,378	5,025	4,750	6,962
Ballydown Primary School	33,214	34,979	50,314	40,331	53,646
Milltown Primary School	9,637	8,481	10,075	5,481	1,297
Scarva Primary School	1,667	6,030	9,145	8,439	10,126
Maralin Village Primary School	27,743	35,180	41,750	45,946	49,172
Edenderry Primary School	213,959	213,504	244,504	231,671	234,515
Millington Primary School	91,310	121,560	139,989	143,554	141,329
Dickson Primary School	29,745	33,148	44,475	38,068	41,468
Drumgor Primary School	39,219	47,659	55,234	46,164	42,532
Ballyoran Primary School	104,198	109,827	109,760	100,458	80,708
Bocombra Primary School	39,076	37,655	40,989	26,914	25,965
Donacloney Primary School	39,965	36,629	41,128	28,960	36,755
Moyallon Primary School	14,939	11,852	21,063	22,223	14,794
Tannaghmore Primary School	78,592	66,747	81,054	88,938	93,584
St Teresa's Primary School	42,934	49,463	44,970	35,278	32,312
St Mary's Primary School	16,583	17,214	23,898	19,185	16,512
St Patrick's Primary School	74,296	74,887	77,391	63,196	43,181
St Anthony's Primary School	230,687	234,145	251,441	216,881	197,201
St Patrick's Primary School	1,280	4,100	10,111	14,796	12,706

<b>School name</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
St John's Primary School	0	487	3,491	5,891	6,394
St Patrick's Primary School	12,371	13,756	8,966	6,781	5,857
St Mary's Primary School	11,405	13,588	13,644	16,274	16,718
St Mary's Primary School	7,965	13,257	17,579	25,553	23,194
St Mary's Primary School	243,521	277,149	318,790	327,441	344,723
St Brendan's Primary School	51,875	64,835	96,663	66,612	73,260
St John the Baptist Primary	34,432	66,754	69,449	72,869	66,671
St Colman's (Bann) Primary	8,140	10,425	21,253	14,564	11,189
St Francis' Primary, Aghderg	4,098	7,819	9,020	11,873	15,235
Presentation Primary School	15,670	12,592	8,820	11,554	12,378
St Francis Primary School	179,648	188,723	205,810	173,855	105,016
Seagoe Primary School	45,086	54,415	53,535	60,676	47,956
Bridge Integrated Primary	66,113	61,288	94,020	107,729	96,224
Portadown Integrated Primary	40,258	49,078	61,435	52,280	36,578

**FUNDING IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

<b>School name</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
Clounagh Junior High School	289,725	295,895	346,456	380,766	376,256
Banbridge High School	344,705	355,818	355,622	370,832	381,199
Killicomaine Junior High School	56,832	64,294	85,956	71,570	80,697
Tandragee Junior High School	158,784	169,006	179,851	195,185	207,411
Lurgan Junior High	38,374	40,863	63,938	65,660	66,693



School name	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Craigavon Senior High School	49,634	72,874	128,439	142,308	113,065
St Mary's High School	55,609	69,818	77,327	84,842	77,996
St Patrick's College	212,502	210,964	230,467	230,945	274,591
St Paul's Junior High School	90,387	97,280	123,313	89,254	112,482
Lismore Comprehensive School	141,017	168,545	217,766	270,821	316,818
Drumcree College	176,753	154,110	233,519	229,198	190,371
Brownlow Int College	146,726	157,593	152,097	135,256	148,713
Banbridge Academy	26,263	22,006	29,679	35,953	43,964
Lurgan College	3,637	3,504	1,610	556	3,288
Portadown College	5,549	14,429	13,334	15,572	19,933
New-Bridge Integrated College	127,508	142,829	181,800	207,972	252,440
St Michael's Grammar	8,805	7,320	3,264	305	0

#### FUNDING IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

School name	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Ceara Special School	1,376,870	1,488,456	1,871,703	1,699,563	1,740,345
Donard Special School	818,266	899,497	1,058,136	1,006,624	1,059,991

#### Amalgamation of Primary Schools in South Belfast

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the proposed amalgamation of three primary schools in the South Belfast area, what measures he intends to put in place to ensure that no community is disadvantaged.

(AQW 3827/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** I understand that the question refers to the proposed amalgamation of Blythefield, Donegall Road and Fane Street Primary Schools.

Planning of the controlled estate in Belfast is a matter for the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) in the first instance. Any significant change to the schools' estate, such as an amalgamation, requires the publication of a statutory development proposal to support that intent. Publication must be preceded by consultation between, in this case, the BELB, Board of Governors, staff and parents of the school as well as wider consultations with schools in the area.

Following the publication of any development proposal, there is a further statutory 2-month consultation period during which anyone may forward their comments to the Department. At the end of the 2month

period, I would make a decision on the proposal taking account of all the pertinent issues and the comments received.

I can confirm that my Department is aware that the Board is developing this proposal but to date no proposal to amalgamate these schools has been published. Should a proposal be published I will consider it in the context of the local area. When reaching my decision I look for evidence that the proposal delivers a strong and viable school, both educationally and financially, to ensure that our children and young people have access to the best educational experience possible, whatever their background or wherever they live

## **Support for Young People with Moderate Learning Difficulties**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the activities provided or supported by each Education and Library Board for young people with moderate learning difficulties.

**(AQW 3858/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have developed a comprehensive range of services and provision to support children and young people with moderate learning difficulties. These can be summarised as follows:

### **Early Years**

All Boards provide services for children in the early years who have been identified with moderate learning difficulties. While there may be some variation between Boards these can generally be accessed through:

- early years teaching support for children and parents in the home setting; this is organised on the basis of referral from either educational psychologists, community paediatricians, or multi-disciplinary teams;
- access to early years projects that are attached to special schools for children who have been assessed by either health or educational staff;
- advice, support and training to nurseries and some playgroups to support the child's effective inclusion in mainstream pre-school settings; and
- in some cases children having statements of special educational needs in the early years. If this is the case, the child may access placement in a nursery with adult assistance, placement in a diagnostic setting, or placement in nursery class that is attached to a special school.

### **Primary Years**

The Boards have developed services and provision to meet the needs of children with moderate learning difficulties in the primary years. These services can be accessed at stages 3, 4, and 5 of the Code of Practice. The core areas of support are:

- advice and support from learning support staff who can advise schools on individual education plans as well as strategies that may be appropriate for specific children;
- outreach support and teaching from staff that are attached to special schools (moderate learning difficulties) for children at stages 3,4 and 5 of the Code of Practice;
- adult assistants in mainstream schools for children who have statements of special educational needs;
- access to placement in learning support classes that are attached to mainstream schools; this provides teaching in a small group placement with inclusion in mainstream classes, as appropriate; and
- placement in special schools that meet the needs of children and young people with moderate learning difficulties.

In addition, children with moderate learning difficulties would access the wide range of programmes for children that can be accessed through extended schools as well as in specific programmes that have been developed with the voluntary sector, including counselling services.

### **Post-Primary Years**

The Boards have developed services and provision to meet the needs of young people in the post-primary years. These services can be accessed at stages 3, 4, and 5 of the Code of Practice. The core areas of support include all of the services offered at primary level and in addition:

- access to transition services to support the planning of young people's needs as they transition from school to adult learning programmes;
- access to counselling services as part of post-primary support;
- participation in a range of course options through the Entitlement Framework; and
- access to education otherwise than at school (EOTAS), if appropriate.

If other special educational needs are identified access to other board services, as well as services delivered by the health sector, can be provided.

### **Post-16 Education Services for Young People with Moderate Learning Difficulties**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the statutory requirements for the provision of post-16 education services for young people with moderate learning difficulties.

(AQW 3859/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The statutory responsibility for securing provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) rests with both schools and the 5 education and library boards (ELBs) who are responsible under special education legislation for identifying, assessing and, in appropriate cases, making provision for children with SEN in their areas.

There are no specific statutory requirements for the provision of post-16 education services for young people with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) or severe learning difficulties (SLD). However, some pupils with statements of special educational needs will remain at school after the age of 16 and ELBs remain responsible for such pupils until the end of the term during which they reach age 19. ELBs are required to review statements at least annually and the first annual review after a young person's 14th birthday (and any subsequent annual reviews) should include a transition plan covering the young person's transition to adult life.

Provision for all children with special educational needs, including those with MLD or SLD, is covered by the special educational needs framework which comprises the Education (NI) Order 1996, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (NI) 2005, the Education (Special Educational Needs) Regulations (NI) 2005 and the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs and the supplement to the Code.

### **Post-16 Education Services for Young People with Severe Learning Difficulties**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the statutory requirements for the provision of post-16 education services for young people with severe learning difficulties.

(AQW 3860/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The statutory responsibility for securing provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) rests with both schools and the 5 education and library boards (ELBs) who are responsible under special education legislation for identifying, assessing and, in appropriate cases, making provision for children with SEN in their areas.

There are no specific statutory requirements for the provision of post-16 education services for young people with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) or severe learning difficulties (SLD). However, some

pupils with statements of special educational needs will remain at school after the age of 16 and ELBs remain responsible for such pupils until the end of the term during which they reach age 19. ELBs are required to review statements at least annually and the first annual review after a young person's 14th birthday (and any subsequent annual reviews) should include a transition plan covering the young person's transition to adult life.

Provision for all children with special educational needs, including those with MLD or SLD, is covered by the special educational needs framework which comprises the Education (NI) Order 1996, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (NI) 2005, the Education (Special Educational Needs) Regulations (NI) 2005 and the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs and the supplement to the Code.

## Vacant School Places

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2820/11-15, how many of the vacant school places in the 2010/11 academic year were in the (i) controlled; and (ii) maintained sectors, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 3861/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of vacant places in schools is derived from the difference between a school's approved enrolment number and the number of pupils enrolled at the school. Accordingly, the number of vacant school places in the 2010/11 academic year in the (i) controlled; and (ii) maintained sectors, broken down by constituency are as follows:

Constituency	(i) Total Controlled	(ii) Total Roman Catholic Maintained
Belfast East	3,251	366
Belfast North	3,540	2,728
Belfast South	2,856	779
Belfast West	1,221	6,633
East Antrim	2,073	1,138
East Derry	2,677	1,959
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	2,016	3,150
Foyle	1,138	5,000
Lagan Valley	1,949	526
Mid Ulster	1,695	2,668
Newry & Armagh	2,039	2,960
North Antrim	2,230	1,261
North Down	2,020	318
South Antrim	1,839	1,296
South Down	833	3,280
Strangford	2,262	1,362
Upper Bann	2,753	2,588
West Tyrone	1,784	4,237

In addition, a total of 4,180 vacant places exist in Controlled Integrated, Grant Maintained Integrated, Other Maintained, and Voluntary Schools.

The figures exclude the enrolments of pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, and pupils admitted on appeal by the Education and Library Board appeal tribunals or by direction of the independent Exceptional Circumstances Body, as these are admitted over and above a school's approved enrolment number.

### Pupils Expelled from Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2810/11-15, to provide a breakdown of the pupils expelled, broken down by (i) Education and Library Board area; (ii) school management type; (iii) gender; (iv) ethnicity; (v) special educational needs; and (vi) whether the pupils had a disability.

**(AQW 3880/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is set out in the tables below:

#### (I) PUPILS EXPELLED BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (ELB) AREA

Education and Library Board Area	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Belfast	7	6	*	5	6
North Eastern	16	15	*	14	*
South Eastern	7	5	9	*	*
Southern	16	7	6	#	*
Western	8	12	*	7	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>

#### (II) PUPILS EXPELLED BY SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TYPE

School Management Type	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Controlled	14	12	*	10	*
Catholic Maintained	22	14	16	17	12
Other <sup>1</sup>	18	19	#	9	#
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of statistical collection, school management types are amalgamated into three groups: 'controlled', 'Catholic maintained' or 'other'. The 'other' classification includes grant maintained and controlled integrated schools, voluntary grammar schools and other maintained schools.

#### (III) PUPILS EXPELLED BY GENDER

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Male	40	39	19	#	#
Female	14	6	6	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>

**(IV) PUPILS EXPELLED BY ETHNICITY**

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
White	#	45	25	36	#
Minority Ethnic Background	*	0	0	0	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>

**(V) PUPILS EXPELLED BY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Special Educational Needs	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
No	38	27	14	14	7
Yes <sup>2</sup>	16	18	11	22	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>

<sup>2</sup> Pupils are at stages 1-4 of the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. There were no expulsions in the 2005/06 to 2009/10 school years of a pupil who had reached Stage 5 of this process, that is, had been issued with a statement. The Education and Library Board will make a statement when it decides that the help a child needs cannot reasonably be provided within the resources normally available to the school.

**(VI) PUPILS EXPELLED BY WHETHER THE PUPILS HAD A DISABILITY**

There were no pupils expelled who were registered disabled in the school years 2005/06 to 2009/10.

**Notes:**

- Figures include pupils undertaking Key Stage 1-4 in primary and post-primary schools.
- \* denotes figures less than 5.
- # denotes a figure which has been treated to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.

A summary of the data for the 2010/11 school year is expected to be available on the Department's website by mid November.

**South Eastern Education and Library Board**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education when the South Eastern Education and Library Board will be re-constituted in the same manner as other Boards.

(AQW 3885/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have no plans at present to reconstitute the South Eastern Education and Library Board. However, I will keep the position under review, taking account of the timescale for the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority as it becomes clearer. My aim is to build political agreement on the way forward, and I hope to be able to bring proposals to the Executive in the near future for the establishment of ESA which will ensure that we have effective, efficient arrangements for education administration, based on local democratic accountability.

**Schools Estate**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2901/11-15, AQW 2941/11-15 and AQW 3001/11-15 and, in relation to the information provided on the controlled estate, to detail (i) the

total number of (a) schools; and (b) pupils in each school, broken down by Education and Library Board area; and (ii) on what basis the valuations were reached.

(AQW 3896/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information regarding the total number of (a) schools and (b) pupils in each school broken down by Education and Library Board area has been placed in the Assembly Library. This information is also available on the DE website using the following link:

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch\\_pg/32-statistics\\_and\\_research\\_statistics\\_on\\_education\\_pg/32\\_statistics\\_and\\_research-numbersofschoolsandpupils\\_pg/32\\_statistics\\_and\\_research-schoolleveldata\\_pg.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg/32-statistics_and_research_statistics_on_education_pg/32_statistics_and_research-numbersofschoolsandpupils_pg/32_statistics_and_research-schoolleveldata_pg.htm)

The valuation of the controlled estate was based on the last formal Land and Property Service valuation at 31 March 2008 and updated annually thereafter by indices provided by Land and Property Service. The next formal valuation of the estate is scheduled for 2012/13.

### **Queen's University Research on Irish-medium Schools**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education (i) what consideration he has given to the research carried out by Queen's University, Belfast, which highlighted that pupils attending Irish-medium schools significantly out-perform pupils from other sectors; and (ii) for his assessment of whether this demonstrates the need for bi-lingual education in schools.

(AQW 3922/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Queen's University research was considered by the working group set up by the previous Minister to advise the Department on the development of the literacy and numeracy strategy in Irish-medium education. The group's advice was incorporated into the strategy, which sets out the central role of schools and teachers in working to improve literacy and numeracy standards for all their pupils. The research adds to international evidence, and information compiled by ETI for the Review of Irish-medium Education, on the benefits of bi-lingualism. Modern Languages are a statutory part of the revised curriculum at Key Stage 3 and a qualification choice at KS4 and sixth form. Although Modern Languages are not a statutory part of the primary curriculum, the Primary Languages Programme was introduced in 2007 to give our youngest pupils the opportunity to learn an additional language. The Department also has a duty to encourage and facilitate Irish-medium education. It is for individual schools, taking account of evidence and best practice, to determine their approach to the delivery of the curriculum, including the language(s) of instruction and the use of immersion or bi-lingual approaches.

### **GCSE Grades**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education whether there have been any post-primary schools where less than 10 per cent of pupils have left without gaining five GCSE grades in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3923/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The schools and the percentages of school leavers where less than 10 per cent achieve at least 5 GCSEs A\*-C (inc. equivalent qualifications) are listed below.

#### **PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS ACHIEVING AT LEAST 5 GCSES A\*-C (INC. EQUIVALENTS) 2007/08**

- Ballee Community High School 6.4%

#### **PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS ACHIEVING AT LEAST 5 GCSES A\*-C (INC. EQUIVALENTS) 2008/09**

- Ballee Community High School 9.5%
- Movilla High School 9.6%
- Orangefield High School \*
- St Marys High School, Belleek \*

## PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS ACHIEVING AT LEAST 5 GCSES A\*-C (INC. EQUIVALENTS) 2009/10

- Dunmurry High School 9.8%
- Movilla High School 6.0%

\* denotes fewer than five pupils

**Source:** School Leavers Survey

## Capital Spend on New Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the projected capital spend on new schools in each of the next three years; and (ii) how much of this expenditure has already been allocated to individual school projects.

**(AQW 3941/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Further to my reply to AQW3705/11-15, at this time, allocations for capital spend on new schools in each of the next three years have not been determined. Profiled expenditure in each of the next three years for each of the 14 major capital projects currently on site is as follows:

Project	2012/13 Total £000'S	2013/14 Total £000'S	2014/15 Total £000'S
Magherafelt H.S.	895	0	0
Carrick P.S.	752	0	0
Coranny & Cornagague P.S.	133	0	0
Dromintee P.S.	667	35	0
Scoil Na Fuisseoige P.S.	640	0	0
St Columba's P.S.	1,168	0	0
St Oliver Plunkett P.S.	100	31	0
St Colman's P.S.	1,037	47	0
St Joseph's P.S.	13	0	0
Magherafelt P.S. & N.S.	2,756	0	0
St Mary's P.S.	1,287	46	0
Taughmonagh P.S.	525	0	0
Bangor Grammar	8,287	285	0
Strathearn GS	3,554	5,165	1,282
	<b>£21,814</b>	<b>£5,609</b>	<b>£1,282</b>

## Total Value of School Property

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2941/11-15, what is meant by the terms (i) timeframe; and (ii) within reasonable cost.

**(AQW 3964/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The most recent valuation of the controlled schools' estate was carried out by the Land and Property Services Agency in 2008. To extend this survey to cover all non-controlled assets would take approximately 4 months and incur cost considerably in excess of the £700 allowed for the preparation of answers to Assembly questions.



## Area Learning Community Programme Participation

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils taking part in an Area Learning Community Programme, broken down by (i) sector; and (ii) council area.

(AQW 3985/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not hold the information requested. Schools from maintained and controlled sectors do work together and with others to plan and deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of their pupils within the Area Learning Community. Such collaboration is helpful in avoiding duplication of scarce resources as well as enriching the educational experience for pupils, teachers and schools. As I made clear in my statement to the Assembly on 26 September, collaboration is not an end in itself and schools should be planning on the basis that pupils, particularly between the ages of 14-16, should be able to access most of their curriculum within their own school.

## Priority Order of New Builds

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the priority order of the new builds for schools which have received approval but are not yet scheduled to commence due to a lack of funding.

(AQW 3986/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors to co-ordinate a strategic area planning exercise based on each ELB area to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Previously identified projects will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed and may re-emerge if identified as a priority to support the area plan. No school building project will be looked at in isolation but must be considered in the context of the wider area.

At this time no funding has been allocated for new builds, other than for those projects already on site.

## New Builds: Lack of Funding

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the new builds for schools which have been approved but are unlikely to commence by 2015 due to a lack of funding.

(AQW 3988/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors to co-ordinate a strategic area planning exercise based on each ELB area to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Previously identified projects will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed and may re-emerge if identified as a priority to support the area plan. No school building project will be looked at in isolation but must be considered in the context of the wider area.

At this time no funding has been allocated for new builds, other than for those projects already on site.

## New Builds Scheduled to Commence by 2015

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the schools which have been allocated funding for a new build that is scheduled to commence by 2015.

(AQW 3990/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) working in close conjunction with the

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors to co-ordinate a strategic area planning exercise based on each ELB area to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Previously identified projects will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed and may re-emerge if identified as a priority to support the area plan. No school building project will be looked at in isolation but must be considered in the context of the wider area.

At this time no funding has been allocated for new builds, other than for those projects already on site.

## Department for Employment and Learning

### St Mary's University College, Belfast

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 2535/11-15, for his assessment of the promotion of practising of equal opportunity employment at St Mary's University College, Belfast given that people from a Protestant background make up only 7 per cent of the workforce. (AQW 3358/11-15)

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** I refer you to my previous answer to AQW 3006/11-15, which states that St. Mary's University College is an Equal Opportunities Employer and recognises that those with a Protestant background are underrepresented amongst its staff. The College has a Religious Affirmative Action Plan in place that is reviewed on a three-yearly basis in collaboration with the Equality Commission.

The College also actively promotes the recruitment of Protestant staff. In the employment opportunities section of its website, St Mary's declares that it "is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. As Protestants are currently underrepresented among the staff, applications from this section of the community would be particularly welcome."

### Staff: Third Level Education Courses

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of staff in his Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by his Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3383/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** A table is attached providing details requested above.

**THE NUMBER OF STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING WHO HAVE UNDERTAKEN A THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION COURSE PAID FOR IN FULL OR PART BY THE DEPARTMENT**

September 2008 - June 2009							
The Title of the course	No. of Staff	Fees or costs of the course of study undertaken	Paid in Whole	Paid in part	Full Time	Part Time	Educational institute which provided the course
BSc Hons/BA Hons Business Studies	3	£2,239		£1,790		Yes	Open University, University of Ulster - Magee, University of Ulster - Coleraine
BSc Hons in Social Sciences	3	£1,220		£976		Yes	Open University
HNC in Business Studies	2	£798		£638		Yes	University of Ulster - Jordanstown, BMC Brunswick St Campus
Level 4 Professional CIM Certificate in Marketing	1	£942		£458		Yes	Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) Brunswick St Campus
MSc in Industrial Relations & HR Management	1	£1,250		£1,000		Yes	Distance Learning with Keele University, Staffordshire
Postgraduate Diploma Personnel Management	1	£1,290		£1,000		Yes	Queens University Belfast
MSc in Innovation Management in the Public Service	1	£5,750		£2,875		Yes	University of Ulster - Magee and Letterkenny Institute of Technology

September 2009 - June 2010							
The Title of the course	No. of Staff	Fees or costs of the course of study undertaken	Paid in Whole	Paid in part	Full Time	Part time	Educational institute which provided the course
BSc Hons in Business Studies	4	£3,154		£2,193		Yes	University of Ulster - Jordanstown, University of Ulster - Coleraine, 2 @ University of Ulster - Magee
BSc Hons Environmental Policy	1	£630		£504		Yes	Open University
HNC in Business Studies	1	£395		£328		Yes	BMC Brunswick St Campus
MSc in Business Studies	1	£2,500		£1,000		Yes	University of Ulster - Jordanstown
MSc in Careers & Guidance	4	£4,444		£3,720		Yes	University of Ulster - Magee,
MSc in Industrial Relations & Human Resource Management	1	£1,850		£1,000		Yes	Distance Learning with Keele University, Staffordshire
Post Graduate Certificate in Communication	1	£250		£142		Yes	Loughry College, Cookstown (Teaching Centre for Queen's University)
MSc in Innovation Management in the Public Service	3	£17,250		£8,625		Yes	University of Ulster - Magee and Letterkenny Institute of Technology

September 2010 - 2011							
The Title of the course	No. of Staff	Fees or costs of the course of study undertaken	Paid in Whole	Paid in part	Full Time	Part time	Educational institute which provided the course
BA Hons/ BSc Hons in Business Studies	5	£3,873		£2,217		Yes	Open University, University of Ulster- Jordanstown, University of Ulster - Coleraine, 2 @ University of Ulster - Magee
BA Hons in Leadership & Management	2	£3,050		£1,216		Yes	Open University
BA/BSc (HONS) Criminology	1	£148		£117		Yes	Open University
BA/BSc in Social Sciences	1	£1,400		£1,000		Yes	Open University
Foundation Degree in Counselling	6	£4,225		£2,577		Yes	Southern Regional College Newry and Banbridge, Northern Regional College (NRC), Antrim, 3 at NRC Ballymena
HNC in IT & Administration	2	£951		£320		Yes	North West Regional College
LLB (HONS) Law	1	£1,091		£355		Yes	University of Ulster - Jordanstown
MSc in Careers Guidance	4	£5,320		£2,866		Yes	University of Ulster - Magee
MSc in Communication	2	£1,092		£291		Yes	Queen's University- Loughry College
MSc in Innovation Management in the Public Service	2	£5,750		£5,750		Yes	University of Ulster - Magee and Letterkenny Institute of Technology

## St Mary's University College, Belfast

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the number of staff from a Protestant background employed at St Mary's University College in each year since the Equal Opportunities Employment Statement was adopted by the Board of Governors in October 1998.

(AQW 3438/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** St. Mary's University College has provided the information attached at Annex A

Annex A

St. Mary's University College

Composition of Staff by Community Background

Monitoring Year	No. of Catholic Staff	No. of Protestant Staff	No. of Non-Determined Staff	Total Staff
Feb. 2011	151	12	6	169
Feb. 2010	149	11	9	169
Feb. 2009	155	11	7	173
Feb. 2008	167	13	7	187
Feb. 2007	160	11	7	178
Feb. 2006	158	8	7	173
Feb. 2005	162	8	8	178
Feb. 2004	162	10	6	178
Feb. 2003	157	11	5	173
Feb. 2002	155	8	0	163
Feb. 2001	157	7	3	167
Feb. 2000	162	5	2	169
Feb. 1999	160	3	1	164
Feb. 1998	151	1	1	153

## Second Languages

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how he plans to promote and prioritise the learning of a second language, given how important a second language can be in gaining employment.

(AQW 3489/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** At present, a significant demand for language skills is not being articulated by employers through the various mechanisms in place for them to do so. However, as a result of the impending Economic Strategy and its focus on "export led growth", there may be a shift in the skills sought from the workforce, and this may include an increased demand from employers for these skills. Should such a skills need be identified in the future, mechanisms exist through the Department's HE, FE and training provision to address these.

Regarding provision, while my Department sets the strategic direction for the Further and Higher Education sectors, each institution is responsible for its own curriculum offer, including the teaching of languages.

The Higher Education Institutions' (HEIs') offer 'stand alone' modern language degrees, while students in non-language disciplines have the opportunity to study a modern language in addition to their primary subject(s).

Students at Northern Ireland HEIs who are undertaking a modern language degree are encouraged to spend a year abroad (as part of their degree course) either working or studying, in order to deepen their understanding of the host culture and improve their language skills. The Department also encourages student mobility as part of an overall portfolio of employability skills which can enhance their future career prospects in an internationally competitive graduate job market. The Department co-funds and promotes the Erasmus staff and student mobility programme which is administered by the British Council.

Further Education Colleges currently offer an extensive range of language courses as part of their curriculum provision. These courses are proactively marketed within the Colleges' websites and prospectuses and by active use of a variety of social media.

Colleges offer a wide range of course provision, tailored to meet local needs. Decisions on whether a specific course runs are driven by the level of demand locally and it is the responsibility of individual colleges to meet the needs of learners and employers in their areas in a cost effective way that ensures best use of public money.

Colleges also currently engage in marketing the College's language provision to a variety of external businesses, employers and partners. The Colleges are aware of the importance of providing opportunities for students to diversify their knowledge and skills in the acquisition of a new language and have witnessed a significant increase in the cultural diversity of the student population in recent years.

My department's Careers Service would encourage students to study and gain qualifications in a modern language if an individual demonstrated an aptitude for, or expressed an interest in, a career where a language may be necessary or advantageous. Careers advisers would provide appropriate impartial information, advice and guidance to support students to make informed decisions in relation to their future career plans.

In both 2008/09 and 2009/10, there were approximately 13,000 enrolments on language, literature and culture courses delivered by FE colleges in Northern Ireland.

### **Transport Difficulties Faced by Students in Bad Weather**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he plans to facilitate any discussions between Translink and universities and further education colleges regarding the transport difficulties faced by students in bad weather, given that many institutions only accept transport difficulties as an excuse for lateness or non-attendance if Translink officially announces that a train is cancelled.

(AQW 3507/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** While I have no plans to facilitate any discussions between Translink and the universities and the further education colleges I have referred your question to the college Directors and university Vice-Chancellors who will respond directly to you.

### **Appointment of Special Advisers**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the status within his Department of the Department of Finance and Personnel's review of the appointment of Special Advisers.

(AQW 3559/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** A copy of the review report on the appointment of Special Advisers has been placed in the Assembly library. The review was implemented for all future appointments with effect from 6 September 2011.

## Modern Languages

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students have graduated with degrees in a modern language in each of the last ten years, broken down by (i) the institution from which they qualified; and (ii) the language in which they gained a qualification.

(AQW 3580/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** The number of students who have gained qualifications across all levels of study in modern languages in each of the last 10 years broken down by (i) the institution from which they qualified and; (ii) the language in which they gained a qualification is detailed below.

### 1999/2000

Subject	The Queen's University of Belfast	University of Ulster
French Languages, Literature and Culture	20	5
Italian Languages, Literature and Culture	0	0
Spanish Languages, Literature and Culture	10	0
Other European Languages, Literature and Culture	35	5
Japanese Languages, Literature and Culture	0	0
Other Language Studies	0	5
Other or Unspecified Modern Languages	0	15

### 2000/2001

Subject	The Queen's University of Belfast	University of Ulster
French Languages, Literature and Culture	15	5
Spanish Languages, Literature and Culture	10	0
Other European Languages, Literature and Culture	25	0
Other Language Studies	0	20
Other or Unspecified Modern Languages	0	30

### 2001/2002

Subject	Queen's University Belfast	University of Ulster
French Language, Literature & Culture	10	0
German Language, Literature & Culture	5	0
Italian Language, Literature & Culture	0	0
Spanish Language, Literature & Culture	5	0
Other European Languages, Literature & Culture	30	0
Other Language Studies	0	10
Other or Unspecified Modern Languages	0	15



**2002/2003**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	50	5
German studies	5	0
Italian studies	0	0
Spanish studies	30	0
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	40
Japanese Studies	0	0
African Studies	0	0

**2003/2004**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	60	5
German studies	10	0
Italian studies	0	0
Spanish studies	40	5
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	20

**2004/2005**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	35	5
German studies	25	0
Spanish studies	35	10
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	15

**2005/2006**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	55	5
German studies	10	0
Spanish studies	40	5
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	15

**2006/2007**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	40	10
German studies	15	0
Spanish studies	30	15
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	5
Chinese studies	0	5

**2007/2008**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	40	15
German studies	15	5
Spanish studies	40	10
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	5
Chinese studies	0	5

**2008/2009**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	35	15
German studies	5	5
Spanish studies	35	5
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	5
Chinese studies	0	5

**2009/2010**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Queen's University of Belfast</b>	<b>University of Ulster</b>
French studies	40	15
German studies	10	0
Spanish studies	40	15
Others in European languages, literature & related subjects	0	5
Chinese studies	0	5

**Source:** Higher Education Statistics Agency

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.
2. Comparison between subjects from 2002/03 onwards and 2001/02 and earlier should be viewed in the context of the following changes: -
  - Subject area groupings in 1999/00, 2000/01 and 2001/02 are different to those from 2002/03 onwards. Consequently subject areas within each group may have changed.
  - In addition a new procedure for apportioning students to subject areas was introduced in 2002/03. Under the previous system, students were allocated to a subject area which reflected the majority of their course. When this was not possible they were allocated to the combined subject area.

## Qualifications in a Modern Language

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department has taken to encourage students to study and gain qualifications in a modern language.

(AQW 3581/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** My Department's Careers Service would encourage students to study and gain qualifications in a modern language if an individual demonstrated an aptitude for, or expressed an interest in, a career where a language may be necessary or advantageous. Careers advisers would provide appropriate impartial information, advice and guidance to support students to make informed decisions in relation to their future career plans.

While my Department sets the strategic direction for the Further and Higher Education Sectors, each institution is responsible for its own curriculum offer including the teaching of languages.

The Higher Education Institutions offer 'stand alone' modern language degrees, while students in non-language disciplines have the opportunity to study a modern language in addition to their primary subject(s).

Students at Northern Ireland HEIs who are undertaking a modern language degree are encouraged to spend a year abroad (as part of their degree course) either working or studying, in order to deepen their understanding of the host culture and improve their language skills. The Department also encourages student mobility as part of an overall portfolio of employability skills which can enhance their future career prospects in an internationally competitive graduate job market. The Department co-funds and promotes the Erasmus staff and student mobility programme which is administered by the British Council.

Further Education Colleges currently offer an extensive range of language courses as part of their curriculum provision. These courses are proactively marketed within the Colleges websites and prospectuses and by active use of a variety of social media.

Colleges offer a wide range of course provision, tailored to meet local needs. Decisions on whether a specific course runs are driven by the level of demand locally and it is the responsibility of individual colleges to meet the needs of learners and employers in their areas in a cost effective way that ensures best use of public money.

Recent years have witnessed an increase in the demand for language provision, and as a result colleges have proactively planned to embed language provision within a number of specific curriculum areas.

Colleges also currently engage in marketing their language provision to a variety of external businesses, employers and partners. The colleges are aware of the importance of providing opportunities for students to diversify their knowledge and skills in the acquisition of a new language.

In both 2008/09 and 2009/10, there were approximately 13,000 enrolments on language, literature and culture courses delivered by FE colleges in Northern Ireland.

## Modern Language Courses

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what modern language courses are available at Further Education Colleges; and how many students are enrolled in each course.

(AQW 3582/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** While my Department sets the strategic direction for the Further Education Sector, each college is responsible for its own curriculum offer including the teaching of modern language courses.

The Department does not have information on the number of modern language courses that are available in the current year, nor the number of students enrolled on each course. However, colleges have confirmed that they offer courses in a range of languages from non-accredited beginner courses up to and including Level 3 Certificates.

I can inform you that in 2009/10, the last year for which validated data is available, within the UK-wide subject grouping "Language, Literature and Culture," Further Education Colleges had 12,904 enrolments on the following courses in languages: Language Studies, (45); Literary Studies, (104); English Language & Literature, (951); English Literature, (602); Modern English Studies, (69); English for Speakers of Other Languages, (6036); Literacy, (74); Others in English, (280); Other Celtic Languages, (619); French, (945); German, (186); Italian, (587); Spanish, (1644); Portuguese, (84); Russian, (56); Polish, (68); Dutch, (12); Modern Greek, (27); Others in Other or General European Languages, (37); Chinese, (31); Japanese, (113); Arabic, (31); Other Modern Middle Eastern Languages, (70); Other Language Studies, (226); and Conference Interpretation, (7).

## Apprenticeship Places

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the apprentice places currently available at each Further Education College.

(AQW 3611/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** ApprenticeshipsNI is a demand-led provision and, as such, the number of places available is determined by employers based on the needs of their business. There are currently a record number of 12,858 apprentices on programme which is a substantial achievement in these challenging economic times. The current numbers following an apprenticeship, as part of ApprenticeshipsNI, at Northern Ireland's six Regional Colleges are detailed overleaf.

### APPRENTICESHIPS NI

Regional College	No. of Apprentices
Belfast Metropolitan College	570
North West Regional College	103
Northern Regional College	306
South Eastern Regional College	376
South West College	850
Southern Regional College	549
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2754</b>

## St Mary's University College, Belfast: Board of Governors

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what is the proportion of Catholic and Protestant members on the Board of Governors at St Mary's University College, Belfast.

(AQW 3624/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** St. Mary's University College has informed me that it does not hold this information. The College is obliged to monitor the community background of its employees and is not under an obligation to monitor the community background of its Board members. The proportion of Catholic and Protestant members on the Board of Governors cannot, therefore, be determined.

## University Enrolments

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 2962/11-15, what action he intends to take to address the considerable under-representation of Protestants at local universities.

(AQW 3638/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** Participation in higher education from a Protestant background is broadly in line with Protestant representation within the school leaving population of Northern Ireland. Each year there are slightly higher numbers of Protestant students who choose to study at institutions in Great Britain, which means that proportionately fewer study within Northern Ireland. In general, there is no underrepresentation of Protestants in higher education.

However, while participation levels are generally lower from working class areas across Northern Ireland, Protestant working class boys are among the most under-represented groups in Higher Education, (but are overrepresented in Further Education). Under-representation for this group is much more marked for students entitled to free school meals.

The key to increasing the uptake of university places from the Protestant working class is to raise aspirations and attainment levels while young people are still in school. While that is primarily a matter for the Department of Education and the school sector, my Department provides special project funding which allows the universities to develop partnerships with non-selective schools in disadvantaged areas. Pupils from controlled post-primary schools, in areas with traditionally low levels of participation in higher education, are specifically targeted for inclusion in programmes such as Step-Up and Discovering Queens. In academic year 2011/12, my Department has allocated £2.2 million to help to widen participation from groups under-represented in higher education.

My Department also recognises that addressing disadvantage and exclusion will require coordinated action and consequently it is leading on the development of a new integrated Regional Strategy for Widening Participation in Higher Education. This work is progressing in partnership with other key stakeholders from further and higher education, employers, disabled and community representatives and other government Departments.

## Increase in Student Places in 2012/13

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning which universities and further education colleges are due to receive an increase in student places in 2012/13; and how many places each institution will receive.

(AQW 3674/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** As the member may be aware, the Executive has made available a total of £3m for additional Higher Education places by 2014/15. The exact number of additional places that this will fund, and the allocation of those places across the Higher Education Institutions and the Further Education Colleges, has not yet been determined. I would plan to be in a position to confirm exact allocations in the coming weeks.

## Recruitment of Students from a Protestant Working Class Background

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what bursaries the University of Ulster offers to help counter its deficit in recruitment of students from a Protestant working class background; and if he will examine the scope for the use of such bursaries for this purpose.

(AQW 3690/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** Higher Education institutions wishing to charge more than the minimum tuition fee are obliged by my Department to have Access Agreements which must provide for financial and other support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Within its Access Agreement the University of Ulster commits funding to safeguard and promote fair access in accordance with its Equality Policy Scheme through which equality of opportunity is provided to all. In academic year 2011/12 the University offers a bursary of £800 to full-time first year undergraduate students who have residual household income of £19,203 or less. A pro-rata bursary is also payable to students undertaking less than a full-time course.

My Department has no plans to introduce bursaries to support the recruitment into higher education of students from a Protestant working class background. However, my Department is leading on the development of an integrated Regional Strategy for Widening Participation in Higher Education. One of the key aims of the Strategy will be to direct and focus institutional efforts to support widening participation among those groups which are under-represented in higher education. This will be achieved through projects which will raise aspiration and educational attainment among the most disadvantaged in our society and develop additional support measures to sustain their continuing participation.

### Applications to St Mary's University College

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of students from Catholic maintained post primary schools who applied for places at St Mary's University College, Belfast in each of the last four years; and how many of these applications were successful.

(AQW 3707/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** St. Mary's University College has provided the information attached at Annex A.

#### ANNEX A

#### ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE APPLICANTS FROM CATHOLIC MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN EACH OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS

Year	Applicants	Successful Entry
2008	490	154
2009	589	211
2010	760	151
2011	640	176

### Capital Spend Projects for Higher and Further Education

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the priority order of the proposed reserve capital spend projects for higher and further education should the planned capital projects in these sectors not be completed.

(AQW 3735/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** The Department's current further education capital budget is largely committed to major projects already delivered or nearing completion. Remaining unallocated funds of £2m in each of the next two financial years and £4m in the following year are earmarked for minor works projects across all colleges. Calls for bids have not been made at this stage.

The Department has informed the Higher Education Institutions of the capital funding available to them over the four year period commencing 2011/12. The Department is confident that the capital strategies each institution has in place will absorb the available funding in full.

Given the work that is required and how quickly the information becomes dated in terms of costings and Planning Permissions, for example, it is not common practice to identify reserve capital projects and none are currently held.

The Department will be examining its range of priorities when the Strategic Investment Board's Investment Strategy Northern Ireland (ISNI), Version 3 is produced, which we understand will be in the near future.

### **Moving Up Programme**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) to detail the funding providers of the Moving Up Programme; (ii) how many staff will be employed in this programme; and (iii) for an estimate of the number of people who will benefit from the programme.

(AQW 3739/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** The Praxis Care charity is currently funded under Priority 1 of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF) Programme 2007 -13 to deliver the Moving Up Programme. The funding offered for the Moving Up Programme covers a three year period, 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014 and totals £2,171,767, comprising £868,707 from the European Social Fund, £542,942 from the Department for Employment and Learning, and £942,118 match funding contribution from Praxis Care. The project plans to employ 49 staff covering five centres of delivery and to assist 94 participants.

### **Education Maintenance Allowance**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what mechanisms are in place to verify that recipients of Educational Maintenance Allowance are living at the home of a parent or guardian as stated in their application.

(AQW 3779/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** In relation to the means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance scheme, a home address check is carried out on all applications by obtaining the relevant household Tax Credit Award Notification form and matching the stated address against the address supplied by the student in the Education Maintenance Allowance application form. If the Tax Credit Award Notification form is not available, a household utility bill issued within the last three months is obtained to make the verification check.

In relation to the non means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance which is paid to those young persons who are participating in the Training for Success programme, there is no requirement for them to be residing at the home of a parent or guardian in order to receive that allowance.

### **Life Long Learning: Young People with Severe Learning Disabilities**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the current opportunities for life long learning for young people with severe learning disabilities when they leave school at 19 years of age.

(AQO 691/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) and its delivery partners provide life long learning opportunities for young people with severe learning disabilities across a wide range of services. The key areas of activity are set out below.

Further Education Colleges collaborate with special schools and adult day centres to provide discrete courses for young people with severe learning disabilities. Such provision may be delivered on college premises, at a day centre, or other suitable premises. Colleges are keen to offer courses locally, where possible, which take account of individual needs and local circumstances, subject to demand. However, further education provision is not suitable for every young person with severe learning disabilities, particularly those for whom nursing and other personal care may be required.



Widening participation in higher education by students from those groups who are currently under-represented is one of the Department's key strategic goals, in particular, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and students with learning difficulties and disabilities. The Department funds universities to support students with learning difficulties and disabilities, including costs incurred in attending courses and to provide a non medical helper.

Also, young people on Training for Success and ApprenticeshipNI programmes who require additional specialist support will be given every opportunity to overcome difficulties and to develop using the most appropriate support mechanisms. Specialist support providers are contracted by the Department to work in conjunction with Suppliers delivering these programmes.

The Disability Employment Service (DES) provides a range of vocational and pre-vocational programmes to meet the needs of disabled people whatever their age. The programme that is appropriate for each individual is discussed and agreed with Advisers - who work with a team of Occupational Psychologists to assist in the provision of suitable support to individuals. The programmes are demand-led and much of the provision is individually assessed.

Additionally, DES purchases residential vocational training opportunities from Parkanaur College, Dungannon. This provision offers training in Business Administration, Horticulture, Catering and Upholstery and is available to disabled people over the age of 18 who are unable to access mainstream Departmental training or Further Education provision due to the effects of their disability.

The Department's Careers Service provides support to young people to assist them in making effective choices in relation to education, training and employment.

Finally, DEL is responsible for the implementation of the NI European Social Fund Programme, 2007-2013. Priority 1 of the programme, ' Helping people into sustainable employment' supports projects that offer training to people disadvantaged from entering the labour market and those seeking further skills. Some of these projects focus exclusively upon participants with a disability. Currently, there are 17 projects in receipt of assistance in relation to participants with a mental health difficulty, learning disability or physical disability.

## European Social Funding

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the European Social Fund project applications which were successful in 2011 to date, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 3900/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** I have attached a link to the ESF website that provides details of all successful projects that have received ESF funding under the 1st and 2nd calls to Priority 1 of the Northern Ireland European Social fund 2007-2013.

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/list-of-successful-esf-projects-second-call.pdf>

[http://www.delni.gov.uk/list\\_of\\_esf\\_successful\\_projects\\_-\\_apr\\_2010.ppt](http://www.delni.gov.uk/list_of_esf_successful_projects_-_apr_2010.ppt)

Open and competitive 'calls' to projects seeking ESF funding are organised on a regional basis and my Department provides reports on spending and progress against targets as a region to the European Commission and the UK Government, as set out in the Operational Programme.

Details of European Social Fund 2007-2013 funding therefore are not held by constituency but by Northern Ireland as a region.

## European Social Funding

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many projects which were granted European Social Funding in 2011 to date had to withdraw because they were unable to obtain match funding.

(AQW 3903/11-15)



**Dr Farry:** Priority 1 of the NIESF Programme 2007-13 is entitled 'Helping people into sustainable employment' and aims to assist unemployed and economically inactive people by helping them to enter, remain, and make progress in sustained employment. 82 projects were successful under the second call for Priority 1 ESF funding which was commissioned in 2010, and all but one has indicated that their requisite match funding has been secured. The one remaining project has recently advised my Department that they have secured match funding and the process will be completed shortly. Consequently, it is anticipated that all of our funding offers under the second call have been or are about to be taken up.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Broadband in Annahilt, Co. Down

**Mrs Hale** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether he has any plans to invest in and upgrade broadband in Annahilt, Co. Down.

(AQW 3291/11-15)

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** My Department has invested significantly in delivering higher speed business-focused broadband services of up to 40Mbps across Northern Ireland, including Annahilt through our Next Generation Broadband Project.

Looking forward we have secured £4.4m under the UK Coalition Government's Broadband Delivery UK initiative. This will be used, alongside funds allocated under the Executive's budget for 2011/12 to 2014/15 to deliver higher speed services of at least 2Mbps into those areas of Northern Ireland currently unable to access fixed line services at that speed. Work to scope those areas continues.

I am also aware that a local network operator, North West Electronics is examining the commercial case to deliver higher specification fixed-wireless services into the area.

### Foreign Direct Investment Generated by InvestNI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of jobs created as a result of foreign direct investment generated by each of InvestNI's fourteen offices worldwide, in each financial year since 2006/07.

(AQW 3298/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has a network of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) offices located in North America (Boston, New York, San Jose), Europe (London, Brussels, Dublin) and South Asia (Mumbai). These offices primarily focus on promoting Northern Ireland as a location capable of providing solutions to the business needs of new investors. Invest NI also has FDI representation in Toronto and Tokyo.

In addition, Invest NI operates Trade Development Centres in Dubai, Mumbai, Jeddah, Dusseldorf and Shanghai which provide practical assistance to Northern Ireland companies seeking to develop and secure new business and strategic partnerships in those markets.

Inward investment is the culmination of a process involving the participation of many Invest NI teams engaging with multi-location enterprises across different offices and regions. As such, it is not possible to align each investment with a particular office.

The table below details the number of jobs promoted and safeguarded by the region of origin of the investment in the five year period from 2006-07 to 2010-11.

Jobs promoted and safeguarded 2006-07 to 2010-11 by region of ownership												
Region of Ownership	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		TOTAL	
	New jobs	Safe Jobs	New jobs	Safe Jobs	New jobs	Safe Jobs	New jobs	Safe Jobs	New jobs	Safe Jobs	New jobs	Safe Jobs
Continental Europe	398	90	235	264	708	0	382	53	136	30	1,859	437
North America	838	60	422	1,102	1,591	0	853	4	764	0	4,468	1,166
Great Britain	63	0	308	67	218	3	351	1,001	1,406	13	2,346	1,084
Rol	818	21	324	30	428	152	76	58	305	0	1,951	261
India	1,227	0	834	0	0	0	86	0	100	0	2,247	0
Japan	30	0	552	0	6	0	1	16	87	0	676	16
Rest of World	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	18	0	35	0
Grand Total	3,374	171	2,675	1,463	2,951	155	1,766	1,132	2,816	43	13,582	2,964

1. New jobs promoted are those jobs that are expected to be created.
2. Safe Jobs represent the number jobs that would have been lost if the project was not supported.
3. Figures include first-time inward investments, reinvestments and business development projects by existing externally-owned clients.

## Reallocation of Renewable Heat Incentive Funding to the Green New Deal

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what consideration has been given to reallocating some of the money earmarked for the Renewable Heat Incentive to the Green New Deal. (AQW 3299/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) has provided my Department with funding of £25m, over the next four years, for the development and implementation of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for Northern Ireland. This money represents a proportion of the funding available to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the implementation of the Great Britain RHI. The £25m is ring-fenced and has been provided on the basis that it will be utilised specifically for a Northern Ireland RHI.

## Renewable Heat Incentive

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how the changes to the Renewable Heat Incentive in Great Britain will affect plans for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 3300/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** I understand that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in Great Britain has been delayed as the European Commission requires the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to reduce the tariff for large biomass. DECC is now revising regulations, to reflect this change in tariff, in advance of implementation by the end of November 2011.

The proposed Northern Ireland RHI, as outlined by my Department in the July consultation document, is separate and different to the Great Britain RHI. The changes to the Great Britain

RHI should not directly affect DETI's proposals. My Department will, of course, continue to liaise with colleagues in DECC as both schemes are developed and implemented.

## Renewable Heat Incentive

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) to detail the time limit for the £25 million Treasury funding for a Renewable Heat Initiative; and (ii) given the European Commission's concerns regarding Great Britain's Renewable Heat Initiative process, how she intends to ensure that her Department's plans are not delayed.

(AQW 3327/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has been allocated £25m from Her Majesty's Treasury for the development of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for Northern Ireland. The funding breaks down as follows:

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
£2m	£4m	£7m	£12m

I understand that the Great Britain RHI has just recently received approval from the European Commission subject to a reduction in the large biomass tariff. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is now revising regulations in advance of implementing the RHI before the end of November. My Department will seek to work with colleagues from DECC as European approval is sought for the Northern Ireland scheme.

## Renewable Heat Incentive

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when she expects to introduce a Renewable Heat Initiative for domestic properties.

(AQW 3328/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has recently conducted a public consultation into the potential design and implementation of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in Northern Ireland. As part of this consultation it was proposed to introduce a RHI for non-domestic customers from April 2012 and extend the scheme to domestic properties by October 2012. It was also proposed that DETI would make available capital grant support for domestic customers through Renewable Heat Premium Payments in the interim.

My officials are currently considering responses to the public consultation in advance of finalising proposals. I would not wish to pre-judge this process by making further announcements to those contained within the consultation documents.

### **Value for Money Audits: Arm's-Length Bodies**

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has (a) carried out any value for money audits on its arm's-length bodies it funds; and (b) identified any savings that could be made by these bodies.

(AQW 3332/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) The Department is participating in the arms length body review being conducted centrally by the Budget Review Group to establish the scope for abolition, merger or absorption into departmental structures of each body. The Budget Review Group is expected to convey its recommendations to the Executive in due course.
- (ii) As part of the Budget 2011-15 process, DETI will deliver cash releasing efficiencies of £8.5m over the Budget period. Further details on the Savings Delivery Plans can be accessed via the DETI website at [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk).

### **Energy Bill**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the policy requirement to promote the development and maintenance of an efficient, economic and co-ordinated gas industry will be revised in the forthcoming Energy Bill, to create a more sustainable energy policy.

(AQW 3337/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My Department is currently scoping a new Energy Bill. This consideration, which includes looking at the duties and objectives of both the Department and the Utility Regulator with a view to ensuring that they remain fit for purpose, is still in the early stages of development and Executive clearance will be sought to consult on the key measures to be included in the Bill in the spring of 2012.

### **Utility Regulator's Energy Efficiency Schemes and the Green New Deal**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if any consideration has been given to consolidating the Utility Regulator's energy efficiency schemes with the Green New Deal.

(AQW 3339/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP) is the responsibility of the independent Utility Regulator: it is that body which will decide the future of that scheme. I understand that Utility Regulator officials have met Green New Deal (GND) representatives to advise them that the GND, which has not registered to become a primary bidder for this funding, is eligible to bid for NISEP funding in consortium with other organisations which have registered as primary bidders.

My Department is working with other relevant bodies, including the Utility Regulator, to carry out a study into options for increasing energy efficiency activities in Northern Ireland. This work includes examining how existing and proposed programmes, including GND, might work together to achieve energy saving targets.

## October Monitoring Round: Easements

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any easements that have been identified by her Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3360/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The following table details the easements identified in October 2011 monitoring:

	Resource £m	Capital £m
Invest NI – generation of additional receipts	1.5	4.8
Invest NI – lower than anticipated drawdown mainly due to changed economic conditions	7.9	6.3
DETI Interreg IVA match funding – promoters implementing projects slower than forecast	0.4	1.0
De minimis easements (individual easements each below £1m)	1.0	0.6
Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) Loan Repayment – not budgeted as deal not agreed at time of Budget	-	8.7
PMS Loan Interest not budgeted – reason as per Loan repayment	1.2	-

## Spend in the Belfast City Council Area

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail her Department's (i) direct; and (ii) indirect spend in each of the last ten years in the Belfast City Council area.

(AQW 3364/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Department's expenditure cannot be meaningfully disaggregated at district council level and retrieving what would be unrepresentative information over a ten year period would incur a disproportionate cost.

## Current Businesses

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of current businesses are (i) small and medium sized enterprises; and (ii) Foreign Direct Investment businesses.

(AQW 3369/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Office of National Statistics' Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) contains information on all businesses in the United Kingdom which are VAT registered and/or operating a PAYE scheme. The latest published data from the IDBR indicates that over 99% of such businesses in Northern Ireland are SMEs, while our own Northern Ireland business surveys suggest that SMEs account for around 48% of employment.

The IDBR also indicates that there were a total of 69,665 businesses operating in Northern Ireland at March 2010. Of these 725 (1%) were classed as foreign-owned with a single non- United Kingdom shareholding in excess of 50%. The register suggests that these 725 foreign-owned businesses accounted for around 10% of employment and some 27% of turnover in Northern Ireland.

## Grants

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of grants allocated by her Department in 2010/11 went to (i) small and medium sized enterprises; and (ii) Foreign Direct Investment businesses.

(AQW 3370/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011, 87% of offers made by Invest NI, representing 27% of total assistance offered, was to (i) small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

During the same time period, 7% of offers made and 44% of assistance offered was to (ii) inward investment businesses. The table below shows the breakdown of offers made in each category over the period.

### INVEST NI OFFERS BY OWNERSHIP AND BUSINESS SIZE (2010-11)

Ownership	Company Size	Number of Offers	% of Total Offers	Total Assistance (£m)	% of Total Assistance
External	Large	239	7%	46.96	44%
	<b>External Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>46.96</b>	<b>44%</b>
Local	Large	106	3%	15.85	15%
	SME	2,820	87%	29.11	27%
	EDO/UNI	61	2%	15.89	15%
	<b>Local Total</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>60.85</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,226</b>		<b>107.82</b>	

#### Notes:

- 2% of offers were made to External Delivery Organisations (EDOs) and Universities (UNI) which cannot be classified by business size.
- SMEs are defined as having less than 250 employees.
- Totals may not add due to rounding.

In addition, during 2010/11 DCAL and NITB funded £621,317 to small and medium sized enterprises under the Events Funding Programme. This fund was administered by NITB and equates to 56% of the total allocation of £1,114,417 funding for grants.

## Grants

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of grants allocated by her Department in 2011/12 to date went to (i) small and medium sized enterprises; and (ii) Foreign Direct Investment businesses.

(AQW 3371/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Between 1st April and 30th September 2011, 91% of offers made by Invest NI, representing 68% of total assistance offered, was to (i) small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

During the same time period, 6% of offers made and 25% of assistance offered was to (ii) inward investment businesses. The table below shows the breakdown of offers made in each category over the period.

**INVEST NI OFFERS BY OWNERSHIP AND BUSINESS SIZE (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2011-12)**

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Company Size</b>	<b>Number of Offers</b>	<b>% of Total Offers</b>	<b>Total Assistance (£m)</b>	<b>% of Total Assistance</b>
External	Large	109	6%	9.17	25%
	<b>External Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>25%</b>
Local	Large	30	2%	0.49	1%
	SME	1,661	91%	25.31	68%
	EDO/UNI	20	1%	2.10	6%
	<b>Local Total</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>27.89</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,820</b>		<b>37.07</b>	

**NOTES:**

4. 1% of offers were made to External Delivery Organisations (EDOs) and Universities (UNI) which cannot be classified by business size.
5. SMEs are defined as having less than 250 employees.
6. Totals may not add due to rounding.
7. Figures are provisional and may be subject to change.

In addition to the above, during 2011/12, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board funded £551,000 to small and medium sized enterprises under the Tourism Events Funding Programme. And, in October 2011, DETI's Telecoms Policy Unit allocated £215,432 of support under its NI Broadband Fund to North West Electronics, a local SME, to deliver fixed wireless access distribution in the North Eastern and Southern areas of Northern Ireland.

**Funding from InvestNI: Non-indigenous Businesses**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list all the non-indigenous businesses which received funding from InvestNI in the last five years and have since closed or withdrawn; and to detail the amount of funding each of these businesses received.

(AQW 3372/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** During the period 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2011 Invest NI offered assistance totalling over £1.4m to 12 non-indigenous businesses that have subsequently ceased trading. The table below lists these businesses and the amount of assistance each was offered.

Businesses Offered Invest NI Assistance between 2006-07 and 2010-11 that have since closed

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Total Assistance Received (£) 2006-07 - 2010-11</b>
Axellis Medical Technologies Limited	249,361
Fighting Bull Broadcast Technologies Limited	129,598
Galfees NI Ltd	3,128
Hughes Christensen	916,972
Huhtamaki (Uk) Ltd (Portadown)	4,200
Infineer Ltd	1,950
John Crane UK Ltd	2,400

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Total Assistance Received (£) 2006-07 - 2010-11</b>
Metso Minerals (Cappagh) Limited	85,449
Mobile Cohesion Limited	11,801
Nambarrie Tea Company Ltd	2,195
Tyco Healthcare (Uk) Manufacturing Ltd	400
Visteon UK Ltd	240
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,407,694</b>

**Note:** Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.

It should be noted that Invest NI grant support is offered at the start of a project based on a company commitment to deliver a specific set of project based targets. In certain instances the company may not be able to fully deliver on these targets; therefore, not all of the assistance offered by Invest NI will be paid to the company.

Projects are monitored against performance and investment targets and in those cases where a company fails to either undertake the project as agreed or maintain the capital investment or employment numbers against which grant assistance has been paid, Invest NI will seek repayment of grant.

### **Contact with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the nature of any contact her Department has had with the Department of Business Innovation and Skills during this mandate where the subject matter was related to (i) Directive 200/35/EC; (ii) Directive 2011/7/EU; or (iii) the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 as amended.

(AQW 3375/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** During this mandate, my Department has been in contact with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on one occasion. This was to confirm details included in my answer to Assembly Question 3071/11.

### **Electricity Rebate**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if he has any plans to introduce an equivalent of the £120 electricity rebate which is available in England, Scotland and Wales, and if so, what form this equivalent scheme might take.

(AQW 3386/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Warm Homes Discount Scheme, which came into operation in Great Britain on 1 April 2011, is akin to a social tariff. As such, the full implications of introducing such a scheme in Northern Ireland would need to be endorsed by the Northern Ireland Executive. Aside from requiring legislation, careful consideration would also have to be given to the proportion of customers to benefit from such a scheme and which customers would pay more as a result.

However, I am aware that OFMDFM Ministers are currently considering the prioritisation of a number of applications to the Executive's Social Protection Fund, one of which includes a fuel poverty initiative from my colleague Nelson McCausland.



## Directive 2011/7/EU

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what form of consultation will be carried out by her Department prior to the final transposition date for Directive 2011/7/EU; and when details of the consultation will be announced.

(AQW 3399/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Arrangements for the implementation of Directive 2011/7/EU, including any associated consultation, are being taken forward by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). As normal, I will seek to ensure that interested parties in Northern Ireland are included in any future consultation exercise, details of which are not yet available. New or amending legislation made at Westminster resulting from the Directive will be extended to Northern Ireland.

## Warm Homes Discount Scheme

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what consideration he has given to the Warm Homes Discount Scheme available in England, Scotland and Wales; and (ii) whether he intends to introduce a similar scheme to protect and meet the needs of vulnerable people.

(AQW 3412/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Warm Homes Discount Scheme is a Great Britain initiative aimed at helping low income and vulnerable groups with energy costs. The scheme, which is akin to a social tariff, does not apply in Northern Ireland.

The full implications of introducing such a scheme in Northern Ireland would need to be endorsed by the Northern Ireland Executive. Aside from requiring legislation, careful consideration would also have to be given to the proportion of customers to benefit from such a scheme and which customers would pay more as a result.

However, I am aware that OFMDFM Ministers are currently considering the prioritisation of a number of applications to the Executive's Social Protection Fund, one of which includes a fuel poverty initiative from my colleague Nelson McCausland.

## Foreign Direct Investment

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many jobs have been created as a result of investment from InvestNI in Foreign Direct Investment in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3434/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The table below shows the number of jobs expected to be created, which are described as 'Jobs Promoted', by inward investors that had an offer of assistance approved by Invest NI between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2011, broken down by financial year. This represents the number of jobs that investors plan to create over the lifetime of assisted projects.

### INWARD INVESTMENT JOBS PROMOTED BY INVEST NI (2006-07 TO 2010-11)

Financial Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Jobs Promoted	3,374	2,675	2,951	1,766	2,816	13,582

### NOTES:

- Jobs promoted represent the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.

## Foreign Direct Investment

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans InvestNI has to attract Foreign Direct Investment to South Antrim.

(AQW 3447/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Inward investment plays a large part in the economic growth of Northern Ireland and Invest NI has a very successful track record of attracting high quality investment which will benefit the whole of the region. Invest NI is building on this success by working closely with local stakeholders to maximise investment and employment opportunities in all areas.

Securing inward investor visits is a key part of the long-term objective of securing inward investment and employment opportunities. The objective of an inward investor visit, as part of the overall sales process, is to demonstrate to the visiting company how locating in Northern Ireland will help its business to grow and thrive. Invest NI works closely with the company to develop a programme which is driven by the specific requirements of the company and the potential project.

Whilst Invest NI does offer guidance, it must be stressed that it is the potential inward investor's decision on what it would like to see on its inward visit programme itinerary. This may be based upon a number of factors, some of which are outside my Department's immediate control, including population size and availability of skills and workforce, transport links, availability of property and the presence of existing sectoral clusters within Northern Ireland.

In addition, it would be hugely detrimental to the chances of securing foreign direct investment (FDI) for Northern Ireland if Invest NI was to propose visit locations that do not meet the company's specific requests and requirements. In fact, the Independent Review of Economic Policy recognised the importance of government policy not seeking to unduly influence the location of FDI within NI, stating that it is important to allow companies the scope to locate where they can operate most profitably.

It should be noted that Invest NI sells Northern Ireland as a region capable of meeting the needs of a potential inward investor. It competes for FDI in a crowded marketplace and its competitors are generally larger country-states (e.g. Republic of Ireland, Scotland, France, etc).

My Department, including Invest NI, is aware of the challenges facing local areas in Northern Ireland and we will continue to work closely with councils and other local stakeholders to review the features and benefits of each local area in order to maximise opportunities for economic growth for all areas.

For example, Invest NI's North Eastern Regional Office (which covers North Antrim PCA), in conjunction with colleagues in International Investment Division is currently delivering a series of presentations to each Council in the region aimed at providing information as to the types of projects that are currently considered internationally mobile, the sectors Invest NI is targeting and what possible investors are looking for in a location. A joint presentation to Newtownabbey and Antrim borough councils on this issue is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16th November 2011.

In addition, Invest NI plans to develop a smartphone application ('FDI app') which will help raise Northern Ireland's profile within international markets and be used as a tool to help promote the benefits of setting up in the region to potential investors. The app will present the regions' key selling messages and relevant data in a format that is current, easily accessible, easy to read and easily updated. Presenting key selling messages in this innovative manner will help Northern Ireland differentiate itself from other competing regions. Whilst initially this will focus on Northern Ireland as a region, it is anticipated that the idea be rolled out to interested councils.

## Properties Suitable for Foreign Investment

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 2733/11-15, how many properties, which are suitable and available for foreign investment, exist within each parliamentary constituency according to InvestNI.

(AQW 3465/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Businesses seeking to invest in Northern Ireland, whether they are indigenous or foreign direct, will have specific property requirements which are unique to their particular needs.

It is important therefore to provide potential investors with a variety and choice of property offerings. Invest NI provides qualifying businesses with bespoke property searches tailored to their specific requirements to present them with a range of innovative solutions.

Invest NI also maintains a database which contains details of a range of available properties, both private and public sector, across Northern Ireland. This can be accessed through the NIBusinessInfo web portal.

Whilst the information contained within the database cannot be provided in the format of parliamentary constituency, it does offer details of availability within each Council area. The bespoke search may also bring forward other options to meet the company's specific needs and timescales.

### **Biomass District Heating System in Camphill Community**

**Mr Molloy** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much grant aid has been awarded to help fund the installation of a Biomass District Heating System in Camphill Community, Glenraig; and whether all this money has been paid out.

(AQW 3467/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Camphill Community at Glenraig were awarded grant assistance of up to £500k by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to install their biomass district heating.

There has been no funding from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

### **Biomass District Heating System in Camphill Community**

**Mr Molloy** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she is aware of any dispute between the project administrators of the Camphill Community Biomass District Heating scheme and the contractor who completed the works.

(AQW 3469/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My officials have taken some interest in the Camphill project, because at 1MW it is a sizeable biomass plant. Recent contact indicates that the plant is complete and operating satisfactorily. We are not aware of any dispute between the Camphill administrators and the contractor.

### **Biomass District Heating System in Camphill Community**

**Mr Molloy** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether there has been an official opening of the Camphill Community Biomass District Heating scheme.

(AQW 3470/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** In December 2010 I visited the Camphill Community at Glenraig to congratulate them on the receipt of their award from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. This was an achievement in itself as they were only one of 12 awards made across the UK. When I was there I agreed to lay a foundation stone in the building which was to house the biomass plant.

I understand the project is now complete but I am not aware of an official opening having taken place.

### **Cost of Equality Schemes**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the cost to her Department of equality schemes since the publication of 'Reviewing the Effectiveness of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998' by the Equality Commission in May 2007.

(AQW 3504/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Department has spent £1,250 on an Audit of Inequalities.

### Promotion of Loyal Order Events

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money has been spent by (i) the Tourist Board; and (ii) Tourism Ireland on the promotion of Loyal Order related events in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3524/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Both NITB and Tourism Ireland provide the opportunity for Loyal Order related events to be featured on their websites. Both organisations have also provided advice and guidance to organisers on how to maximise the tourism potential of their events. It is not possible to measure this support in financial terms.

### Promotion of Gaelic Games Events

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money has been spent by (i) the Tourist Board; and (ii) Tourism Ireland on the promotion of Gaelic Games related events in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3525/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Both NITB and Tourism Ireland provide the opportunity for Gaelic Games related events to be featured on their websites. Both organisations have also provided advice and guidance to organisers on how to maximise the tourism potential of their events. It is not possible to measure this support in financial terms.

### Tourist Potential of Gaelic Games

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what analysis the Tourist Board carried out of the University of Ulster report into the potential of Gaelic Games tourism; and for her assessment of the findings in this report.

(AQW 3526/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The report was completed August 2006, five and half years ago.

In July 2011 the GAA met with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and together they have outlined areas where the two organisations can work together for the benefit of Northern Ireland tourism.

### Jobs Created

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the (i) number; and (ii) type of jobs created by (a) indigenous investors; and (b) foreign direct investment in each of the last five years, broken down by District Council area.

(AQW 3527/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Table 1 below show the (i) number of jobs expected to be created, which are described as 'Jobs Promoted', by (a) indigenous investors and (b) inward investors that had an offer of assistance approved by Invest NI between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2011. The number of jobs is presented on a (ii) Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) basis. No further breakdown is available regarding the "type" of job.

The data is broken down by financial year and District Council Area (DCA). This represents the number of jobs that investors plan to create over the lifetime of assisted projects.

**TABLE 1: INVEST NI FTE JOBS PROMOTED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA (2006-07 TO 2010-11)**

<b>DCA</b>	<b>External</b>					<b>Local</b>				
	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
Antrim			106	21	130	39	63	61	88	525.5
Ards	20		16		4	40	11	49	123	17.5
Armagh	304			3	0	98	84	80	70.5	39.5
Ballymena			0	17		232	56	151	16	50
Ballymoney						10	5	24	9	42.5
Banbridge			0	2		21	19	7	29	11.5
Belfast	1578	737	1255	1128	1430	145	194	292	242	194
Carrickfergus					196	23	13	22	29	7
Castlereagh		52	1	10	1	28	51	98	61	77
Coleraine		361	17		2	35	19	25	45.5	29
Cookstown		3	0		0	143	127	102	100	65
Craigavon		5	163	2	37	132	89	106	703	79
Derry	754	915	30	86	297	121	79	187	200.5	73
Down				15		39	64	73	40.5	59
Dungannon		81	27	53	1	233	132	218	94.5	163
Fermanagh	441	120	129	16	1	97	71	60	43.5	62.5
Larne		235			1	23	28	18	12	18
Limavady				2		21	9	16	3	27
Lisburn		12	29	106	131	202	118	85	90	135.5

<b>DCA</b>	<b>External</b>					<b>Local</b>				
	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
Magherafelt					1	78	114	217	70	81
Moyle						27	37	16	8	13.5
Newry & Mourne		59	1149	12	4	89	318	260	144	632.5
Newtownabbey			2	89	0	2	13	40	32.5	36
North Down	233			150	0	19	59	91	21	22
Omagh		95	27		35	43	39	9	35	26
Strabane	44		0	34	0	29	65	34.5	36.5	9
Not Yet Located				20	545					
<b>Total</b>	<b>3374</b>	<b>2675</b>	<b>2951</b>	<b>1766</b>	<b>2816</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>1877</b>	<b>2341.5</b>	<b>2347</b>	<b>2495.5</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 New Jobs represent the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- 2 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.

In addition, Invest NI supported over 8,500 new locally-owned jobs indirectly through its Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) – formerly the Start A Business Programme. Table 27 shows the breakdown of these jobs by financial year and District Council Area.

**TABLE 27: INVEST NI ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JOBS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EDP) 2006-07 TO 2010-11 BY DCA**

District Council Area	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Antrim	49	41	28	26	44	187
Ards	62	55	43	23	58	242
Armagh	60	61	44	50	62	278
Ballymena	49	63	36	23	37	207
Ballymoney	46	42	28	16	26	157
Banbridge	60	61	39	33	50	243
Belfast	190	235	187	196	293	1,100
Carrickfergus	29	22	21	17	18	107
Castlereagh	56	61	54	42	61	275
Coleraine	63	76	57	51	75	321
Cookstown	57	63	44	49	72	285
Craigavon	57	70	71	49	74	320
Derry	136	169	100	76	89	570
Down	75	92	55	62	67	350
Dungannon	74	79	69	79	106	408
Fermanagh	132	147	94	69	80	522
Larne	53	56	32	31	36	208

<b>District Council Area</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>Total</b>
Limavady	47	69	40	34	59	249
Lisburn	87	90	63	72	101	414
Magherafelt	63	78	42	50	71	304
Moyle	31	45	19	14	19	127
Newry & Mourne	91	125	69	61	100	446
Newtownabbey	59	59	47	51	82	298
North Down	60	52	42	32	66	253
Omagh	74	93	75	63	89	393
Strabane	47	55	34	49	45	231
Unknown	0	0	0	3	7	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>8,504</b>



## Travel Costs

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3607/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The travel costs incurred for the year 2010/11 (the last 12 month period for which figures are available) were:

Minister	Departmental Officials
£27,767	£397,137

## Feed-In Tariff Scheme for Renewable Energy

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she intends to introduce a Feed-In Tariff scheme similar to the scheme in Britain, where householders who install renewable energy technologies can receive up to 41 pence for every unit of electricity they generate.

(AQW 3613/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My Department plans to take the powers for a small scale Feed-In Tariff (FIT) as part of the Energy Bill which is presently in development. This would allow a FIT to be in place as early as 2014/15 however the date of implementation will have to be set in the context of the wider Coalition Government Electricity Market Reform proposals which I am still considering. The Department of Energy and Climate Change is shortly due to publish a consultation on a review of FIT tariffs for small scale solar photovoltaic technology.

## Jobs Promoted in Foyle

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 2925-11-15, in relation to the 297 jobs promoted in Foyle, to detail (i) the companies involved; (ii) the number of jobs created in each company; (iii) how many of these jobs currently exist, broken down by (a) full-time and part-time positions; and (b) permanent and temporary positions.

(AQW 3657/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The previous answer to AQW 2925-11-15 detailed the number of jobs promoted in the Foyle Parliamentary Constituency Area in 2010-11. Rigney Dolphin were the sole company responsible for promoting the full 297 jobs, which they aim to create by 2013. To date 50 of these jobs have been created all of which are on a permanent full-time basis.

## Gas Network

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the continual increasing cost of gas, why her Department continues to prioritise expanding the gas network over maximising the opportunity for renewables.

(AQW 3662/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Natural gas is the least polluting fossil fuel, and is now available to some 150,000 energy consumers in Northern Ireland, mostly in the Greater Belfast area.

While retail gas tariffs have increased in recent months as a result of increases in wholesale energy market prices, natural gas continues to offer consumers cost benefits over heating oil.

I therefore consider that natural gas continues to provide fuel choice for consumers, and that this choice should be extended, where it is economically viable, to other areas in Northern Ireland. You will be aware that my Department has recently consulted on gas network extension, and I am keen to explore how gas infrastructure can also be utilised for bio-gas.

The extension of the gas network and the incentivisation of the renewable heat market will support the development of a more secure, sustainable and diverse heat market which isn't overly reliant on one particular fuel and provides greater choice for consumers and businesses.

### Financial Assistance Provided by Invest NI

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 2928-11-15, in relation to the £2.58 million of financial assistance offered to companies in the Foyle constituency to detail (i) the amount of the financial assistance given to each company; and (ii) the rationale behind companies receiving 2.4 percent of the overall assistance whilst companies in East Belfast received 26.1 percent and companies in South Belfast received 14.6 percent.

**(AQW 3666/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** AQW 2928-11-15 indicates that £2.58m of assistance was offered to Invest NI clients in Foyle Parliamentary Constituency Area in the 2010-11 financial year. The table below details (i) the amount of this financial assistance offered by Invest NI to each client company.

#### INVEST NI CLIENTS OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN FOYLE PCA IN 2010-11

Company Name	Total Assistance Offered (£)
Rigney Dolphin Limited	1,262,250
Envirowise Sho	249,000
Albus Solutions Ltd	95,895
Steam & Generation Services Limited	88,251
Metacompliance Limited	80,372
Opt 2 Vote Ltd	79,085
Learning Pool Limited	68,913
Beech Hill House Hotel Limited	48,000
Cornerstone Automation Systems (UK) Ltd	46,809
Gavin Kilkey	32,600
Global Operations Training Ltd.	29,675
S.W.F. Fabrications Limited	29,026
Singularity Limited	27,300
Foods at Work Limited	24,460
Millar Savoury Foods Limited	23,100
Bubblebum (UK) Limited	22,974
Studio Red I Limited	21,820
Homeloan Management Limited	21,500
All Pipe Engineering Limited	21,000
Eglinton (Timber Products) Limited	16,265
Lucid Interactive Ltd	16,261
Jim, Rory, Monica & Tara Jackson	15,480
Tradeforce Services Ltd	15,016

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Total Assistance Offered (£)</b>
Avert Training Limited	15,000
Shane Kealey	14,256
John H. Lunn (Jewellers), Limited	13,830
Biznet Iis Ltd	10,000
Foyle Language Services Ltd	10,000
Fresh Food Kitchen Ireland Limited	9,998
2Thecity Ltd	9,345
Rural Generation Limited	9,135
Maydown Precision Engineering Limited	8,836
Kenneth McLaughlin	8,580
Mim Lifting Equipment Limited	7,417
Flite Software (N.I.) Limited	7,100
Holywell Trust	7,000
Canavan Associates Ltd	6,704
Icon Ebusiness Limited	6,244
8Over8 Limited	5,641
Precision Industrial Services Limited	5,400
Forth & Foyle (Erection Services) Limited	5,360
An Gaelaras Limited	5,000
Cunamh Ict Limited	4,250
Bap Express Foodservice Limited	4,000
Conan McGowan	4,000
Halo Pet Products Limited	4,000
Nu Print Technologies Limited	4,000
Radiant Heat Ltd	4,000
Foyle Language School Ltd	3,702
Diamond Corrugated Cases Limited	3,659
Mcivor Plastics Limited	3,629
Gen-X Healthcare Limited	3,560
Eyespyfx Ltd	3,245
Mdemic Ltd	3,245
William Lynch	3,210
Caldwell & Robinson	3,045
North West Mechanical Services Ltd	3,023

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Total Assistance Offered (£)</b>
Carella Laminate Systems Ltd.	3,000
The Cresco Trust Limited	3,000
Exitoso	2,913
Seedups (UK) Limited	2,913
Independent Fertilisers Limited	2,808
Omega Mechanical Services Limited	2,750
Troll Inc Ltd	2,225
Hivolt Capacitors Limited	2,025
North West Academy of English Limited	1,728
Abc Research & Innovation Limited	1,450
Dog Ears Ltd	1,000
Delap & Waller Limited	909
Fleming Agri-Products Limited	330
Cromer Enterprises Limited	250
Niche Drinks Co Ltd	250
Partridge Peartree Promotions Limited	250
Zenith Learning Limited	250
Euro Security and Fire Ltd	165
Wafer Enterprises Ltd.	165
Pakflatt (UK) Limited	147
Vincent Robinson	147
Ardmore (Co. Derry) Pre-Cast Concrete Limited	100
Doire Dress Designs Limited	100
Smyth & Gibson Shirtmakers Limited	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,583,441</b>

- (ii) Invest NI does not allocate budgets by geographic areas such as Parliamentary Constituency. Assistance patterns are demand-led by those businesses which have come forward with projects suitable for Invest NI assistance. Invest NI has therefore limited scope for 'directing' investment to specific areas. In the case of established businesses, reinvestment patterns will usually be determined by the existing location of the business. There were more applications from companies in South and East Belfast than from Foyle during the time period specified.

### **Renewable Heat Incentive**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the £25m from the UK Government for the Renewable Heat Incentive is guaranteed regardless of any change in UK Government policy.

(AQW 3718/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Funding of £25m has been allocated to DETI, from Her Majesty's Treasury, for the development of a Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive. My Department is working to ensure that this funding is utilised in the most appropriate way to develop and incentivise the Northern Ireland renewable heat market. I am unaware of any change in UK Government policy that would impact on this funding.

## Smart Meters

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on her Department's work with the Utility Regulator to develop a cost-effective smart metering solution.

(AQW 3721/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My Department is working with the Utility Regulator on the development of a cost benefit analysis for smart metering in Northern Ireland. The EU Third Internal Energy Package (IME 3) requires a cost benefit analysis on intelligent metering to be completed by September 2012.

At present we are on target to complete the cost benefit analysis at the beginning of 2012. Once I receive, and have considered, the completed cost benefit analysis I will announce my policy position on smart metering as early as possible in the New Year.

In the meantime however the Utility Regulator has two small smart meter trials in their early stages. These focus on technology and smart grid application, and, customer behaviour and education, with a specific focus on how smart meters could help customers vulnerable to fuel poverty.

## Combined Heat and Power

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on encouraging greater scope for Combined Heat and Power.

(AQW 3723/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is an efficient method of electricity and heat generation and my Department is keen to see its use optimised in Northern Ireland.

There are a number of support mechanisms to encourage the uptake of CHP. These are:

- a) exemption from the Climate Change Levy for electricity generated by a CHP plant and in some cases, exemption from the Climate Change Levy for the input fuel to a CHP plant;
- b) preferential treatment leading to a reduction in business rates for CHP plants;
- c) Enhanced Capital Allowances which enable a business to claim 100% first-year capital allowances on their spending on CHP plants; and
- d) support through the Northern Ireland Renewable Obligation for renewable fuelled CHP plants.

In addition, the department has consulted this year on the potential to give CHP priority dispatch to the grid and DETI aims to have these regulations made by the end of the year.

## Loans and Finance Provided by InvestNI to Gas and Oil Companies

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any loans and finance provided to oil or gas companies by InvestNI in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3724/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has not provided any loans or grants to oil and gas companies in the past 5 years.

## Planning Application T/2010/0238

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of her Department's remit to promote renewable energy development and an increase in the amount of electricity generated

from renewable sources, to outline her Department's position on planning application T/2010/0238 for a lignite extraction facility in Crumlin, County Antrim.

(AQW 3738/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Electricity generated from lignite would not be considered renewable energy and therefore would not help to meet targets in the Strategic Framework.

The Geological Survey as statutory consultee, has commented on the planning application and advised that a full assessment of the geology is required to understand the possible impact such a development might have on groundwater or surface waters.

Geological Survey also advised that such a development would require a mining licence under legislation. My Department is not in receipt of such an application.

### **Connecting Europe Facility: Energy and Broadband**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she plans to maximise the benefits to the local community following the announcement of significant funding for energy and broadband by the European Commission as part of the Connecting Europe Facility.

(AQW 3742/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** On 19 October 2011, as one of its considerations under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020, the European Commission announced proposals for a Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) under which it will provide up to €50billion of support for trans-European network development in the areas of transport, energy and telecommunications. The initiative is still at proposal stage pending approval by the European Parliament and European Council of Ministers. As such, a final decision on what form the support will take, how it will be distributed and what allocation, if any, Member States will receive, has yet to be taken. I am not, therefore, currently in a position to suggest how the benefits of the initiative will be maximised

The impact of the CEF will be considered further as discussions between relevant Northern Ireland bodies and the European Commission are progressed with regard to the 2014-2020 funding programmes.

### **Staff: Third Level Education Courses**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of staff in her Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by her Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3747/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** DETI supported 14 staff undertaking a third level education course over the last three year years. A detailed breakdown is provided in the attached table.

**THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION DETI**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Paid in whole Yes/No</b>	<b>Paid in Part</b>	<b>Full time - Yes/No</b>	<b>Part time - Yes/No</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
2008/09	MRes - Masters in Social Research	3	£3,390.00	No	£2,600.00	No	Yes	Queen's University
	Masters of Business Administration-MBA	1	£1,050.00	No	£948.00	No	Yes	Open university
	Honours degree in Law - LLB	1	£1,850.00	No	£1,000.00	No	Yes	Open university
	Post Graduate Diploma Human Resource Management	1	£1,004.00	No	£794.99	No	Yes	University of Ulster
	BA (Hons) Business Studies	1	£752.00	No	£601.60	No	Yes	South Eastern Regional College
2009/10	MRES - Masters in Social Research	1	£1,170.00	No	£936.00	No	Yes	Queen's University
	Joint Insolvency Examinations Board (JIEB)	1	£950.00	No	£760.00	No	Yes	Open Learning
	BSc(Hons) Business Studies	1	£435.00	No	£348.00	No	Yes	Northern Regional College
	Masters of Business Administration-MBA	1	£1,250.00	No	£1,000.00	No	Yes	Open University
	BA Personal Development	1	£3,071.00	No	£728.00	No	Yes	Dundee University/PRRT Holywood.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Paid in whole Yes/No</b>	<b>Paid in Part</b>	<b>Full time - Yes/No</b>	<b>Part time - Yes/No</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
	Honours degree in law - LLB	1	£1,990.00	No	£1,000.00	No	Yes	Open University
	Diploma in Stats	1	£360.00	No	£288.00	No	Yes	Open University
	Access Foundation Studies	1	£360.00	No	£228.66	No	Yes	South Eastern Regional College
2010/11	MRES - MS in Social Research	1	£1,200.00	No	£960.00	No	Yes	Queen's University
	Joint Insolvency Examinations Board (JIEB)	1	£1,183.00	No	£946.40	No	Yes	Open Learning
	BSc(Hons) Business Studies	3	£1,600.00	No	£1,164.00	No	Yes	2 x Northern Regional College, 1 x Queen's University
	Masters of Business Administration-MBA	1	£1,035.00	No	£828.00	No	Yes	Open University
	Access Foundation Studies	1	£250.00	no	£200.00	No	Yes	South Eastern regional College
		22*						

\* This equates to 14 separate staff in total as some were involved in more than just a 1 year course of study.



## Shale Production

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she can give a guarantee that no shale production will be allowed to take place before an environmental impact assessment has been carried out.

(AQW 3794/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** If a company applies to develop petroleum or natural gas resources (including shale gas) they will be required to seek permission from my Department and other regulatory authorities, including the Department of the Environment (DOE).

DOE has primary legislative authority and responsibility in Northern Ireland for environmental protection and will determine whether the shale gas production proposed requires an Environmental Impact Assessment. To date no application for any such development has been received.

DETI's approval of an oil or gas development programme is subject to the licensee meeting all statutory requirements including avoidance of damage to the environment.

## Hydraulic Fracturing

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department will introduce legislation to ensure that companies who undertake hydraulic fracturing publish a list of the chemicals that will be used in the process.

(AQW 3796/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has no plans to introduce legislation to ensure that companies who undertake hydraulic fracturing publish a list of the chemicals that will be used in the process. Such information would be required as an integral part of the Environmental Impact Statement accompanying an application for planning permission to carry out drilling and associated hydraulic fracturing operations.

## Rihanna Music Video

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any money was spent by the Tourist Board or her Department in attracting or facilitating the company which produced the Rihanna music video, which was filmed in Northern Ireland; and if so, to detail the amount spent and on what it was spent.

(AQW 3797/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** No money was spent by DETI, NITB or Tourism Ireland in attracting or facilitating the company which produced the Rihanna music video filmed in Northern Ireland.

## Planning Application T/2010/0238

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of her Department's commitment to National and European legislative targets for renewable energy provision, to outline her Department's position on planning application T/2010/0238 for a lignite extraction facility in Crumlin, County Antrim.

(AQW 3798/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Electricity generated from lignite would not be considered renewable energy and therefore would not help to meet National and European legislative targets for renewable energy provision.

The Geological Survey as statutory consultee, has commented on the planning application and advised that a full assessment of the geology is required to understand the possible impact such a development might have on groundwater or surface waters.

Geological Survey also advised that such a development would require a mining licence under legislation. My Department is not in receipt of such an application.

## Wind Power

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the possibilities for harnessing wind power for the electricity grid.

(AQW 3806/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** DETI is currently consulting on a draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Strategic Action Plan which examines the role of all onshore renewable electricity technologies including onshore wind, biomass and other technologies (such as geothermal, photovoltaic and hydro) in meeting the Executive's 40% renewable electricity target by 2020.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan, has examined low and high levels of onshore wind, biomass and other technologies to give us an indication of potential renewable energy mixes at 2020. On shore wind has the potential to contribute between 800-1200MW of installed capacity by 2020, but this is subject to adequate grid reinforcement being in place.

In addition the Off Shore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan identified that off shore wind has the potential to contribute up to 900MW of installed capacity by 2020, subject to adequate grid reinforcement being in place.

## Planning Application T/2010/0238

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the current moratorium on prospecting licences, to outline her Department's position on planning application T/2010/0238 for a lignite extraction facility.

(AQW 3872/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The Strategic Energy Framework 2010 undertakes to keep a watching brief on any future role that indigenous fuel sources such as lignite might play, bearing in mind the associated environmental issues. Whilst the lignite moratorium applies only to prospecting in Northern Ireland, any extraction of lignite would require a Mining Licence from my Department in addition to planning permission.

My Department considers applications for Mining Licences on a case-by-case basis, taking into account a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors and undertaking a wide consultation process before coming to a decision. My Department is not in receipt of such an application for extraction of lignite in the Crumlin area.

## Department of the Environment

### Surplus Land in North Down Owned by the Department

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment to list any surplus land in the North Down area owned by his Department.

(AQW 2155/11-15)

**Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment):** The Department owns and manages Crawfordsburn Country Park and Redburn Country Park both of which are in the North Down constituency area. In addition, the Department also owns sections of land known as the North Down Coastal Path. There are no surplus lands associated with the country parks referred to above.

In relation to the North Down Coastal Path, while none of the land is deemed to be surplus, it is the intention of the Department to transfer those sections of the path in its ownership lying outside the

boundaries of Crawfordsburn Country Park to North Down Borough Council which is better placed to manage them.

## Blue Flag Status of Beeches

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on dealing with dirty beaches to meet the Blue Flag status.

(AQW 2670/11-15)

**Mr Attwood:** The quality of our beaches is an area that I am taking an active interest in, because I believe that the general condition of our bathing beaches has a connection to the economic well being of many of our coastal communities. **I am determined to seek opportunities in the continuing campaign to maintain and improve all aspects of beach quality.**

To date, I have hosted two Good Beach Summits and a third is scheduled for December 2011. I called together key representatives from all of the coastal councils, government departments and agencies, coastal community groups and environmental lobby groups to draw up an Action Plan for the protection and improvement of our beaches. I am tracking the delivery of this Action Plan. Pollution control is not the only important aspect of protection of the environment. Improving aesthetic standards through litter control can also have real economic benefits.

Implementation of the Good Beach Action Plan is improving co-operation between organisations, agencies and the public in achieving our shared goal of clean beaches.

The Blue Flag Award Scheme is operated by Tidy Northern Ireland and water quality is the primary criteria for eligibility. Other beach management criteria include car parking, disabled access, toilet facilities, waste collection facilities, environmental education, signage and life guard or life saving equipment provision. I will be writing to all bathing water operators to encourage their participation in the various beach award schemes.

This year bathing water quality in Northern Ireland was the best for at least 15 years. All 24 of our identified bathing waters passed the mandatory standards of the EC Bathing Waters Directive. In addition 20 of these passed at the higher guideline standards and would, on the basis of water quality alone, be eligible to apply for the coveted Blue Flag. However, not all may satisfy the other management and facilities orientated criteria.

As you may know, Ballyholme bathing water has failed to achieve the mandatory standards of the EC Directive in 5 of the last 10 years, but it was successful in meeting the standards this year. It is probable that the significant water quality related investments by both Northern Ireland Water (NIW) and the agriculture industry are now paying off. With continued vigilance I hope that the standard will be maintained and perhaps even improved next year.

**The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives local councils new powers to deal with litter and other problems that blight our communities. The Department is now advancing a Marine Litter Strategy which will address the litter which impacts on parts of our coast from all of its various sources.**

**I am convinced that the multi-faceted Action Plan, combined with the partnership approach, is a key way to overcome the pollution problems that have an adverse affect on some parts of our wonderful coast.**

There is no room for complacency as the standards to achieve Blue Flag status will be changing in the forthcoming years. The EU has introduced a revision to the existing Bathing Water Directive which tightens compliance standards for 2015. This means that the standard for Blue Flag will be even harder to achieve in the future.

## Environmental Damage Caused by Fuel Laundering

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) how many local Councils have cleaned up environmental damage caused by fuel laundering; and (ii) the costs incurred by each local Council.

(AQW 2804/11-15)

**Mr Attwood:** As the Department has no legislative control over specific elements of District Council (DC) budgets, my officials do not maintain details of clean up costs for individual waste streams incurred by each DC. Correspondence between NIEA and Councils and their representatives would support the view that the Councils facing the greatest financial burden are those along the southern border with the Republic of Ireland, i.e. Newry and Mourne, Armagh, Dungannon and Fermanagh. I have asked the councils to provide the information.

## Enforcement Notices Illegal Developments: North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of Enforcement Notices issued for illegal developments in the North Down area in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2809/11-15)

**Mr Attwood:** No planning enforcement notices have been served in the North Down Area served in each of the last three years. I am looking further at the situation in North Down and generally.

## Victims of Domestic Violence within his Department

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of the Environment what work place policies are in place to assist victims of domestic violence within his Department and its arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 2896/11-15)

**Mr Attwood:** A NICS wide Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence and Abuse covers employees in all Government Departments including DOE staff. This policy explains how help and support can be provided for individuals experiencing domestic violence, how to identify domestic violence, role of the line manager and available support services.

DOE has two arm's – length bodies; the Northern Ireland Local Government Officer's Superannuation Scheme (NILGOSC) and the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC). This Department has no direct responsibility for Human Resource management within these bodies and neither has a specific Workplace Policy for Domestic Violence in place. However, I can inform you that I have asked that this policy is brought to the attention of both organisations and advised that it should be complied with.

## Water Pollution Incidents: Enforcement Action

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail what level of enforcement action has been carried out for (i) medium; and (ii) high severity water pollution incidents where the polluter can be identified.

(AQW 3039/11-15)

**Mr Attwood:** Where pollution occurs, it is Northern Ireland Environment Agency policy to take formal enforcement action if this is warranted by the severity of the pollution and the circumstances which led to it occurring.

NIEA has a dedicated enforcement policy on water pollution incidents. NIEA's enforcement policy, in relation to water pollution, is that all High and Medium severity water pollution incidents, where the polluter can be identified, appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

It should be noted, that enforcement action is not always possible for High and Medium Severity water pollution incidents even where the source is identified. This is due primarily to statutory defences provided under the Water (NI) Order 1999, as amended by the Water and Sewerage Services order 2006.

Enforcement action may also be precluded in circumstances where the suspected polluting company goes into liquidation or administration. A small number of cases, recommended for prosecution, may also be withdrawn by PPS if not deemed by them to be in the public interest.

Table A below details the number of High and Medium severity pollution incidents recorded by NIEA in each of the past 5 years where the polluter can be identified.

**TABLE A**  
**HIGH AND MEDIUM SEVERITY POLLUTION INCIDENTS**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
High Severity	21	15	9	7	4
Medium Severity	146	186	202	173	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>206</b>

Table B below details the enforcement action taken by NIEA in relation to High and Medium severity pollution incidents in each of the past 5 years where the polluter can be identified.

**TABLE B**  
**ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN BY NIEA**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Prosecution Files Prepared	50	52	75	61	71
Warning Letters Issued	52	72	76	73	49
Nitrate Regulations Breaches	0	0	0	10	41
<b>Total Enforcement Action</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>161</b>

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### Civil and Public Servant Salaries

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of civil and public servants whose annual salary is in excess of (a) £100,000; (b) £150,000; and (c) £200,000; and (ii) the Government organisations for which they work.

(AQW 2566/11-15)

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** The number of civil servants in NICS Government Departments whose annual salary is in excess of (a) £100,000 is 20; (b) £150,000 is 5; and (c) £200,000 is nil.

The number of public servants whose annual salary is in excess of (a) £100,000 is 217; (b) £150,000 is 4; and (c) £200,000 is nil; and the Government organisations for which they work are detailed.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ■ National Museums Northern Ireland                           | ■ Belfast Health & Social Care Trust       |
| ■ Belfast Education & Library Board                           | ■ South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust |
| ■ Western Education & Library Board                           | ■ Western Health & Social Care Trust       |
| ■ Office of Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal | ■ Northern Health & Social Care Trust      |
| ■ Invest Northern Ireland                                     | ■ Southern Health & Social Care Trust      |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ■ Health & Social Care Board                          | ■ State Pathology  |
| ■ Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency | ■ Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland           |
| ■ Public Health Agency                                | ■ Police Ombudsman                                       |
| ■ Business Services Organisation                      | ■ Northern Ireland Water                                 |
| ■ Regulatory Quality Improvement Authority            | ■ Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company / Translink |
| ■ Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service              | ■ Northern Ireland Housing Executive                     |
| ■ PSNI  | ■ Strategic Investment Board                             |

This response is derived from collated part inputs supplied by each Department. DHSSPS has confirmed that their response relates to basic pay and does not include additional payments such as clinical excellence awards payable to medical and dental consultants.

### Criminal Injury Compensation

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the judgement in *McKeever-v-MOD*, if he will urgently review the civil law to bring it into line with the law governing criminal injury compensation so that a plaintiff with a relevant conviction will be prohibited from obtaining full compensation.

(AQW 3070/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** There are exclusions from compensation and grounds for reducing compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Schemes and Criminal Injuries legislation, which do not apply to claims for compensation brought under the common law. There are also grounds for reduction which do apply at common law which also apply under the Schemes, such as contributory negligence. In addition, at common law, compensation can be excluded on grounds which do not apply under the Schemes, for example, public policy and where a plaintiff has placed himself at risk through his own wrongful act ("ex turpi causa non oritur actio"). I will carefully consider the recent decision and its implications.

### October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail any easements that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3264/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** I refer you to my statement to the Assembly on 24th October which includes details of the easements identified by my Department during the October monitoring round.

### Domestic Properties

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the current number of domestic properties, and of these, how many are (a) unoccupied; and (b) occupied; and (ii) the level of revenue generated from the rates of (a) unoccupied; and (b) occupied houses in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3380/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** As at 16th October 2011 there were 759,296 domestic properties of which 36,975 were unoccupied and 722,321 were occupied.

Prior to 1st October 2011 rates were not payable on Unoccupied Domestic properties which LPS classify as 'Vacant'.

The level of revenue generated has been interpreted as the actual cash receipts from domestic occupancies in each of the years 2009/10 (the earliest year for which comparable information is available), and 2010/11 (the latest year for which comparable information is available).

The table below provides information on the amount of cash receipts received from domestic occupancies in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Year	2009/10	2010/11
Cash Receipts	£460,178,255	£484,850,951

## Departmental Spend

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail his Department's (i) direct; and (ii) indirect spend in each of the last ten years in the Belfast City Council area.

(AQW 3498/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** My Department does not require its financial data to be categorised geographically in order to effectively manage its operations. Consequently, it is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

## Public Sector Employees

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many public sector employees have been based in Co.Fermanagh in each of the last seven years.

(AQW 3515/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** It is not possible to provide an estimate of the number of public sector employees that have been based in County Fermanagh in each of the last seven years. However, the table overleaf provides the numbers of public and private sector jobs in Fermanagh District Council as measured by the biennial Census of Employment.

**TABLE 1: NORTHERN IRELAND EMPLOYEE JOBS IN FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL (BIENNIAL)**

Period	Public Sector	Private Sector*	Totals	Public Sector %
2009	5,436	15,409	20,845	26%
2007	5,710	15,885	21,595	26%
2005	5,416	14,811	20,227	27%
2003	5,614	13,727	19,341	29%
2001	5,539	13,037	18,576	30%

**Source:** NI Census of Employment, September 2001 - 2009

\*Figures exclude agriculture but include animal husbandry service activities and hunting, trapping and game propagation.

## Small Business Rate Relief Scheme: Donaghadee

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the Donaghadee area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme; and how many are anticipated to benefit from the new scheme once it is introduced.

(AQW 3554/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of businesses in the Donaghadee area that have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The latest figures available, as at 23rd October 2011, indicate that 1,060 business premises in the Ards District Council Area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. The table



below indicates the number of properties in each Ward within the Ards District Council Area that have benefited.

Ward/DC Name	No of Properties
Ballygowan	38
Ballyrainey	77
Ballywalter	55
Bradshaws Brae	55
Carrowdore	43
Central	177
Comber East	82
Comber North	*
Comber West	17
Donaghadee North	105
Donaghadee South	11
Glen	8
Gregstown	8
Killinchy	50
Kircubbin	69
Lisbane	36
Loughries	15
Millisle	66
Movilla	12
Portaferry	62
Portavogie	43
Scrabo	11
Whitespots	15
Ards	1,060

\* 5 properties or less

As the Member will be aware, consultation on proposals to expand the small business rate relief scheme, funded through a large retail levy, closed on 18th October. The responses are currently being analysed by my Department. While final decisions have yet to be taken, were the preferred approach of 20% relief for properties with an NAV of £5,001 - £10,000 taken forward, around 340 premises could potentially benefit from the expanded scheme in the Ards District Council Area.

### Small Business Rate Relief Scheme: Hollywood

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the Hollywood area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme; and how many are anticipated to benefit from the new scheme once it is introduced.

**(AQW 3555/11-15)**



**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of businesses in the Hollywood and Bangor areas that have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The latest figures available, as at 23rd October 2011, indicate that 704 business premises in the North Down District Council Area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. The table below indicates the number of properties in each Ward within the North Down District Council Area that have benefited.

Ward/DC Name	No. of Properties
Ballyholme	14
Ballymacconnell	*
Ballymagee	*
Bangor Castle	54
Bloomfield	19
Broadway	20
Bryansburn	7
Churchill	7
Clandeboyne	18
Conlig	117
Craigavad	14
Crawfordsburn	20
Cultra	11
Dufferin	6
Groomsport	36
Harbour	200
Hollywood Demesne	68
Hollywood Priory	24
Loughview	8
Princetown	11
Rathgael	27
Silverstream	16
Spring Hill	*
Whitehill	*
North Down	704

\* 5 properties or less

As the Member will be aware, consultation on proposals to expand the small business rate relief scheme, funded through a large retail levy, closed on 18th October. The responses are currently being analysed by my Department. While final decisions have yet to be taken, were the preferred approach of

20% relief for properties with an NAV of £5,001 - £10,000 taken forward, around 400 premises could potentially benefit from the expanded scheme in the North Down District Council Area.

## Rates

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department received in rates in the 2010/11 financial year.

(AQW 3612/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** The amount received in rates has been interpreted as the actual cash receipts net of refunds in the financial year 2010/11.

In the financial year 2010/11 there was a total of £1,020.9 million actual cash receipts net of refunds received by LPS as published in the LPS Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011.

## Small Business Rate Relief Scheme: Bangor

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the Bangor area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme; and how many are anticipated to benefit from the new scheme when it is introduced.

(AQW 3614/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of businesses in the Holywood and Bangor areas that have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The latest figures available, as at 23rd October 2011, indicate that 704 business premises in the North Down District Council Area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. The table below indicates the number of properties in each Ward within the North Down District Council Area that have benefited.

Ward/DC Name	No. of Properties
Ballyholme	14
Ballymacconnell	*
Ballymagee	*
Bangor Castle	54
Bloomfield	19
Broadway	20
Bryansburn	7
Churchill	7
Clandeboyne	18
Conlig	117
Craigavad	14
Crawfordsburn	20
Cultra	11
Dufferin	6
Groomsport	36

Ward/DC Name	No. of Properties
Harbour	200
Hollywood Demesne	68
Hollywood Priory	24
Loughview	8
Princetown	11
Rathgael	27
Silverstream	16
Spring Hill	*
Whitehill	*
North Down	704

\* 5 properties or less

As the Member will be aware, consultation on proposals to expand the small business rate relief scheme, funded through a large retail levy, closed on 18th October. The responses are currently being analysed by my Department. While final decisions have yet to be taken, were the preferred approach of 20% relief for properties with an NAV of £5,001 - £10,000 taken forward, around 400 premises could potentially benefit from the expanded scheme in the North Down District Council Area.

### Small Business Rate Relief Scheme: Ards Borough Council Area

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the Ards Borough Council area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme; and how many are anticipated to benefit from the new scheme when it is introduced.

**(AQW 3615/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of businesses in the Donaghadee area that have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The latest figures available, as at 23rd October 2011, indicate that 1,060 business premises in the Ards District Council Area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. The table below indicates the number of properties in each Ward within the Ards District Council Area that have benefited.

Ward/DC Name	No of Properties
Ballygowan	38
Ballyrainey	77
Ballywalter	55
Bradshaws Brae	55
Carrowdore	43
Central	177
Comber East	82
Comber North	*
Comber West	17

Ward/DC Name	No of Properties
Donaghadee North	105
Donaghadee South	11
Glen	8
Gregstown	8
Killinchy	50
Kircubbin	69
Lisbane	36
Loughries	15
Millisle	66
Movilla	12
Portaferry	62
Portavogie	43
Scrabo	11
Whitespots	15
Ards	1,060

\* 5 properties or less

As the Member will be aware, consultation on proposals to expand the small business rate relief scheme, funded through a large retail levy, closed on 18th October. The responses are currently being analysed by my Department. While final decisions have yet to be taken, were the

preferred approach of 20% relief for properties with an NAV of £5,001 - £10,000 taken forward, around 340 premises could potentially benefit from the expanded scheme in the Ards District Council Area.

### Small Business Rate Relief Scheme: North Down Borough Council Area

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the North Down Borough Council area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme; and how many are anticipated to benefit from the new scheme when it is introduced.

**(AQW 3616/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of businesses in the Holywood and Bangor areas that have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The latest figures available, as at 23rd October 2011, indicate that 704 business premises in the North Down District Council Area have benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. The table below indicates the number of properties in each Ward within the North Down District Council Area that have benefited.

Ward/DC Name	No. of Properties
Ballyholme	14
Ballymacconnell	*
Ballymagee	*

Ward/DC Name	No. of Properties
Bangor Castle	54
Bloomfield	19
Broadway	20
Bryansburn	7
Churchill	7
Clandeboyne	18
Conlig	117
Craigavad	14
Crawfordsburn	20
Cultra	11
Dufferin	6
Groomsport	36
Harbour	200
Hollywood Demesne	68
Hollywood Priory	24
Loughview	8
Princetown	11
Rathgael	27
Silverstream	16
Spring Hill	*
Whitehill	*
North Down	704

\* 5 properties or less

As the Member will be aware, consultation on proposals to expand the small business rate relief scheme, funded through a large retail levy, closed on 18th October. The responses are currently being analysed by my Department. While final decisions have yet to be taken, were the preferred approach of 20% relief for properties with an NAV of £5,001 - £10,000 taken forward, around 400 premises could potentially benefit from the expanded scheme in the North Down District Council Area.

## Travel Costs

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3694/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** Financial information for the Department is held on the basis of financial years; the last financial year ran from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

- (i) The travel costs incurred by the Minister for the 2010-11 financial year were £208.80.
- (ii) The travel costs incurred by departmental officials for the 2010-11 financial year were £1,370,649.

## Divorces

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of divorces that have been finalised in each of the last two years.

(AQW 3703/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** In 2009, there were 2,176 Decree Absolutes divorces registered in Northern Ireland. The corresponding figure for 2010<sup>p</sup> was 2,600 Decree Absolutes divorces.

P 2010 data is provisional until the publication of the 2010 Annual Report of the Registrar General due to be released in November 2011.

## Properties in Holywood

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of (i) non-domestic rated properties; and (ii) vacant non-domestic rated properties in the Holywood area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3751/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of (non-domestic rated properties; and vacant non-domestic rated properties in the Holywood and Bangor areas in each of the last five years is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The tables below indicate the number of non-domestic properties and the number of vacant non-domestic properties in each ward within the North Down District Council Area, as at 23rd October 2011 (the latest date for which information is available) and as at 31st March 2011 and as at 31st March 2010 (the earliest date for which comparable information is available).

**NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES AND TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AS AT 23RD OCTOBER 2011**

<b>Ward/District Council</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties</b>	<b>Total No. of Non-Domestic Properties</b>
Ballycrochan	0	3
Ballyholme	5	48
Ballymacconnell	0	6
Ballymagee	2	20
Bangor Castle	36	226
Bloomfield	17	133
Broadway	6	38
Bryansburn	9	39
Churchill	0	18
Clandeboyne	12	73
Conlig	76	398
Craigavad	3	30
Crawfordsburn	6	39
Cultra	5	34
Dufferin	2	16
Groomsport	18	80
Harbour	117	603
Hollywood Demesne	39	293
Hollywood Priory	28	106
Loughview	7	38
Princetown	6	32
Rathgael	12	65
Silverstream	9	47
Spring Hill	4	16
Whitehill	0	9
Ward Not Known	1	10
North Down DC	420	2,420

**NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES AND TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AS AT 31ST MARCH 2011**

<b>Ward/District Council</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties</b>	<b>Total No. of Non-Domestic Properties</b>
Ballycrochan	0	3
Ballyholme	7	49
Ballymacconnell	1	6
Ballymagee	1	20
Bangor Castle	40	228
Bloomfield	22	133
Broadway	7	38
Bryansburn	10	40
Churchill	0	18
Clandeboyne	11	70
Conlig	75	386
Craigavad	3	28
Crawfordsburn	6	39
Cultra	6	34
Dufferin	1	16
Groomsport	19	80
Harbour	124	616
Hollywood Demesne	45	304
Hollywood Priory	32	109
Loughview	7	38
Princetown	6	32
Rathgael	14	67
Silverstream	10	45
Spring Hill	5	19
Whitehill	0	9
Ward Not Known	1	10
North Down DC	453	2,437



**NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES AND TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AS AT 31ST MARCH 2010**

<b>Ward/District Council</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties</b>	<b>Total No. of Non-Domestic Properties</b>
Ballycrochan	0	3
Ballyholme	8	48
Ballymacconnell	0	6
Ballymagee	1	17
Bangor Castle	33	227
Bloomfield	14	124
Broadway	6	36
Bryansburn	5	31
Churchill	0	18
Clandeboyne	9	65
Conlig	50	362
Craigavad	4	29
Crawfordsburn	5	39
Cultra	3	28
Dufferin	1	16
Groomsport	10	64
Harbour	108	616
Hollywood Demesne	44	302
Hollywood Priory	26	106
Loughview	4	33
Princetown	5	32
Rathgael	14	66
Silverstream	9	48
Spring Hill	3	14
Whitehill	0	8
Ward Not Known	1	10
North Down DC	363	2,348

**Properties in Bangor**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of (i) non-domestic rated properties; and (ii) vacant non-domestic rated properties in the Bangor area in each of the last five years. **(AQW 3752/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of (non-domestic rated properties; and vacant non-domestic rated properties in the Holywood and Bangor areas in each of the last five years is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The tables below indicate the number of non-domestic properties and the number of vacant non-domestic properties in each ward within the North Down District Council Area, as at 23rd October 2011 (the latest date for which information is available) and as at 31st March 2011 and as at 31st March 2010 (the earliest date for which comparable information is available).

**NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES AND TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AS AT 23RD OCTOBER 2011**

<b>Ward/District Council</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties</b>	<b>Total No. of Non-Domestic Properties</b>
Ballycrochan	0	3
Ballyholme	5	48
Ballymacconnell	0	6
Ballymagee	2	20
Bangor Castle	36	226
Bloomfield	17	133
Broadway	6	38
Bryansburn	9	39
Churchill	0	18
Clandeboyne	12	73
Conlig	76	398
Craigavad	3	30
Crawfordsburn	6	39
Cultra	5	34
Dufferin	2	16
Groomsport	18	80
Harbour	117	603
Holywood Demesne	39	293
Holywood Priory	28	106
Loughview	7	38
Princetown	6	32
Rathgael	12	65
Silverstream	9	47
Spring Hill	4	16
Whitehill	0	9
Ward Not Known	1	10
North Down DC	420	2,420

**NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES AND TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AS AT 31ST MARCH 2011**

<b>Ward/District Council</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties</b>	<b>Total No. of Non-Domestic Properties</b>
Ballycrochan	0	3
Ballyholme	7	49
Ballymacconnell	1	6
Ballymagee	1	20
Bangor Castle	40	228
Bloomfield	22	133
Broadway	7	38
Bryansburn	10	40
Churchill	0	18
Clandeboyne	11	70
Conlig	75	386
Craigavad	3	28
Crawfordsburn	6	39
Cultra	6	34
Dufferin	1	16
Groomsport	19	80
Harbour	124	616
Hollywood Demesne	45	304
Hollywood Priory	32	109
Loughview	7	38
Princetown	6	32
Rathgael	14	67
Silverstream	10	45
Spring Hill	5	19
Whitehill	0	9
Ward Not Known	1	10
North Down DC	453	2,437

**NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES AND TOTAL NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AS AT 31ST MARCH 2010**

<b>Ward/District Council</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties</b>	<b>Total No. of Non-Domestic Properties</b>
Ballycrochan	0	3
Ballyholme	8	48
Ballymacconnell	0	6
Ballymagee	1	17
Bangor Castle	33	227
Bloomfield	14	124
Broadway	6	36
Bryansburn	5	31
Churchill	0	18
Clandeboyne	9	65
Conlig	50	362
Craigavad	4	29
Crawfordsburn	5	39
Cultra	3	28
Dufferin	1	16
Groomsport	10	64
Harbour	108	616
Hollywood Demesne	44	302
Hollywood Priory	26	106
Loughview	4	33
Princetown	5	32
Rathgael	14	66
Silverstream	9	48
Spring Hill	3	14
Whitehill	0	8
Ward Not Known	1	10
North Down DC	363	2,348

**Unfunded Pressures Flowing from Inflation**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in circumstances where the figures in the current budget are in cash terms, taking no account of inflation but were drawn up when inflation was 2-2.5 percent, what are the likely consequences in terms of unfunded pressures flowing from inflation

now running above 5 percent; and to quantify those unfunded pressures in the 2011-2015 budget period if inflation continues at its present rate.

(AQW 3760/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** Whilst the 2011-15 Budget document shows departmental allocations in cash terms, the impact of inflation was taken into account when departments submitted their spending proposals. Also, departmental Savings Delivery Plans reflect the savings required to allow departments to achieve their objectives within their Budget 2011-15 settlement and includes the impact of inflation.

The Consumer Price Index, which the Member refers to as being above 5 per cent, measures inflation for consumers and households. The local public sector is facing a very different set of costs. Therefore, the most appropriate measure of public sector inflation is the GDP deflator, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent.

It is important to recognise that the Executive can, to a large extent, exert control over the cost pressures facing it. One recent example was the surrender by my department in October Monitoring of funding in relation to accommodation costs as a result of lease re-negotiations. It is also important to note that construction sector tender costs have reduced as a result of the economic downturn.

Whilst Executive Ministers have already taken proactive actions to reduce costs, I recognise that in areas where costs are determined in global markets, such as energy, additional pressures may emerge. However, the evidence to date suggests that departments can deliver savings sufficient to address any such additional costs pressures.

### **Damages (Asbestos-Related Conditions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011**

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the recent decision by the Supreme Court, when he intends to bring forward a Commencement Order for the Damages (Asbestos-Related Conditions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

(AQW 3848/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** On 12 October 2011 the UK Supreme Court gave its judgment in relation to the challenge to the Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) (Scotland) Act 2009. It ruled that the Act does not breach Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights and that it was, therefore, within the competence of the Scottish Parliament. The Court also rejected the challenge to the Act at common law.

The judgment applies to our legislation - the Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 - as it largely follows the Scottish legislation. However, the insurers had also applied to the Northern Ireland High Court for leave to apply for judicial review of the 2011 Act. That application was adjourned, pending the outcome of the proceedings in the Supreme Court with regard to the Scottish legislation. We are now seeking to establish what will happen to the application in the High Court, as this is relevant to the discussions regarding the commencement of our legislation.

### **Vacant Domestic Properties**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of vacant domestic properties, based on the rates records, in the (i) North Down Borough Council; and (ii) Ards Borough Council areas.

(AQW 3877/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** The latest information available, as at 23rd October 2011, indicates that there are 466 vacant domestic properties in the North Down District Council area and 1,748 vacant domestic properties in the Ards District Council area.

## Funds Held by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) for an update on his plans to retrieve funds held by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners; and (ii) whether he has received confirmation that funds can be lawfully released under the framework under which the Commissioners operate.

(AQW 3915/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** Firstly, the issue of seeking a contribution from the Belfast Harbour Commissioners is as a result of a decision by the Executive which the DRD Minister is taking forward.

The DRD Minister is currently pursuing the issue of a contribution from the reserves managed by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners. The DRD Minister will then report his recommendations to the Budget Review Group. Whatever he recommends will take account of the legal position regarding the Commissioners making such a contribution.

## Rates

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why rates are continuing to annually increase, given the devaluation of house prices.

(AQW 3959/11-15)

**Mr Wilson:** At present the domestic rating system is based on individual capital values that were assessed using a fixed valuation date for all properties of 1 January 2005. This fixed date ensures that all properties are valued on a consistent basis, with subsequent fluctuations in market prices (both up and down) disregarded until the next general revaluation. Any properties built post 1 January 2005 continue to be valued at 1 January 2005 levels.

While I appreciate the concerns about rates liability, given the recent decline in the property market, a general revaluation would be required to update the property values on which rates are based. However, this simply involves a redistribution of the rating burden, it does not in itself change the total amount of money that needs to be raised to pay for essential public services and a general revaluation is always accompanied by a corresponding change in the tax rate (the rate in the pound).

So, if a general revaluation were to occur at this time only those properties that have reduced in value by more than the average would experience a reduction in rates liability, while properties experiencing lower than average falls in value would have an increased rates liability. There would be both winners and losers.

I believe that now would not be an appropriate time to begin a domestic general revaluation given the unsettled state of the housing market. As you will be aware I cancelled the non-domestic general revaluation in light of the continued economic downturn and instability in the property market. The market evidence for a new Valuation List was both inadequate and inconsistent. If the general revaluation had proceeded it would have fallen well short of international valuation standards. The same issues are relevant to the domestic sector, while there is also an overriding need to maintain stability for the tax base.

In terms of annual rate increases the regional rate was cut in real terms for the last three years. For this year and the next three years it will be frozen in real terms. This means that rate bills are lower than they otherwise would have been. District rates are of course outside the control of the Executive.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Treatment Administered to EU Nationals

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any outstanding payments for hospital treatment administered to EU nationals in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3387/11-15)

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** EU nationals who are resident in Northern Ireland can be entitled to health service treatment as can those living in the Republic of Ireland but working in Northern Ireland. Under the EHIC system visitors from EU countries are entitled to healthcare which becomes necessary during their visit – the cost of this is reclaimed at UK level by the Department of Work and Pensions and figures for outstanding payments for treatment in Northern Ireland are not available.

Some EU nationals are treated by Trusts on a private basis and the table below shows outstanding payment information in this regard from those Trusts who were able to gather the information without excessive costs being incurred.

Trust	2006-07 (£)	2007-08 (£)	2008-09 (£)	2009-10 (£)	2010-11 (£)
Belfast	2,886	1,350	6,812	3,826	45,441
Northern	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Southern	D.C.	D.C.	D.C.	D.C.	D.C.
South Eastern	nil	nil	nil	nil	122
Western	D.C	D.C	D.C	275,000	345,000

D.C. = Only available at disproportionate cost

### Appeal No: EA/2010/0155

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the recent Tribunal decision, Appeal No: EA/2010/0155, to refuse his Department's appeal against the decision of the Information Commissioner contained in the Decision Notice of 11 August 2010, requiring the Department to disclose information to the Association of Catholic Lawyers of Ireland, when will his Department comply with the Information Commissioner's decision and thereby avert the threat of being in contempt of court.

(AQW 3397/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Abortion statistics are not routinely published in Northern Ireland. Figures were however published on the number of abortions carried out in Northern Ireland for the years 2003 – 2007 in answer to AQW 2577/09.

The publication of these statistics prompted the Association of Catholic Lawyers of Ireland, to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act to the Department seeking further information on the abortions carried out in Northern Ireland between 2003 and 2007. The request was in nine parts, the first 2 parts (the disputed information) related to (i) the number of abortions carried out on women who reside outside Northern Ireland and (ii) the number of women who had an abortion who reside in the Republic of Ireland. The Department responded that information was held on these two parts, however due to the small numbers involved the information was not suitable for release. The remaining seven parts of the request were in relation to the reasons that abortions were carried out, the gestational age at time of abortion and method of abortion, all of which the Department responded that information was not collected or held by the Department.

The Department issued the necessary refusal notice to the Association of Catholic Lawyers of Ireland indicating that it would not disclose the information and cited a number of reasons for doing so. The Department determined that the information was personal information and therefore not subject to disclosure; that the statistics were small in number and may lead to the patient or doctor being identified, that the information could become known to third parties and that its disclosure would likely have a detrimental effect on the patient. The Department also took the view that it could not comply with the request because to do so would run contrary to its obligation to protect the confidentiality of patient information.

The Association of Catholic Lawyers took their request to the Information Commissioner for investigation, who concluded that the information requested should be released. The Department, in turn, lodged an appeal to the Information Tribunal against the Information Commissioners decision.

Given the fact that the High Court in England was hearing a very similar appeal case to that in Northern Ireland - Department of Health (DoH) –v- Information Commissioner (case reference CO/13544/2009) - regarding the release of abortion statistics in England, the Department approached the Information Tribunal and requested that the present case in Northern Ireland be stayed pending the High Court decision of the DoH case. The Tribunal agreed to this request.

On 5th October 2011 the Information Tribunal directed that the disputed statistics for Northern Ireland be released. The Department will comply with the Tribunal's decision and will release the information sought.

## Free Prescriptions

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many free prescriptions were issued by GPs in each year between April 2006 and April 2010.

(AQW 3454/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is not available. Information about prescriptions is only collated by HSC Business Services Organisation once they have been dispensed and submitted for payment. Not all prescriptions issued are subsequently dispensed and submitted for payment, so the number of prescriptions issued by GPs, or any type of prescriber, is not known centrally.

Of those scripts presented to community pharmacies, the percentage of prescription items dispensed without charge at the point of dispensing is shown in table 1 below. These figures include items dispensed to patients exempt from charges, and to patients holding a pre-payment certificate.

**TABLE 1: PERCENTAGE OF PRESCRIPTION ITEMS DISPENSED WITHOUT CHARGE AT THE POINT OF DISPENSING**

Financial Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Percentage of prescription items dispensed without charge	94%	94%	95%	96%

**Source:** FPS, Information and Registration Unit, Business Services Organisation.

## Minister's Overseas Trips

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how many overseas trips he has taken since taking up office; (ii) the destination; (iii) duration; (iv) purpose, of each trip; (v) the size of the party in attendance; and (vi) the total cost of each trip.

(AQW 3514/11-15)

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) I have undertaken two overseas journeys on Ministerial business since taking up office;
- (ii) Both of these journeys were to the United States of America; the first one focussing on New York and Washington DC; and the second based in the Boston area;
- (iii) The first one was from 26 August to 1 September; and the second was from 17 to 21 October;
- (iv) The purpose of the first visit was to meet with key suicide prevention experts, learn first-hand about their research findings and innovative programmes aimed at saving lives and discover how this can be applied in Northern Ireland; to meet with Nurse-Family Partnership practitioners in East Harlem where they are working to improve the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of young first-time parents and their children; to learn about the pioneering work in research, training and prevention carried out at the National Cancer Institute in Washington DC and the valuable links



which it has forged with those working in cancer research and prevention in Northern Ireland. I was also there as Public Safety Minister to attend events and support our fire officers and police officers at the World Police and Fire Games in New York City.

The second visit was for the twin purpose of enhancing the health service in Northern Ireland and utilising technological know-how and business acumen to re-invest in the Northern Ireland economy. In fulfilment of this aim, I and those accompanying me, undertook a number of meetings with influential business leaders, academics and researchers, visited the University of Massachusetts Medical school, and met with the Northern Ireland Massachusetts Connection (a group dedicated to advancing business, research and clinical collaboration, between Massachusetts, Northern Ireland and Europe).

There have been a number of positive outcomes from this trip including:

- Established contacts with the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- Strengthened relations with the US Senate President in Boston;
- Announcement of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment;
- Agreement to follow up on progress achieved with Northern Ireland business leaders who attended the exploration meeting in Boston;
- Agreement to explore opportunities for internship programmes between health care systems at home and in Boston;
- Established links with Finland and Catalonia through the Northern Ireland Massachusetts Connection programme to explore ways of sharing best practice; and
- Agreement to hold further discussions with health care companies in Boston.

It is my intention to make a Statement to the Assembly on progress on these matters in the near future.

- (v) In the first instance I was accompanied by two people; in the second, I was accompanied by 5 people from the Department and one from the Public Health Agency.
- (vi) The total cost to the Department of the first visit was £15,044.93

The total cost to the Department of the most recent visit is estimated at £16,400.00

### **October Monitoring Round: Easements**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any easements that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3545/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** My Department did not identify any easements or reduced requirements in the October Monitoring Round.

### **Average Cost of Answering an Assembly Question**

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average cost to his Department of answering (i) an Oral Assembly Question; and (ii) a Written Assembly Question during this mandate compared to two years ago.

(AQW 3549/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** DHSSPS does not routinely estimate the cost of answering Assembly Questions and comparative information between mandates is therefore not available.

## 10-Day Target for Payment of Invoices

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2224/11-14, to detail his Department's performance against the 95 percent payment target in (i) the financial year 2010/11; and (ii) the period 1 April 2011 to 31 August 2011; and to outline the reason for any failure to achieve the stated target.

(AQW 3577/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** In 2010-11, my Department paid 89% of its invoices within 30 days. This has increased to 92.4% in the period to 1 April 2011 to 31 August 2011.

The failure to achieve the 95% target is primarily attributable to the impact of invoice processing associated with RPA restructuring. I can advise that this process is almost complete and I anticipate this will further improve our prompt payment performance.

My Department is also implementing a range of other measures to improve prompt payment performance, which include maximising the use of Purchase Orders when ordering goods and services.

## Prescribing Costs

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of his answer to the Chairperson of the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety at Question Time when he referred to prescribing costs being £244 per head of population compared to England at £169 per head of population, to detail (i) the difference between prescribing costs and dispensing costs and (ii) the dispensing cost per head of population for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(AQW 3583/11-15)

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) Prescribing costs are defined as the ingredient costs, before discount, of all drugs prescribed and subsequently dispensed in the community by community pharmacists. Dispensing costs are defined as the prescribing costs plus fees paid by way of remuneration to community pharmacists as part of their professional practice for dispensing health service prescriptions.
- (ii) Given the different administrative arrangements in operation across the UK, this information is not available in the form requested.

## Prescribing Costs

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how prescribing costs can be attributed directly to pharmacies, when pharmacies have no direct input to the drugs being prescribed by GPs.

(AQW 3584/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** I recognise that community pharmacists have no direct control over what is prescribed as they are only permitted to dispense a medicine in accordance with the direction of a prescriber. However they do exert some influence over the cost of prescribed drugs, particularly generic medicines, through their procurement activities.

## Autism Strategy

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to the pooling of departmental budgets to implement the Autism Strategy.

(AQW 3588/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** My Department has initiated work on the development of the cross-departmental Autism Strategy and is working in close collaboration with other Departments and stakeholder groups. The development of the strategy will include consideration of how resources can best be used to improve and enhance the range of services provided for those with autism and their families and carers.

## Children Removed from the Care of Their Parents

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) under mental health legislation the circumstances in which children may be removed from the care of their parents; and (ii) under whose authority within the health and social care professions this may be recommended. (AQW 3625/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (“the Order”), there are no powers to remove a child from the care of its parents and to place the child in the care of social services. Such an order may only be made by the courts under Part V of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

However, a person may be detained in hospital if the following circumstances prevail:

- a) he is suffering from mental disorder of a nature or degree which warrants his detention in a hospital for assessment (or for assessment followed by medical treatment); and
- b) failure to so detain him would create a substantial likelihood of serious physical harm to himself or to other persons.

Detention may only occur following the submission of an appropriate report by a medical practitioner defined in the Order as “a fully registered person within the meaning of the Medical Act 1983”.

## Powers of the Police under Mental Health Legislation

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what powers the police have, under mental health legislation, to make an arrest; and if this action must be based on a recommendation from a health professional.

(AQW 3626/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 the police have two powers of arrest.

Article 42 (10) provides:-

*“If an accused person absconds from a hospital to which he has been remanded under this Article, or while being conveyed to or from that hospital, he may be arrested without warrant by any constable and shall, after being arrested, be brought as soon as practicable before the court that remanded him; and the court may thereupon terminate the remand and deal with him in any way in which it would have dealt with him if he had not been remanded under this Article”.*

Article 45(6) provides:-

*“If an offender absconds from a hospital in which he is detained in pursuance of an interim hospital order, or while being conveyed to or from such a hospital, he may be arrested without warrant by a constable and shall, after being arrested, be brought as soon as practicable before the court that made the order; and the court may thereupon terminate the order and deal with him in any way in which it could have dealt with him if no such order had been made.”*

There is no requirement that the power of arrest must be based on a recommendation from a health professional.

## Removal of Sectarian Tattoos

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been treated for the removal of sectarian tattoos in each Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3628/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Information on the number of people who have been treated for the removal of sectarian tattoos in each Health and Social Care Trust is not collected by the Department.

## MRI Scanner for the Clark Clinic in The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 3113/11-15 (i) how long it will take the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to complete the proposals for an MRI scanner for the Clark Clinic in The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children; and (ii) when he expects a decision to be made.

(AQW 3633/11-15)

### Mr Poots:

- (i) The Belfast Trust is currently developing initial proposals for this project to be submitted to my Department later in the year. Following consideration and approval of the initial proposals, the Trust would then be required to develop a more detailed Outline Business Case for consideration and approval. This is likely to take a further 6-9 months.
- (ii) Once the business case is approved, I will be in a position to consider when the required funding can be accommodated within my constrained budgetary allocation.

## Physiotherapy Graduates

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail the number of junior physiotherapist posts in the Health Service; and (ii) what action his Department is taking to combat the levels of unemployment amongst physiotherapy graduates.

(AQW 3634/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Newly qualified physiotherapists would normally enter employment within the Northern Ireland Health & Social Care Trusts at Agenda for Change (AfC) Band 5. The table below shows the Number of Physiotherapists employed at AfC Band 5 within Trusts at 30 September 2011.

Trust	Sep-11	
	HC	WTE
Belfast	60	60
Northern	52	47.16
South Eastern	52	48.85
Southern	21	20.60
Western	24	22.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>199.21</b>

**Notes:** (i)HC = Headcount (ii)WTE = Whole-time Equivalent

**Source:** HSC Trusts

The overall vacancy headcount at 31 March 2011 for physiotherapists (not specifically junior physiotherapists) is 21. My Department carries out a cycle of workforce reviews for each clinical professional group, including physiotherapy. These reviews inform decisions on action to be taken in response to major changes impacting on supply/demand. For 2010/11, the number of student places commissioned was reduced by 10 to 59 and has remained at this level for 2011/12 to reflect both the current and projected level of demand for newly qualified physiotherapists. An update review of the allied health professions is ongoing.

## Firefighters: Hot Fire Training

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he can confirm that all firefighters have received hot fire training.

(AQW 3635/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** All firefighters receive regular training and assessment in the use of breathing apparatus and in simulated heat and smoke environments. Since 2007, all new recruits have additionally been trained using compartment fires which create real life fire conditions.

### **Firefighters: Hot Fire Training**

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what funding has been allocated to ensure that all firefighters, wholetime and retained, receive hot fire training.

(AQW 3636/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The NIFRS has advised me that it has set aside £27,000 this year for training aids to enable “Heat and Smoke” training and Compartmental Fire Familiarisation Training to take place and a further £13,500 for the rental of a dedicated site at Belfast International Airport.

### **Homeless Organisations: Funding**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much funding his Department has allocated to homeless organisations in the 2011-15 budget period

(AQW 3642/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** My Department does not directly provide funding for homeless organisations. However, funding is being provided to homeless organisations by the Public Health Agency and Health and Social Care Trusts. The total amount of funding allocated to homeless organisations in the current financial year is £873,205. I am unable, at this time, to provide details of allocated future years funding.

### **Homeless Organisations in the Foyle Constituency: Funding**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much funding his Department has allocated to homeless organisations in the Foyle constituency, in the 2011-15 budget period.

(AQW 3643/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** My Department does not track the allocation of funding by District or City Council area, nor does my Department directly provide funding for homeless organisations. However, the Western Health and Social Care Trust and the Public Health Agency have allocated a total of £311,527 in the current financial year to homeless organisations in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area. The funding is primarily used to provide accommodation and support for homeless people with chronic alcohol difficulties. I am unable, at this time, to provide details of future years funding.

### **Support of Homeless Organisations**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any changes his Department, in conjunction with the Department for Social Development, are planning in the support of homeless organisations.

(AQW 3644/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** My Department do not currently provide any support to homeless organisations.

### **Fire and Rescue Service: Cuts**

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he can offer an assurance that there will be no cuts to front-line services within the Fire and Rescue Service, particularly in the number of whole-time and retained firefighters and fire stations.

(AQW 3656/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The effectiveness and efficiency of fire and rescue service provision are reviewed regularly by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. It issued a draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for public consultation on 26 October setting out proposals for service delivery for the period 2012 – 2015.

### **Old Equipment from the Erne Hospital**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what are the plans for the old equipment from the Erne Hospital when the new South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen, opens.

(AQW 3659/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The Western Health and Social Care Trust are currently identifying equipment which can be transferred to the New Acute Hospital. Equipment that is not suitable for transfer will be subject of a review to determine whether the equipment could be used elsewhere by the Trust, donated for charitable purposes or safely and appropriately decommissioned.

### **Erne Hospital, Enniskillen: Wage Rate of Staff Required to 'Act Up'**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he can guarantee that staff at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen, who are required to 'act up' will receive the equivalent wage rate.

(AQW 3660/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** This is a matter for individual employers but I am advised that the Trust has a "Temporary Movement to a Higher Payband/Acting up Policy" which is consistent with Agenda for Change terms and conditions and is applied in circumstances where staff are required to 'act up'.

### **Health and Social Care Trusts: Effective Internal Communication**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the size of Health and Social Care Trusts in relation to facilitation of effective internal communication.

(AQW 3661/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Health and Social Care Trusts are complex organisations, providing a wide range of different services and whose staff work out of a large number of different locations, dispersed geographically all around Northern Ireland. In the interests of service users and providing services as much as possible in communities and at locations which best meet the needs of service users this is going to continue to be the case.

Internal communication therefore presents a variety of challenges in these circumstances and Trusts deploy a wide range of approaches to support this including electronic communication, written communication and seminars, workshops and other events involving direct face to face communication to and between staff and groups of staff.

Evidence from inquiries and reviews across the UK have often highlighted issues of poor communication, within and between organisations, as a contributory factor in cases where service users have suffered adversely, because of failings in service delivery. Effective communication is therefore a priority area within all of our Health and Social Care organisations particularly with regard to sustaining and improving the quality of services and safeguarding patients and clients, and irrespective of the size of the organisation.

### **Cost of Prescriptions Issued and Dispensed**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the cost of prescriptions issued and dispensed in each of the last three years, where one or more items could have been purchased over the counter at a low cost.

(AQW 3663/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is not available.

## Cost of Prescriptions Issued and Dispensed

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the total cost of prescriptions issued and dispensed to those exempt from prescription charges between 1 April 2007 to 1 April 2010; and (ii) to provide a breakdown of the cost within each exempt category.

(AQW 3664/11-15)

### Mr Poots:

- (i) The cost of prescription items dispensed without charge at the point of dispensing is shown in table 1 below. These figures include items dispensed to patients exempt from charges, and to patients holding a pre-payment certificate. They also include items dispensed to patients who fraudulently claimed exemption from payment. Contraceptives, which were exempt from prescription charges for all patients, are included in the figures, as are items which did not attract a charge, such as stock items.

The cost given for each year is the ingredient cost before discount; this is the basic cost of the drug before the application of the sliding discount scale. The ingredient cost does not include other costs to the health service such as dispensing fees and other payments.

The figures shown are presented by the financial year in which the prescription was paid; it should be noted that there may be a time lag where prescriptions have been dispensed in a particular year but paid the following year.

**TABLE 1: THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION ITEMS DISPENSED WITHOUT CHARGE AT THE POINT OF DISPENSING.**

Financial Year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
The cost of prescription items dispensed without charge	£367m	£378m	£406m

**Source:** FPS, Information and Registration Unit, Business Services Organisation.

**Note:** 1 The figures shown are for the total gross ingredient cost before discount.

- (ii) The information requested is not available.

## Annual Income of Prescription Charges

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the annual income of prescription charges in each year between 1 April 2007 and 1 April 2010.

(AQW 3665/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The amount collected in respect of patient charges from prescriptions dispensed and presented for payment each year between 1 April 2007 and 1 April 2010 is shown in table 1 below. The figures include patient charges collected at the time of dispensing and patient charges in respect of pre-payment certificates. Pre payment certificates (PPCs) were purchased from community pharmacists and were valid for either a 4 month or 12 month period. PPCs covered a patient for repeat health service prescription charges if the patient was not entitled to free prescriptions. PPCs are no longer sold in Northern Ireland as the previous Health Minister abolished prescription charges on 1 April 2010.

It should be noted that the patient charge varied during the period in question. From April 2007 to December 2008 the charge was £6.85 per item; from January 2009 to March 2010 the charge was £3.00 per item.

Pre payment certificates cost £98.70 for a 12 month PPC or £35.85 for a 4 month PPC from April 2007 to December 2008; the cost was reduced to £25 for a 12 month PPC or £9 for a 4 month PPC from January 2009 to March 2010.



**TABLE 1: THE AMOUNT COLLECTED IN RESPECT OF PATIENT CHARGES FROM PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS OR DISPENSING DOCTORS AND PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT.**

Financial Year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Amount collected in respect of patient charges	£15.2m	£12.9m	£5.8m

**Source:** FPS, Information and Registration Unit, Business Services Organisation.

## Travel Costs

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3695/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The travel costs incurred by the Minister and departmental officials from 1 November 2010 to 28 October 2011 are as follows:

Minister	Departmental Officials
£6,667	£271,998

## Brain Tumours

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) number; and (ii) percentage of the population diagnosed with brain tumours in each of the last three years, broken down by (a) constituency; and (b) council area.

(AQW 3717/11-15)

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) Table 1 sets out the number of people and the percentage of the population diagnosed with a brain tumour in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2006 to 2009.

**TABLE 1**

**THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE\* AND PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION DIAGNOSED WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR (ICD-10\*\*, D33.0, D33.1, D33.2, D43.0, D43.1, D43.2, C71) IN N. IRELAND IN THE YEARS 2006 TO 2009, BY YEAR.**

	Number of people	% of population diagnosed with brain tumour
2006	152	0.0087%
2007	160	0.0091%
2008	167	0.0094%
2009	161	0.0090%

\* Please note that one person can have more than one incidence of a brain tumour in a year. Also, the same person may have had a diagnosis of brain tumour in more than one year and can therefore be included in two or more of the years

\*\* For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ICD-10\\_codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes). C71 is the malignant tumour code of the brain. D33.0, D33.1, D33.2 are benign tumour codes of the brain, but which can be fatal, D43.0, D43.1, D43.2 are brain tumour codes of unknown or uncertain behaviour which can also be fatal. Note that D32 (Benign neoplasm of meninges) codes are not included.



- (ii) Due to the small numbers involved, annual brain tumours figures cannot be given at the subregional level of Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Government District. Figures in table 2 and table 3 are therefore set out as four year aggregated brain tumours figures for Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Government Districts. As the same person may have been included in more than one year in the regional figures in table 1 above, these regional annual figures may not add up to the subregional aggregated figures in table 2 and table 3 below, as these individuals will have been counted more than once. Please note that care must be taken when comparing figures between the areas due to the different age and gender composition of the areas.

(a)

**TABLE 2**

**THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE\* AND PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION DIAGNOSED WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR (ICD-10\*\*, D33.0, D33.1, D33.2, D43.0, D43.1, D43.2, C71) IN N. IRELAND IN THE YEARS 2006 TO 2009, BY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY**

	Number of people	% of population
Belfast East	42	0.0118%
Belfast North	38	0.0095%
Belfast South	23	0.0056%
Belfast West	28	0.0076%
East Antrim	24	0.0068%
East Londonderry	34	0.0087%
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	31	0.0077%
Foyle	35	0.0086%
Lagan Valley	48	0.0124%
Mid Ulster	40	0.0106%
Newry & Armagh	33	0.0076%
North Antrim	32	0.0076%
North Down	36	0.0101%
South Antrim	29	0.0075%
South Down	36	0.0084%
Strangford	35	0.0098%
Upper Bann	46	0.0101%
West Tyrone	33	0.0090%

\* Please note that one person can have more than one incidence of brain tumour in a year.

\*\* For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ICD-10\\_codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes). C71 is the malignant tumour code of the brain. D33.0, D33.1, D33.2 are benign tumour codes of the brain, but which can be fatal, D43.0, D43.1, D43.2 are brain tumour codes of unknown or uncertain behaviour which can also be fatal. Note that D32 (Benign neoplasm of meninges) codes are not included.

\*\*\* 1.7% of people with brain tumours could not be assigned to any geographical area of residence due to lack of address information

(b)

**TABLE 3**

**THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE\* AND PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION DIAGNOSED WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR (ICD-10\*\*, D33.0, D33.1, D33.2, D43.0, D43.1, D43.2, C71) IN N. IRELAND IN THE YEARS 2006 TO 2009, BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT COUNCIL**

	Number of people	% of population
Antrim	20	0.0095%
Ards	28	0.0091%
Armagh	20	0.0086%
Ballymena	22	0.0088%
Ballymoney	5	0.0042%
Banbridge	17	0.0091%
Belfast	88	0.0082%
Carrickfergus	12	0.0075%
Castlereagh	27	0.0102%
Coleraine	17	0.0075%
Cookstown	13	0.0091%
Craigavon	37	0.0103%
Derry	37	0.0085%
Down	22	0.0079%
Dungannon	17	0.0078%
Fermanagh	20	0.0081%
Larne	8	0.0064%
Limavady	15	0.0110%
Lisburn	51	0.0111%
Magherafelt	21	0.0121%
Moyle	8	0.0119%
Newry & Mourne	31	0.0081%
Newtownabbey	19	0.0058%
North Down	35	0.0111%
Omagh	22	0.0106%
Strabane	11	0.0070%

\* Please note that one person can have more than one incidence of brain tumour in a year.

\*\* For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ICD-10\\_codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes). C71 is the malignant tumour code of the brain. D33.0, D33.1, D33.2 are benign tumour codes of the brain, but which can be fatal, D43.0, D43.1, D43.2 are brain tumour codes of unknown or uncertain behaviour which can also be fatal. Note that D32 (Benign neoplasm of meninges) codes are not included.

\*\*\* 1.7% of people with brain tumours could not be assigned to any geographical area of residence due to lack of address information

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) and is the most up to date available. Information of the incidence of all cancers by main cancer sites is available on the (NICR) website's online database. This can be accessed at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr/CancerData/OnlineStatistics>

### SHSCT: Funding for Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how much funding has been allocated for (a) occupational therapy; and (b) speech therapy in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area in each of the last five years; (ii) whether any of the funding went unspent, and, if so, how much; and (iii) whether any of the unspent funding was returned to his Department or re-allocated by the Trust.

(AQW 3725/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Funding allocated for (a) occupational therapy and (b) speech therapy in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area in each of the last five years is set out in the table below. No funding went unspent and no funding was returned to my Department.

<b>Southern Health &amp; Social Care Trust</b>	<b>Occupational Therapy £'000</b>	<b>Speech Therapy £'000</b>
2007-08	5,595	2,303
2008-09	5,467	2,850
2009-10	5,877	3,122
2010-11	5,869	3,192
2011-12 (estimated)	5,900	3,250

### Staff: Third Level Education Courses

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of staff in his Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by his Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3757/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is provided in the attached table.

**SUPPORT FOR STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY WHO HAVE UNDERTAKEN A THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION COURSE PAID FOR IN FULL OR PART BY THE DEPARTMENT**

<b>September 2008 – June 2009</b>						
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees paid in whole</b>	<b>Fees paid in part</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Educational institute which provided the course</b>
Diploma of Higher Education in Social Sciences	1		£488.00		Yes	Open University
Cognitive Psychology	1		£820.00		Yes	Open University
HNC Admin & IT	2		£1043.60		Yes	North West Regional College
HNC Business Management	1		£316.80		Yes	Belfast Metropolitan College
PhD in Economics	1		£478		Yes	Queen's University Belfast
LLB (Hons) Law	2		£1008.80		Yes	Open University
BSC Hons Business Studies	1		£441.96		Yes	University of Ulster
MA Irish Cultural Heritages	1		£912.00		Yes	University of Ulster
Adv Dip in Retirement Provision	2		£869.20		Yes	The Pensions Management Institute
HNC/D Health & Social Care	1		£851.00		Yes	Belfast Metropolitan College
BSC Hons Business Studies	1		£464.00		Yes	Northern Regional College
MA in History	1		£744.00		Yes	Open University
MA in German	1		£1000.00		Yes	Queen's University Belfast
PG Diploma HSC Management	1		£1000.00		Yes	University of Ulster

<b>September 2008 – June 2009</b>						
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees paid in whole</b>	<b>Fees paid in part</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Educational institute which provided the course</b>
MSc in Community Pharmacy	1	£1356.00			Yes	Queen's University Belfast
Diploma in Public Audit	1	£3146.96			Yes	CIPFA
Diploma in Primary Care Orthodontics RSC (Eng)	1	£4000.00			Yes	Faculty of General Dental Practice

<b>September 2009 – June 2010</b>						
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees paid in whole</b>	<b>Fees paid in part</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Educational institute which provided the course</b>
Diploma of Higher Education in Social Sciences	1		£504.00		Yes	Open University, Milton Keynes
Post Grad Diploma in Health & Social Care Management	1		£1000.00		Yes	Beeches Management Centre
Advanced Diploma in Data and Systems Analysis	1		£1000.00		Yes	Oxford University
B.eng Hons Environmental Engineering/B. eng Hons Building Services and Energy Engineering	1		£444.00		Yes	University of Ulster
HNC Admin & IT	3		£960.00		Yes	North West Regional College
Diploma in Irish Language	1		£532.00		Yes	University of Ulster
Master of Science in HR Management	1		£340.00		Yes	University of Ulster
BSC Hons Computing & Info Systems	1		£532.80		Yes	University of Ulster

<b>September 2009 – June 2010</b>						
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees paid in whole</b>	<b>Fees paid in part</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Educational institute which provided the course</b>
BSC Hons Business Studies	2		£641.47		Yes	University of Ulster North Regional College
Post Grad LLM Mental Health Law	1		£710.40		Yes	College of Law Northumbria University
LLB Hons Law	1		£88.00		Yes	Open University
Advanced Diploma in Retirement Provision	1		£720.00		Yes	The Pensions Management Institute
HNC/D Health & Social Care	1		£720.00		Yes	Belfast Metropolitan College
Advanced Diploma in Pensions Management	1		£332.00		Yes	The Pensions Management Institute
MA in German	1		£46.76		Yes	Queen's University Belfast
CMI Diploma in Management Level 5	1		£333.80		Yes	South Eastern Regional College Bangor
Masters in Public Administration	1		£1000.00		Yes	University of Ulster
Diploma in Public Audit	1	£389.07			Yes	CIPFA
Diploma in Primary Care Orthodontics RSC (Eng)	1	£2000.00			Yes	Faculty of General Dental Practice
MSC in Innovation Management in the Public Sector	2	£8000.00			Yes	University of Ulster/ Letterkenny Institute of Technology

<b>September 2010 – June 2011</b>						
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Staff</b>	<b>Fees paid in whole</b>	<b>Fees paid in part</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Educational institute which provided the course</b>
Diploma of Higher Education in Social Sciences	1		£520.00			Open University
Advanced Diploma in Personal & Business Communications	1		£145.60		Yes	Queen's University Belfast
Open University Foundation Degree Credit	1		£96.00		Yes	Open University
MSc Midwifery	1		£640		Yes	Queen's University Belfast
MSc Forensic Psychology & Criminology	1		£1000.00		Yes	Open University Milton Keynes
MSc Risk Management	1		£1000.00		Yes	Birmingham City University
Master of Science in HR Management	1		£548.00		Yes	University of Ulster
BSc Hons Computing & Information Systems	1		£544.80		Yes	University of Ulster
Bsc Hons Business Studies	1		£363.20		Yes	University of Ulster
Advanced Diploma in Pensions Management	2		£144.00		Yes	The Pensions Management Institute
HND in Health & Social Care	1		£763.00		Yes	Belfast Metropolitan College
HNC Business Studies	1		£240.00		Yes	South Eastern Regional College

## Removal of Tattoos

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how much each Health and Social Care Trust has spent on the removal of sectarian tattoos from patients in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3768/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** This information is not available as expenditure on the removal of sectarian tattoos from patients is not collected by Health and Social Care Trusts.

## Salary of Health Union Leader

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average annual salary of a health union leader.

(AQW 3783/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The average annual salary of a health union leader is not a matter for my Department. Trade Union leaders are employed directly by the Trade Union that they are affiliated to and are remunerated by that organisation.

## Salary of Health Union Leader

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much of a health union leader's salary is paid by his Department.

(AQW 3785/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The annual salary of a health union leader is not a matter for my Department. Trade Union leaders are employed directly by the Trade Union that they are affiliated to and are remunerated wholly by that organisation.

## Funding to Health Unions

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of funding that has been allocated to health unions in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 3787/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** This Department does not allocate funding to health unions. However, an annual contribution is made towards the costs associated with the running of a central Trade Union Office for the non-medical trade unions; this amounted to just over £82k in the 2010/11 financial year.

## Funding Allocation During the October Monitoring Round

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he intends to spend the £5 million allocated to his department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3843/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** I submitted bids totalling £12m at October Monitoring. Of this £2m was for ICT pressures, particularly hand-held devices, with £10m intended to address a range of in-year pressures identified by Trusts including:

- Theatre upgrades at a number of hospital sites;
- Replacement of ultrasound, imaging and dialysis equipment;
- Patient transport vehicles;
- Purchase of medical devices.

In light of the bid outcome of £5m, I have asked Trusts to re-visit and re-prioritise their respective pressures in order to address the most pressing issues, taking account of procurement and approval lead-in times.

## Post-Traumatic Rape Syndrome

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in the last ten years have been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Rape Syndrome.

(AQW 3850/11-15)



**Mr Poots:** As Post-Traumatic Rape Syndrome is not a recognized medical/psychiatric condition, the figures you have requested are not available.

### **Prescriptions: Charges for Dosage Monitoring Systems**

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether pharmacies have the authority to charge pensioners to have their prescriptions boxed on a monthly basis, and, if so, to detail the cost; and (ii) what measures are being taken to eliminate this charge.

(AQW 3857/11-15)

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The actual provision of medicines by community pharmacies to patients in what are known as compliance trays or monitored dosage systems is not a HSC contracted service. Therefore the provision of this service is essentially an arrangement between the pharmacy and the patient or their representative.
- (ii) I have noted the matter. However, due to the ongoing Judicial Review instigated by CPNI, I am unable to discuss matters pertaining to contractual arrangements with community pharmacy until the outcome of the hearing is known.

### **Smoking in Motor Vehicles**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to prohibiting smoking in motor vehicles.

(AQW 3883/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** My Department is intending to go out to public consultation next year on a range of options around the issue of banning smoking in private vehicles. Smoking in a work(s) vehicle is already banned under the provisions of the Smoke-free (Premises, Vehicle Operators and Penalty Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

The consultation will include seeking views on how such a ban would be implemented and enforced. Officials have commenced preliminary discussions with relevant stakeholders to help in the development of a comprehensive consultation package.

### **Anti-TNF Drugs**

**Mr Molloy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the announcement by the Minister of Finance and Personnel of additional funding for specialist drugs, what plans he has to extend the availability of anti-TNF drugs.

(AQW 3887/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Access to anti-TNF drugs has improved significantly over recent years and there are currently more than 2,200 patients receiving anti-TNF and other biologic drugs for severe arthritis. The additional £5million in-year funding which I have secured will improve access to specialist drugs and treatments across a wide range of diseases and conditions. With regard to anti-TNF drugs, the funding will enable the HSC to begin to further reduce the waiting time for anti-TNF drugs for arthritis by starting up to 150 additional patients on treatment by the end of March 2012 and begin treatment for 30 patients currently on the waiting list for anti-TNF drugs for psoriasis.

This additional funding is only available to me in-year and further progress in extending the availability of anti-TNF drugs beyond March 2012 will therefore depend on the resources available to me after that.

## UK Citizenship

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether a citizen from the Republic of Ireland is eligible to claim citizenship of the UK after having been in a nursing home in Northern Ireland for five weeks, and is therefore entitled to free nursing care.

(AQW 3898/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 precludes services under Article 15 of the Health and Personal Social Services (NI) Order 1972, i.e. General Social Welfare, to various categories of person. By paragraph 5 of that Schedule 3, a person is precluded from receiving general social welfare if he has the nationality of an EEA state other than the United Kingdom. By virtue of these provisions, therefore, citizens of the Republic of Ireland are precluded from receiving services under Article 15 of the 1972 Order. Paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 is subject to person's rights under European Convention of Human Rights or a person's rights under EU Treaties.

However, under regulation 14 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, "the 2006 Regulations", EEA nationals have the right to reside in NI for longer than 3 months provided that they remain a 'qualified' person, as set out in regulation 6 of the Regulations. For as long as those individuals are qualified within the meaning of the 2006 Regulations and establish that they are "ordinarily resident" in Northern Ireland, ostensibly they are entitled to social care support, including the Payment for Nursing Care, subject to an assessment of their need. Not all those coming from EEA States will be (or become) "ordinarily resident". Each case depends on its individual facts, whether there is a right to reside under the 2006 Regulations, an assessed need for services, ordinary residence and whether a refusal to provide services would breach EU Treaties or the ECHR.

Under regulation 15, such qualified EEA nationals have the right to reside permanently once they have resided in NI, in accordance with the 2006 Regulations, for a continuous period of 5 years. Once permanent residency is established, EEA nationals are, subject to an assessment of need, eligible to receive social care support including the Payment for Nursing Care.

However, it should be noted that there is no minimum period that an EU resident must be present in NI to receive social care support including the Payment for Nursing Care, where a refusal to provide such a service would involve a breach of an individual's rights under the ECHR or, in the case of qualified EEA nationals as defined under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, a breach of their rights under the Treaty for the Functioning of the EU.

## Invest to Save Scheme

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the £15 million allocated in the October 2011 Monitoring Round to implement an Invest to Save scheme, which will facilitate a programme of redundancies, how many redundancies are expected and when.

(AQW 3902/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** It is expected that the £15m Invest to Save allocation in the 2011/12 financial year will facilitate approximately 200 voluntary redundancies, which will aid the reform and modernisation of service provision across Health and Social Care.

## Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy Treatment

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the current number of people (a) diagnosed with cancer; and (b) receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment; and (ii) whether his Department has made any projections for care planning, and if so, how many people with cancer might require treatment within the remainder of this Comprehensive Spending Review period.

(AQW 3905/11-15)

**Mr Poots:**

- (i)(a) The current number of people diagnosed with cancer is not available. Figures from the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) show that the number of patients diagnosed with cancer between 1993 and 2009 in Northern Ireland (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer\*) and who were still alive at the end of 2009 was 44,140. NICR started collecting data on cancer in 1993 so this may be an underestimate, as it would not include people diagnosed before this time. In 2009 there were 8,469 new cancer incidences (excluding NMSC\*).
- \*ICD10 C00-C97 excluding C44. For a listing and explanation of ICD10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000. Or online at <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>
- (i)(b) The current number of people receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy is not available. It should be noted that people with cancer may receive various combinations of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery or other treatments. The Hospital Inpatient System (HIS) records that the total number of patients treated for a primary diagnosis of cancer as an inpatient or day case in 2010/11 was 21,308. However HIS does not hold information on patients treated in outpatient settings.
- (ii) My Department has not made an assessment specifically of the number of people with cancer who might require treatment within the current Comprehensive Spending Review period. Section 3 of the Department's 'Regional Cancer Framework – A Cancer Control Framework' (2007) estimated that cancer incidence could increase by 30%-54% by 2025 depending on a number of factors and variables. The document is available on the Department's website at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/csf-2.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/csf-2.pdf).

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for his assessment of the performance of each Health and Social Care Trust in meeting the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Quality Standards; and (ii) what steps he intends to take to improve the services to patients.

(AQW 3909/11-15)

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The information is not available.
- (ii) In 2011/12, the HSC Board is investing an additional £1.5m in biologic therapies to make further progress with the implementation of NICE guidance for the treatment of Crohn's disease.

It is expected that by the end of 2011/12 HSC Trusts should have increased the number of IBD clinical nurse specialists so that there is 0.5WTE in each of the Northern, Southern, Western and South Eastern Trusts and 0.75 WTE in the Belfast HSC Trust that is 2.75WTE in total. This will provide an enhanced level of care for patients with severe inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

**Healthcare Facilities**

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list all the healthcare facilities, including publicly accessible car parks, that have been built in each of the last five years; and (ii) whether any of the car parks have parent and child car parking spaces.

(AQW 3947/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** I can confirm that 45 healthcare facilities have been opened during the past 5 years, all of which have publicly accessible car parks. Two facilities have designated parent and child car parking spaces. Further detail is provided in the attached table.

<b>Trust</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Publicly Accessible Car Park (Y/N)</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Child Protected Spaces (Y/N)</b>
Belfast	Grove Health & Care Centre	Y	N
Belfast	Beechall Health & Care Centre	Y	N
Belfast	Shankill Health & Care Centre	Y	N
Belfast	Carlisle Health & Care Centre	Y	N
Belfast	Knockbreda Centre	Y	N
Belfast	CAMHS Building at Forster Green	Y	N
Belfast	Enler Centre at Ballybeen	Y	N
Belfast	Regional Acquired Brain Injury Unit (Musgrave Park Hospital)	Y	N
Belfast	Forrest Lodge (Musgrave Park Hospital site)	Y	N
Belfast	NI Cancer Centre (Belfast City Hospital)	Y	N
Belfast	Multi-storey car park at Belfast City Hospital	Y	N
Belfast	Glenview Building (Belfast City Hospital)	Y	N
Belfast	CDU Car Park (Royal site)*	Y	N
Belfast	Broadway Towers Car Park (Royal site)*	Y	N
Belfast	Musgrave & Clarke Car Park (Royal site)*	Y	N
Northern	MacMillan Unit (Antrim Hospital site)	Y	Y (4 places)
South Eastern	Ulster Hospital Renal Unit	Y	N
South Eastern	Ulster Hospital Stores	Y	N
South Eastern	Ulster Hospital Maternity Unit	Y	N
South Eastern	Ulster Hospital Terraced Car Park	Y	N
South Eastern	Cuan Court Children's Home, Downpatrick	Y	N
South Eastern	Bayview Resource Centre, Bangor	Y	N
South Eastern	Ards Intensive Support Unit	Y	N
South Eastern	Bangor Intensive Support Unit	Y	N
South Eastern	New Downe Hospital, Downpatrick	Y	Y (6 spaces)
South Eastern	Lisburn Adult Resource Centre	Y	N
South Eastern	Lagan Valley Hospital Theatres	Y	N
South Eastern	Ulster Hospital Critical Care Complex	Y	N
Southern	Day Surgery Car Park at Craigavon Area Hospital	Y	N

<b>Trust</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Publicly Accessible Car Park (Y/N)</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Child Protected Spaces (Y/N)</b>
Southern	Cath Lab Car Park at Craigavon Area Hospital	Y	N
Southern	Portadown Health & Care Centre	Y	N
Southern	New Car Park at Craigavon Area Hospital	Y	N
Southern	New Car Park at Daisy Hill Hospital	Y	N
Southern	Trauma & Orthopaedic Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital	Y	N
Southern	Additional Car Parking at Daisy Hill Hospital	Y	N
Western	South Wing Altnagelvin site (wards, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy pool)	Y	N
Western	Labs & Pharmacy Building (Altnagelvin site)	Y	N
Western	CTRIC (joint Trust / UofU R&D facility at Altnagelvin site)	Y	N
Western	Avalon House, Omagh (respite facility for children with disabilities)	Y	N
Western	Shanadoagh Car Park	Y	N
Western	Lakeview Learning Disability Hospital (Gransha site)	Y	N
Western	Woodview OT Assessment Centre (Gransha site)	Y	N
Western	Rossneal Children's Home, Londonderry	Y	N
Western	Woodlands Children's Home, Omagh	Y	N
Western	Beechlea Children's Home, Enniskillen	Y	N

\* These car parks are primarily for staff but public can access using free car parking vouchers provided by the Trust

## Care System

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of children who are currently in the formal care system (i) in total; and (ii) broken down by (a) Health and Social Care Trust area; and (b) constituency.

(AQW 3949/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The latest figures available indicate at 31 March 2011, 2,511 children were in the formal care system in Northern Ireland; these are detailed by HSC Trusts in Table 1 below for your information. Figures are not available by Parliamentary Constituency.

**TABLE 1****CHILDREN IN THE FORMAL CARE SYSTEM BY HSC TRUST (31 MARCH 2011)**

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	<b>Northern</b>	<b>South Eastern</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>Western</b>
Number	622	579	503	407	400

**Source:** Health and Social Care Board Delegated Statutory Functions Monitoring Returns for 2010/11

**The Protection from Tobacco (Sales from Vending Machines) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when The Protection from Tobacco (Sales from Vending Machines) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011 will be brought before the Assembly.

(AQW 3958/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The draft regulations to prohibit sales of tobacco products from vending machines are currently with the Executive for consideration and approval. Subject to Executive approval, I expect to bring the draft regulations before the Assembly in December.

**Department of Justice****Prison Officers: Sick Leave**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 2900/11-15, whether any of the 18 prison staff from HMP Maghaberry sustained injuries whilst on duty in Roe House that led to their sick leave; and if so, how many.

(AQW 3439/11-15)

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** None of the 18 prison staff currently on sick absence due to incidents or assaults, sustained injuries during the course of their duties in Roe House.

**Criminal Justice (NI) Order 1996**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice what plans he has to update the section of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 1996 relating to the reduction in sentences for defendants who plead guilty; and whether he will change paragraph 33 of Order so that it will read 'must take into account' rather than 'shall take into account'.

(AQW 3440/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** I have no immediate plans to amend the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (the 1996 Order).

However, subject to the views of the Justice Committee and the Executive, I hope shortly to publish a consultation paper on potential measures to encourage earlier guilty pleas. Through this paper, I intend to seek views on a range of options, some of which may require legislative change. As will be appreciated, it is important not to prejudge the consultation process and I wish to consider carefully the outcome of this exercise before deciding whether any amendments to the 1996 Order are required.

Finally, I do not propose to amend Article 33 as suggested. I am advised that such an amendment would have no material impact on the current legislative framework.

## New Prison at Magilligan

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice how much public money has been spent on the preparation and development of the new Prison at Magilligan in the last four years.

(AQW 3462/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The total cost spent to date on the preparation and development of the new Prison at Magilligan is £ 3,772,595. This represents a small adjustment to previous figures shown in AQW4546/11 following finalisation of accrued costs.

## Review of the Northern Ireland Prison Service

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the conclusion in the interim report 'Review of the Northern Ireland Prison Service' to 'focus on rehabilitation, safety and cost', whether the next stage of the Review will include examining the benefits of the Prison Service owned site at Magilligan and the work at Foyleview.

(AQW 3463/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** I have made clear my intentions to modernise the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Work on the development of a new estates strategy will assess the future role of the prison at Magilligan. In line with the Prison Review Teams findings this will include exploring a range of options for the future site including examining the existing benefits of the Magilligan site.

## Disruptive Behaviour During Court Sitings

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what measures he intends to introduce to address deliberate disruptive behaviour by member of the public during court sittings, including heckling and applauding.

(AQW 3623/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The conduct and management of proceedings during a court hearing is entirely a matter for the judiciary.

There are a wide range of statutory powers available to the judiciary across the various court tiers which are deemed sufficient. I therefore have no plans to introduce additional measures.

## Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many court cases are currently subject to the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007 in each court division; and to detail the nature of the offences.

(AQW 3629/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** As of 21 October 2011, there were a total of 21 active cases against which a Certificate under Section 1 of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (the Act) has been issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Section 4 of the Act provides for these cases to be held only in Belfast unless the Lord Chief Justice otherwise directs. N.I. This section has no associated Explanatory Notes

A list of the offence types associated with these cases is set out below.

- Aiding and Abetting /Assisting Offenders
- Blackmail and Obtaining Money by Deception
- False Imprisonment/Kidnapping
- Firearm and Other Weapons Offences
- Hijacking



- Intimidation
- Murder / Attempted Murder
- Offences relating to Explosives
- Offences Relating to Proscribed Organisations
- Perverting the Course of Justice
- Possession Of Articles For Use In Terrorism
- Possession/Conversion of Criminal Property
- Provision of money/property for purposes of terrorism
- Rape and Other Sexual Offences
- Serious Assaults

### **District Policing Partnerships**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice what steps he intends to take to assure members of District Policing Partnerships, and the public in attendance, that open business can be conducted without fear of intimidation or threats by those intent on disrupting the business of the Partnerships.

(AQW 3654/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The safety of the community is a key priority for the Department of Justice, the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and this has been reinforced in the 2011/14 Policing Plan. It is also true that people have a right to protest, although they do not have a right to disrupt a meeting.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board informs me that the conduct of DPP meetings is for the DPP itself. Where protests at DPP meetings have escalated to cause disruption, or where it is deemed that people are attending with the intent to disrupt, a judgment call is taken by the Chair and members on the day. They may additionally want to liaise with their local commander in advance.

In relation to the recent protest on 20 October, Derry DPP is extremely aware of their responsibilities in relation to the health and safety of those attending DPP meetings (staff, public, members and police officers) and a risk assessment for DPP members and staff has been carried out by Derry City Council. The Chair and Vice Chair meet with the Area Commander in advance of every meeting in public for an updated risk assessment.

I would note that despite the recent protests, Derry DPP has fulfilled its statutory requirements in relation to holding meetings in public and has successfully engaged with the public to help build safer, confident and shared communities.

### **Sentencing: Previous Convictions**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 2832/11-15, whether the stated legislation also refers to suspended sentences which have been handed down in a separate jurisdiction and whether these sentences can be activated or taken into consideration upon conviction for an offence in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 3667/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The legislation that allows previous convictions in other jurisdictions to be taken into account when sentencing for crimes committed in Northern Ireland includes suspended sentences. A suspended sentence that has been imposed in another jurisdiction cannot be activated in Northern Ireland. Activation would, instead, remain a matter for the sentencing jurisdiction.



## Separated Republican Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what actions the separated republican prisoners are refusing to carry out whilst on protest.

(AQW 3668/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** Separated republican prisoners are not complying with a number of requirements whilst on protest. These include:

- refusing to comply with the full body search procedure on committal and discharge to the prison; and
- not keeping themselves, their cells and other articles and property clean and tidy.

Some separated republican prisoners are also refusing to comply with head counts and body checks, by blocking their cell observation windows.

## Secrecy in Civil Courts

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the Government proposals to expand the use of secrecy in Civil Courts to protect national security.

(AQW 3669/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** I am currently considering the proposals contained in the UK Government's Green Paper on Justice and Security relating to how sensitive material should be dealt with in civil proceedings.

I have written to the Attorney General for Northern Ireland to seek his views.

Additionally, I have advised the Justice Committee and the Executive Committee of the publication of the Green Paper and will keep them advised of developments.

## Cost of Keeping an Inmate in Prison

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the average annual cost of keeping an inmate in prison in Northern Ireland compared to the rest of the UK; for an estimate of by how much this gap will reduce when the current prison reform process is complete.

(AQW 3676/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The table below sets out the cost per prisoner place in 2009-10 for Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. This is the most recent year for which comparable information is available.

Year	Northern Ireland	England&Wales	Scotland
2009-10	£77,831	£44,086	£36,661

While the cost stated has validity in assessing year on year improvements within the organisation, it has less validity when used to make comparisons between organisations as the calculation in Northern Ireland uses different elements to those in the other jurisdictions. For example, Northern Ireland Prison Service includes the cost of the headquarters function and education in its calculation.

At this stage the Northern Ireland Prison Service estimates that the cost per prisoner place will fall to approximately £60,000 when the current reform process is complete. This is subject to the successful delivery of the voluntary exit scheme and construction of new accommodation as part of the Estates Strategy.

## Legal Aid

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice how much his Department has spent on legal aid since May 2010.

(AQW 3702/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** From May 2010 to 30 September 2011 the total legal aid expenditure by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission was £129,233,232.46. The table below shows the breakdown between criminal legal aid and civil legal aid.

Legal Aid Scheme	Total
Civil Legal Aid	£61,300,950.82
Criminal Legal Aid	£67,932,281.64
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£129,233,232.46</b>

It should be noted that payments made during this period will include remuneration for work carried out prior to May 2010.

## Current Court Numbers

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of courts currently operating; and to outline any plans for them to be rationalized.

(AQW 3704/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** There are currently 21 courthouses operating in Northern Ireland, five of which function as Hearing Centres and are open only on court sitting days. This number does not include Banbridge courthouse which has not been used for court business for some time and is currently being leased out to accommodate the inquiry into Hyponatraemia related deaths.

My officials have prepared a draft consultation paper seeking views on proposals to close the five Hearing Centres and to transfer that business to an alternative court venue. These proposals will be subject to a full public consultation exercise which I plan to launch this month.

## Republican Separated Prisoner's Protest

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what (i) concessions; (ii) allowances; and (iii) alterations have made by the Prison Service as a result of negotiations following the commencement of the Republican separated prisoners protest and their refusal to comply with prison regulations.

(AQW 3708/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The agreement of 12 August 2010 was the outcome of discussions with the facilitators appointed by me as Justice Minister and the means by which the protest action at that time was brought to an end. The current protest has not been the subject of negotiation and no concessions, allowances or alterations have been made by the Prison Service. Republican separated prisoners who are engaged in protest action are on a restricted regime designed to safely manage and contain the situation.

## The Working of the Courts Estate

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of whether the working of the Courts estate will change by the end of 2013.

(AQW 3709/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The business of the courts will remain unchanged by the end of 2013. However the structure and number of courthouses may change by that date.

My officials have prepared a draft consultation paper seeking views on proposals to close five hearing centres and to transfer that business and staff to an alternative court venue. These proposals will be subject to a full public consultation exercise which I plan to launch in November. The proposals form part of the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service estate strategy which in turn forms part of the overall Department of Justice Estate Strategy.

### **Visiting Privileges: Members of the Oireachtas**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice whether he will consider allowing Members of the Oireachtas special permission to visit prisoners in this jurisdiction without using family visits.

(AQW 3710/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The current Northern Ireland Prison Service Standing Orders do not include Members of the Oireachtas within the category of “elected representative”. In light of a recent request from a member of the Oireachtas I have asked my officials to review this arrangement. I will write to the member when this review is completed.

### **Access to Justice Review Team**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice what liason the members of the Access to Justice Review team had with members of the general public who were litigants, prior to the completion of the Access to Justice Review Report.

(AQW 3736/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The Access to Justice Review team met a wide range of organisations and individuals during the course of the review, including members of the general public who were litigants. The Access to Justice Report has been published for public consultation. When I published it, I encouraged elected representatives and the wider public to read it and comment as part of the consultation. In addition, my department has written to more than 450 individuals and organisations seeking their views. I would welcome responses by 13 December.

### **Access to Justice Review Report**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that the views of civil litigants and the victims of crime are tested before any final decisions are made on the implementation of the recommendations in the Access to Justice Review Report.

(AQW 3737/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The Access to Justice Report has been published for public consultation. When I published the report, I encouraged elected representatives and the wider public to read it and comment as part of the consultation. In addition, my department has written to over 450 individuals and organisations seeking their views on the report, including Victim Support Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. I would welcome responses by 13 December 2011.

### **Republican Separated Prisoner's Protest**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, of the 28 separated Republican prisoners refusing to conform to prison regulations, how many have signed the required compact; and how many have signed the compact personally.

(AQW 3740/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** 22 of the 28 separated republican prisoners refusing to conform to prison rules have signed the required compact personally. As set out in the response to AQW 1015/11 all prisoners who apply for entry into separated accommodation are provided with a copy of the compact at the point of application and a prison governor explains to them that the terms of the compact, prison rules and the

rule of law will apply. Every applicant must sign the application form and in the small minority of cases where the compact itself has not been signed, the Northern Ireland Prison Service is satisfied that the prisoner has been made fully aware of the terms of compact.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is satisfied that this process, which is always witnessed by an additional officer, demonstrates sufficient acceptance of the terms of the compact.

### Travel Costs Incurred by the Minister and Departmental Officials

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the travel costs incurred by (i) the Minister; and (ii) departmental officials in the last 12 months.

(AQW 3745/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** Travel costs incurred in the last 12 months are as follows:

Minister	Departmental Officials
£850	£261,210

The travel costs quoted are for the last 12 months of audited expenditure (2010/2011) and are for the Department excluding agencies and executive NDPBs. Ministerial car costs are provided by PSNI and are not recharged.

### Department Staff: Third Level Education Course

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of staff in his Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by his Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3748/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice was established on 12th April 2010. Since then the Department has supported 69 staff in undertaking courses in third level education, a number of which were underway when the Department was established. Details of the third level education courses undertaken are attached.

Our approach is to support third level education where that helps meet our business objectives.

CIMA Foundation	BPP Dublin	1	£1,478.00	P/T	Fully funded
Degree in Social Work by Distance Learning	Robert Gordon University	6	£43,775.00	P/T	Fully funded
Degree in Social Work by Distance Learning	Open University	6	£46,460.00	P/T	Fully funded
Masters in Restorative Justice	University of Ulster	1	£3,582.00	P/T	Fully funded
ISEB FOI Practitioner	QT&C	1	£1,350.00	P/T	Fully funded
RM3 Records Management Certificate	University of Liverpool	2	£3,479.00	P/T	Fully funded

<b>CIMA Foundation</b>	<b>BPP Dublin</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1,478.00</b>	<b>P/T</b>	<b>Fully funded</b>
Certificate in Restorative Practice	University of Ulster, Belfast	20	£30,000	P/T	Fully funded
CIM Prof. Diploma in Marketing	Belfast Met College	1	£690.00	P/T	Partly funded
MSc, PG Diploma in Educational Multimedia	Queens University Belfast	1	£2,520.00	P/T	Partly funded
ACCA	Richard Clarke Academy, UK (OU)	1	£5,328.00	P/T	Partly funded
Chartered Accountants Elevation Prog.	Chartered Accountants Ireland	1	£6,325.00	P/T	Partly funded
C&G Level 4 Cert in FE Teaching Stage 1&2	Northern Regional College	1	£500.00	P/T	Partly funded
Degree in Youth & Community	University of Ulster	1	£1,998.00	P/T	Partly funded
BA Hons in Management & Business	Queens University Belfast	1	£688.00	P/T	Partly funded
BSc Hons in Molecular Science	Open University	1	£120.00	P/T	Partly funded
MRES Social Research Methods	Queens University Belfast	1	£960.00	P/T	Partly funded
BSc Computing	Open University	1	£332.00	P/T	Partly funded
Diploma in Counselling	The Well' Dr Brendan Gill	1	£440.00	P/T	Partly funded
Criminal Justice Foundation Degree	Kaplan Open Learning	1	£1,530.00	P/T	Partly funded
Introduction to Sciences Social	The Open University	1	£630.00	P/T	Partly funded
VTCT Level 3 Diploma	The Open University	1	£992.87	P/T	Partly funded
Higher National Certificate in Business	S.E. Regional College	1	£834.00	P/T	Partly funded
LLB Hons with Criminology	University of Ulster, Coleraine	1	£681.00	P/T	Partly funded
Postgrad Diploma in Further & Higher Education	University of Ulster, Coleraine	1	£1,194.00	P/T	Partly funded

<b>CIMA Foundation</b>	<b>BPP Dublin</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1,478.00</b>	<b>P/T</b>	<b>Fully funded</b>
Postgrad Certificate in Forensic Science	University of Ulster, Coleraine	1	£1,194.00	P/T	Partly funded
Degree Module in Psychological Issues	Queens University, Belfast	1	£215.00	P/T	Partly funded
Level 3 Diploma in Canine Studies	UK Open College	1	£499.00	P/T	Partly funded
Postgrad Diploma in Restorative Practice	University of Ulster, Coleraine	1	£1,500.00	P/T	Partly funded
MSc Criminology	Queens University, Belfast	1	£1,200.00	P/T	Partly funded
BA Hons in Social Studies	University of Ulster, Coleraine	1	£3,350.00	P/T	Partly funded
MSSc Construction & Project Management	Queens University, Belfast	1	£3,750.00	P/T	Partly funded
Data, Computing and Information	The Open University	1	£415.00	P/T	Partly funded
Postgrad Further Education	University of Ulster, Coleraine	1	£1,594.00	P/T	Partly funded
Digital Photography	Open University	1	£205.00	P/T	Partly funded
Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling	Northern Regional College	1	£260.00	P/T	Partly funded
MSc in Criminology	Queens University, Belfast	1	£1,260.00	P/T	Partly funded
Diploma in Applied Criminology	Cambridge University, Cambridge	3	£21,600	P/T	Partly funded

## Republican Separated Prisoner's Protest

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the cost to date of the protest by Republican separated prisoners including damage to equipment, subsequent clear-up, repair and replacement of the equipment, broken down by each individual incident in which damage occurred.

(AQW 3777/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The cost to date of the protest by republican separated prisoners is £500,320 broken down as follows:

	<b>Cost</b>
Cell damage of 6 May 2011	£8,800
Cell damage of 30 June 2011	£5,600

	<b>Cost</b>
Cell damage of 1 July 2011	£6,400
Fire damage to recreation room of 1 July 2011	£199,100
Cleaning cost of ongoing protest in the financial year to date	£157,005
Responding to the protest has also resulted in Additional staffing costs of	£123,415

### European Arrest Warrants

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 3013/11-15, to detail the number of European Arrest Warrants that are currently outstanding in each court division; and how many of these warrants were issued more than twelve months ago.

(AQW 3778/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** Four European Arrest Warrants are currently outstanding, each of which is more than 12 months old. Three warrants were issued from the Division of Belfast and one from the Division of Fermanagh & Tyrone.

### Northern Ireland Prison Service Museum

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice to outline the future plans for the Northern Ireland Prison Service museum.

(AQW 3782/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The future plans for the Northern Ireland Prison Service Museum have not yet been formulated. There is a large collection of artefacts and documents currently held in the Prison Service College. Many of these items still need to be catalogued; some are currently on loan as part of the exhibition in Crumlin Road gaol and other items are, and will remain, on display in the College. In the meantime the Prison Service will consider and set out plans for the museum following consultation with key stakeholders.

### Judicial System: Balance of Human Rights

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of whether the judicial system balances the human rights of an offender with those of the victim.

(AQW 3818/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The right of a defendant to a fair trial is enshrined in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and must be respected by the justice system. It is based on the premise that an individual is innocent until proven guilty. That is not to say that the needs of victims should be overlooked, and all victims have a right to expect that they should be treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity.

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, which was published in March 2011, gives a commitment that the criminal justice agencies will treat victims with dignity, respect and sensitivity. I remain committed to improving the victim's experience of the criminal justice process.

### Delivery of Non-molestation Orders

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to privatise the delivery of non-molestation orders.

(AQW 3823/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** More than 6,500 non-molestation or occupation orders are granted by the courts in Northern Ireland annually. These orders may be served in a number of different ways, but in the majority of cases service is affected by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is the only jurisdiction in Britain and Ireland where police routinely serve such orders. Elsewhere, responsibility for service rests with the applicant and in most cases will involve the use of civilian process servers.

The PSNI have indicated that they would wish to reduce their involvement in the service of these orders so as to allow them to target their resources on core policing functions. My officials will work with PSNI to consider alternative methods of service.

It will be important that any alternative arrangements command public confidence and are no less effective. They will, therefore, be developed in conjunction with key stakeholders and will be subject to consultation.

### **Increased Sentences for People Convicted of Domestic Violence Offences**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice what plans his Department has to increase sentencing for people convicted of domestic violence offences.

(AQW 3830/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The maximum penalty for common assault, an offence which often arises in domestic violence cases, was increased this year to six months imprisonment by provisions in the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Changes have also recently been introduced which would help in the defence of those who have killed a violent and abusive partner after suffering prolonged abuse.

There are no further plans, currently, to increase the sentences for offences where domestic violence is the motivation. However, the Lord Chief Justice recently announced a priority list of areas where fresh sentencing guidance for the judiciary would be developed. Offences involving domestic violence are included in this list.

Alongside this work I have been considering a range of potential mechanisms by which greater transparency, consistency and understanding of sentencing practice might be achieved. I hope to announce proposals in the near future on how best these might be delivered in a way that will promote public confidence.

## **Department for Regional Development**

### **Departmental Spend**

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail his Department's (i) direct; and (ii) indirect spend in each of the last ten years in the Belfast City Council area.

(AQW 3366/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** The Department's spending in the Belfast City Council area is provided in the table overleaf.



	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Translink <sup>1</sup> (Department's funding)	3	6	8	17	12	6	9	2	2	6
Roads Service <sup>2</sup>	26	24	23	35	23	40	23	25	22	19
Northern Ireland Water <sup>3</sup>			Note 4				61	54	24	8

**Notes:**

1. There are other bus/rail projects funded by the Department which would impact on a number of council areas including the Belfast City Council area. However, their costs cannot be identified separately, for example, purchase of new trains, platform extension programme and New Rail Vision/Disability Discrimination Act works. Similarly spending on services provided by NI Railways, Ulsterbus and specifically Metro may be relevant. Published accounts are available for all these companies.
2. Roads Service allocates its total budget for expenditure on roads across all the district council areas on the basis of priorities. While the actual spend may be within one district council area, the benefits of such schemes are not confined to that district council, constituency or county in which they are located.
3. This reflects expenditure within NI Water's Capital Works Programme which includes approximately £130 million Belfast Sewers Project, £4.1 million Belfast City Centre Zone Watermain Improvements and £2.4 million Belvoir Park Sewers.
4. Expenditure prior to April 2007 is not readily available by council area and could only be retrieved at disproportionate cost.

Spending on operating costs and minor capital projects has not been provided as this would require significant work to analyse by council area and could only be provided at disproportionate expense.

## Staff: Third Level Education Courses

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of staff in his Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by his Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3384/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** The numbers of staff within my Department who have undertaken third level education courses paid for wholly or in part by the Department in each of the last three years are set out below.

Category	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number of staff undertaking third level education courses paid for in whole by the Department	31	21	5
Number of staff undertaking third level education courses paid for in part by the Department	76	85	53

Details of the course titles, fees, methods of study and educational institutes involved are shown in the attached table.

Year	Course Title	Number of Staff undertaking third level education course	Method of Study	Educational Institute	Course Fees (Per Person, Course & Year) £	Paid in whole or part
2008/09	HNC in Civil Engineering	8	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	631.00	Whole
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	6	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	598.00	Whole
2008/09	CIPD Certificate in Training Practice	3	Part time (D/R)	DMS Personnel Consultants (Ireland) Ltd	2,643.75	Whole
2008/09	NEBOSH General Certificate	1	Part time (D/R)	Training Solutions NI	954.50	Whole
2008/09	BSc In Business Studies	1	Evening Class	Belfast Metropolitan College	832.00	Part
2008/09	HNC in Civil Engineering	2	Own Time	Belfast Metropolitan College	380.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	1	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	364.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	1	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	474.00	Part

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2008/09	CIPFA Professional Accountancy	1	Evening Class	CIPFA	767.00	Part
2008/09	MSc in Transport Planning & Engineering	1	Distance Learning	Napier University	1,000.00	Part
2008/09	BTEC Cert in Intro to Life Coaching Skills & Practise	1	Distance Learning	Newcastle College	955.20	Part
2008/09	HNC in Civil Engineering	2	Own Time	North West Regional College	571.12	Part
2008/09	Degree in Business & Management Studies	1	Evening Class	Queens University	672.00	Part
2008/09	BA Business Admin and Management	1	Evening Class	South West College	672.00	Part
2008/09	BSc In Business Studies	1	Evening Class	South West College	348.00	Part
2008/09	NC Vehicle Repair and Technology	1	Evening Class	South West Regional College	240.00	Part
2008/09	HNC in Civil Engineering	1	Evening Class	Southern Regional College	192.00	part
2008/09	Certificate in Legal Studies	1	Distance Learning	The Open University	628.00	Part
2008/09	Diploma in Asphalt Technology	1	Distance Learning	University of Derby	1,000.00	Part
2008/09	BSc Computing & Information Systems	1	Evening Class	University of Ulster	520.80	Part
2008/09	BSc in Accountancy	1	Evening Class	University of Ulster	694.40	Part

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2008/09	MSc Construction & Engineering	1	Own Time	University of Ulster	912.00	Part
2008/09	PHD in Engineering	1	Own Time	University of Ulster	932.00	Part
2008/09	HNC in Vehicle Operations Management	1	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	462.75	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	7	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	474.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	10	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	364.00	Part
2008/09	Diploma in International Financial Reporting Standards	1	Distance Learning	Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland	1,000.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	8	Part time (D/R)	North West Regional College	396.48	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	2	Part time (D/R)	North West Regional College	280.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Vehicle Technology	2	Part time (D/R)	South Eastern Regional College	270.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	4	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	276.00	Part
2008/09	NC in Civil Engineering	3	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	160.00	Part
2008/09	BEng Hons in Civil Engineering	9	Part time (D/R)	University of Ulster	520.80	Part
2008/09	MSc Infrastructure Engineering	1	Part time (D/R)	University of Ulster	912.00	Part
2008/09	CIMA Accountancy	1	Part time	University of Ulster	1,200.00	Whole
2008/09	CIPFA Accountancy	1	Part time	CIPFA	1,200.00	Whole

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2008/09	CIPFA Accountancy	1	Part time	CIPFA	1,200.00	Whole
2008/09	Accounting Technician	1	Part time	CIPFA	1,200.00	Whole
2008/09	BA Business Management	1	Part time	South Eastern Regional College	574.00	Part
2008/09	ACCA	1	Part time	University of Ulster	1,200.00	Whole
2008/09	MSc Applied Economics	1	Part time	University of Ulster	1,100.00	Whole
2008/09	Post Grad Diploma (Masters Degree) in HRM	1	Part time	University of Ulster	50.00	Part
2008/09	BA Hons Business Studies & Management	1	Part time	Queens University	597.33	Part
2008/09	Advanced Diploma in Management Practice	1	Part time	University of Ulster	480.00	Part
2008/09	BSc (Hons) Business Studies	1	Part time	University of Ulster	347.20	Part
2008/09	BA Hons Business Studies	1	Part time	North Down & Ards Institute	633.00	Part
2008/09	Masters in Legal Science	1	Part time	Queens University	608.00	Part
2008/09	Diploma in Public Audit (DPA)	2	Part time	CIPFA	1,835.00	Whole
2008/09	Diploma in Public Audit (DPA)	2	Part time	CIPFA	4,165.00	Whole

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2008/09	Advanced Diploma in Public Audit (ADPA)	2	Part time	CIPFA	3,266.50	Whole
2008/09	Member Institute of Internal Audit (MIIA)	1	Part time	IIA	3,413.00	Whole
2009/10	BSc In Business Studies	1	Evening Class	Belfast Metropolitan College	710.40	Part
2009/10	HNC in Civil Engineering	7	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	540.00	Whole
2009/10	HNC in Civil Engineering	8	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	432.00	Part
2009/10	HNC in Vehicle Operations Management	1	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	369.60	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	14	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	328.00	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	6	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	410.00	Whole
2009/10	CIPD Certificate in Training Practice	1	Part time (D/R)	DMS Personnel Consultants (Ireland) LTD	2,161.00	Whole
2009/10	MSc Transport Planning & Engineering	2	Distance Learning	NapierUniversity	1,000.00	Part
2009/10	HNC in Civil Engineering	1	Own Time	North West Regional College	501.12	Part
2009/10	HNC in Civil Engineering	2	Own Time	North West Regional College	320.00	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	8	Part time (D/R)	North West Regional College	308.00	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	2	Own Time	North North West Regional College	424.48	Part

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2009/10	Degree in Business & Management Studies	1	Evening Class	QueensUniversity	344.00	Part
2009/10	HNC in Vehicle Operations Management	1	Evening Class	South Eastern Regional College	200.00	Part
2009/10	NC in Vehicle Technology	1	Part time (D/R)	South Eastern Regional College	299.20	Part
2009/10	BSc In Business Studies	1	Evening Class	South West College	355.20	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	3	Part time (D/R)	South West College	376.40	Part
2009/10	City & Guilds Two Dimensional CAD Level 3	1	Evening Class	Southern Regional College	136.80	Part
2009/10	HNC in Civil Engineering	3	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	326.40	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	5	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	160.00	Part
2009/10	NC in Civil Engineering	7	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	279.20	Part
2009/10	NEBOSH General Certificate	3	Part time (D/R)	Training Solutions NI	790.00	Whole
2009/10	MSc in Construction Management	1	E-Learning	University of Salford	1,000.00	Part
2009/10	MScBridge Engineering	1	Distance Learning	University of Surrey	768.00	Part
2009/10	Beng Hons in Civil Engineering	11	Part time (D/R)	University of Ulster	532.80	Part
2009/10	BSc in Accountancy	1	Evening Class	University of Ulster	737.62	Part

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2009/10	MSc Construction & Engineering	1	Own Time	University of Ulster	936.00	Part
2009/10	MSc in Infrastructure Engineering	1	Own Time	University of Ulster	936.00	Part
2009/10	PHD in Engineering	1	Own Time	University of Ulster	956.00	Part
2009/10	ACCA	1	Part time	Richard Clarke Academy	600.00	Whole
2009/10	BA Business Management	1	Part time	South Eastern Regional College	573.00	Part
2009/10	ACCA	1	Part time	University of Ulster	132.00	Whole
2009/10	HNC Business & Finance	1	Part time	Northern Regional College	88.00	Part
2009/10	BSc Hons Business Studies	1	Part time	Northern Regional College	464.00	Part
2009/10	BA Hons Business Studies & Management	1	Part time	QueensUniversity	597.33	Part
2009/10	Associated & Certified Chartered Accountants Professional Qualification	1	Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College	485.34	Part
2009/10	BSc (Hons) Business Studies	1	Part time	University of Ulster	710.40	Part
2009/10	Advanced Certificate in Investigative Practice (ACIP)	2	Part time	CIPFA/Bond Solon	3,500.00	Whole
2010/11	HNC in Civil Engineering	7	Own Time	Belfast Metropolitan College	432.00	Part



<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2010/11	NC in Civil Engineering	6	Part time (D/R)	Belfast Metropolitan College	336.00	Part
2010/11	MSc Transport Planning & Engineering	2	Distance Learning	Napier University	1,000.00	Part
2010/11	HNC in Civil Engineering	1	Own Time	North West Regional College	344.28	Part
2010/11	HNC in Civil Engineering	1	Part time (D/R)	North West Regional College	444.96	Part
2010/11	NC in Civil Engineering	2	Own Time	North West Regional College	308.00	Part
2010/11	NC in Civil Engineering	1	Part time (D/R)	North West Regional College	424.64	Part
2010/11	NC in Vehicle Technology	1	Part time (D/R)	South Eastern Regional College	299.20	Part
2010/11	NC in Civil Engineering	3	Evening Class	South West College	230.40	Part
2010/11	HNC in Civil Engineering	2	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	394.40	Part
2010/11	HNC in Civil Engineering	2	Own Time	Southern Regional College	208.00	Part
2010/11	NC in Civil Engineering	6	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	176.00	Part
2010/11	NC in Electrical & Electronic Engineering	1	Part time (D/R)	Southern Regional College	367.20	Part
2010/11	MSc in Construction Management	1	E-Learning	University of Salford	1,000.00	Part
2010/11	MSc Bridge Engineering	1	Distance Learning	University of Surrey	840.00	Part
2010/11	BSc Computing & Information Systems	1	Evening Class	University of Ulster	544.80	Part
2010/11	Beng Hons in Civil Engineering	8	Part time (D/R)	University of Ulster	544.80	Part

<b>Year</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Number of Staff undertaking third level education course</b>	<b>Method of Study</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>	<b>Course Fees (Per Person, Course &amp; Year) £</b>	<b>Paid in whole or part</b>
2010/11	BSc in Accountancy	1	Evening Class	University of Ulster	762.40	Part
2010/11	MSc in Infrastructure Engineering	1	Own Time	University of Ulster	955.20	Part
2010/11	ACCA	1	Part time	Richard Clarke Academy	600.00	Whole
2010/11	BA Business Management	1	Part time	South Eastern Regional College	584.00	Part
2010/11	ACCA	1	Part time	Richard Clarke Academy	431.00	Whole
2010/11	BSc Hons Business Studies	1	Part time	Northern Regional College	464.00	Part
2010/11	BA Hons Business Studies & Management	1	Part time	QueensUniversity	597.33	Part
2010/11	Associated & Certified Chartered Accountants Professional Qualification	1	Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College	634.35	Part
2010/11	BSc (Hons) Business Studies	1	Part time	University of Ulster	544.80	Part
2010/11	Professional Certificate in Regulatory Affairs	1	Part time	Centre for Parliamentary Studies	2,950.00	Whole
2010/11	Advanced Certificate in Investigative Practice (ACIP)	2	Part time	CIPFA/Bond Solon	3,550.00	Whole
	<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>				

## Blue Badges

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of people who are currently (i) eligible for; and (ii) in receipt of a blue badge, compared to the numbers in each of the previous two years.

(AQW 3415/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not have any details of the number of persons eligible for a Blue Badge. Details of the number of applicants, who met the eligibility criteria and received Blue Badges since 1 April 2008 to 20 October 2011, are provided in the table below:

Year	Blue Badges Issued
1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009	33,097
1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010	30,720
1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011	35,205
1 April 2011 – 20 October 2011	21,441

## Salt and Grit Resources

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what extra salt and grit resources will be available for the coming winter.

(AQW 3441/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** Prior to the start of each winter service season, my Department's Roads carries out a significant amount of pre-planning, including the early purchase of an adequate stock of salt with the aim of meeting the needs of the full winter service programme without the need to re-stock.

Hitherto this stock amounted to some 65,000 tonnes however, following last year's severe weather, Roads Service has reviewed its assessment and has increased salt stocks significantly, to approximately 110,000 tonnes. In addition, Roads Service has arrangements in place to supplement stocks of salt during the winter period, if necessary.

Grit supplies, as opposed to salt supplies, are more readily available from local quarries and are therefore purchased as required by local section offices.

## NI Water Sewers and Pumping Stations

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development, where there is an outstanding agreement with NI Water or its predecessor, what enforcement measures can be taken against an administrator or receiver to ensure that sewers and pumping stations are brought up to a sufficient standard for adoption.

(AQW 3475/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that there are currently some 322 existing agreements in place with persons constructing or proposing to construct a sewerage system, to adopt the system at a future date provided the terms of the agreement have been met. This includes agreements formerly with its predecessor Water Service which transferred to NIW on 1 April 2007. The other party to the agreement is required to provide security for the discharge by them of any obligations imposed by the agreement. This normally takes the form of a bond surety currently set at 40% of the total cost to construct the sewerage system, estimated using a schedule of rates prepared by the company. NIW can call upon the bond security should the person fail to meet the terms of the agreement. In such cases NIW would complete the work on the sewer or pumping station using the bond surety and adopt the sewerage system.

Where an administrator or receiver has been appointed, and work to bring the sewers or pumping station up to an adoptable standard is not completed within a specified time, NIW will call upon the bond security to bring the sewerage system up to adoptable standard and advise the administrator or receiver of the procedure and its intention to adopt the sewerage system.

## NI Water Unadopted sewers and Pumping Stations

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development, where outstanding agreements with NI Water or its predecessor are in place, what enforcement measures can be taken to ensure that unadopted sewers and pumping stations are brought up to a requisite standard for adoption.

(AQW 3476/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that there are currently some 322 existing agreements in place with persons constructing or proposing to construct a sewerage system, to adopt the system at a future date provided the terms of the agreement have been met. This includes agreements formerly with its predecessor Water Service which transferred to NIW on 1 April 2007. The other party to the agreement is required to provide security for the discharge by them of any obligations imposed by the agreement. This normally takes the form of a bond surety currently set at 40% of the total cost to construct the sewerage system, estimated using a schedule of rates prepared by the company. NIW can call upon the bond security should the person fail to meet the terms of the agreement. In such cases NIW would complete the work on the sewer or pumping station using the bond surety and adopt the sewerage system.

## NI Water: Prosecutions

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many times NI Water has been prosecuted in each of the last three years; and to detail the outcome of each case and the cost in legal fees.

(AQW 3487/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that since the start of 2008 it has been prosecuted 34 times and details of the outcome of each case and, where available, the cost in legal fees is included in the table below. Three cases relate to Street Works prosecutions and the remainder relate to environmental discharge offences. The cost in legal fees for many of the cases is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Year	Case	Outcome	Legal Fees
2008	Rathfriland Wastewater Treatment Works	£1,000	Not available
	Dunmurry Wastewater Treatment Works	£200	Not available
	Crumlin Sewage Pumping Station	£5,000	Not available
	Blackstaff Culvert	£1,000	Not available
	Fane Street Combined Sewer Overflow	£1,000	Not available
	Street Works, Belfast Road, Bangor	£200	Not available
2009	Carron Road Sewage Pumping Station	£5,000	Not available
	Dergmoney Sewage Pumping Station	£2,500	Not available
	Glenavy Sewage Pumping Station	£5,000	Not available
	Luke's Point Sewage Pumping Station	£2,000	Not available
	Massarene Bridge Combined Sewer Overflow	£1,000	Not available
	Rathfriland Wastewater Treatment Works	Conditional discharge	Not available

Year	Case	Outcome	Legal Fees
2010	Saintfield Network	£500	Not available
	Grahamville Estate Kilkeel manhole	£500	Not available
	Ballynakilly Combined Sewer Overflow	£1,500	Not available
	Newtownbreda Storm Overflow	£2,000	Not available
	Carron Hill Wastewater Treatment Works	£3,000	Not available
	Kitty's Road, Kilkeel	£700	Not available
	Sandholes Sewage Pumping Station	£500	£599
	Street Works, Bryansburn Road, Bangor	£800	Not available
	Street Works, Bryansburn Road, Bangor	£4,000	£775
2011 (to date)	Drumaness Wastewater Treatment Works	£2,000	Not yet invoiced
	Moneyreagh Wastewater Treatment Works	£1,000	£1,248
	Massarene Sewage Pumping Station	£2,000	£1,020
	Ramada Sewage Pumping Station	£1,000	Not yet invoiced
	Ballynakilly Sewage Pumping Station	Acquitted	£1,776
	Primary Walk Sewage Pumping Station	£1,000	Not yet invoiced
	Magheratimpany Sewage Pumping Station	£300	Not yet invoiced
	Drumaness Wastewater Treatment Works	£2,000	Not yet invoiced
	Haas Road Sewage Pumping Station	£1,000	£1,500
	Abbey Bridge Sewage Pumping Station	Withdrawn	£1,736
	Greysteel Wastewater Treatment Works	£1,000	£1,020
	Carron Road Sewage Pumping Station	£2,500	Not yet invoiced
	Streetworks – Ballybog Road, Lisburn	£1,000	Not yet invoiced

### Translink: Co-ordinated Timetables

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans are in place to ensure that the relevant Translink bus timetables are co-ordinated with the train timetables for Bangor to ensure the maximum availability for, and use by, passengers.

(AQW 3533/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink have advised me that during the past 12 months timetable alterations have been made to improve connections at Bangor between bus and rail. An example of this is where the Groomsport and Donaghadee services have been re-timed to arrive/depart 5 minutes earlier.

### Bus Routes in North Down: Reduction in Services

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to list any bus routes in the North Down area that are facing a reduction in services.

(AQW 3534/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** There were some alterations to services in the North Down area implemented on 1 July and 1 September 2011. The most significant change involved the removal of the Hollywood Town

Service, which also served Helen's Bay en route to and from Bangor, and this was due to lack of patronage on the service.

No further reductions are planned at this time.

### NSL Services Group

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 1969/11-15, to detail (i) the total cost to date to his Department of contracts with NSL Services Group; and (ii) the total money received by his Department as payment for penalties imposed.

(AQW 3538/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that payments of £43m have been made to NSL (formerly NCP), in respect of the parking enforcement and car-park management contract which commenced in October 2006.

Officials have also advised that income received from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs), to the end of September 2011, is £24.9m.

I should advise that revenue generated by the payment of PCNs is used, along with income from car-parking and other charges, to supplement the overall financing of Roads Service by Central Government.

### Review of the Appointment of Special Advisers

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the status within his Department of the Department of Finance and Personnel's review of the appointment of Special Advisers.

(AQW 3558/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** The Minister of Finance and Personnel has written to Executive colleagues to advise that the new arrangements recommended in the review will take effect from 6 September 2011 for future appointments. A revised Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers is being prepared by DFP and will be issued to Permanent Secretaries shortly.

### Airport Shuttle Buses

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the seat occupancy on the shuttle buses operating between Belfast International Airport and Belfast City Centre; and (ii) the profit or loss made by this service in each of the last two available years.

(AQW 3562/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink have advised me that in regard to (i) the information cannot be provided in the format requested as they do not record seat occupancy but rather passenger journeys. The number of passenger journeys for the period is as follows:-

2009/10	2010/11
335,120	326,072

Translink have further advised that in regard to (ii) they are unable to provide details of financial performance over the period requested as such information is considered commercially sensitive.

### Parking Tickets: Departmental Controlled Carpark, Ballymena

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of parking tickets issued because of insufficient payment for each day between 29 August 2011 and 5 September 2011 for each departmental controlled carpark in Ballymena.

(AQW 3586/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the parking contravention which is most closely associated with insufficient payment is when vehicles are 'parked after the expiry of time paid for' in a Pay and Display car-park. Details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) issued for that contravention in Roads Service's Pay and Display car-parks in Ballymena from 29 August 2011 to 5 September 2011 are contained in the following table:

<b>Car-Park</b>	<b>PCNs Issued for 'parked after expiry of time paid for'</b>							
	<b>29/8</b>	<b>30/8</b>	<b>31/8</b>	<b>1/9</b>	<b>2/9</b>	<b>3/9</b>	<b>4/9</b>	<b>5/9</b>
Ballymoney Road	0	21	10	2	11	3	0	8
Church Street 3	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Broughshane Street	4	2	3	4	0	0	0	0

### **Unadopted Roads in the Strangford Constituency**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the unadopted roads in the Strangford constituency with an outstanding road bond where houses have been occupied for more than a year.

**(AQW 3650/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service does not maintain details of unadopted roads by constituency or when the development was occupied. However, it does hold details of unadopted roads by Council area.

The Ards Council area is the most relevant council area to the Member and details of unadopted roads in that Council area, where there is an outstanding road bond, are provided below:

#### **Ballygowan**

Fox Hallow, Comber Road

The Forge, Moss Road

The Brae

#### **Kilmood**

26-40 Church Road

#### **Ballywalter**

Briar Park, Well Road

Salt Water Close

Greyabbey Road (Bartley's Wood)

The Brambles, Stump Road

Dunover Park

#### **Comber**

Adj 75 Belfast Road

Laburnum

Railway Street, Spinners Court

Castle Lane

1-67 Upper Crescent

Ardnavey Park

Belfast Road

#### **Killinchy**

Ardview Road (Strangford View)

The Beeches, Balloo

**Kircubbin**

Long Island Drive

McVeigh Meadows, Rubane

McKenna Road/Rubane Road

**Lisbane**

Cuan View, Lisbane

**Newtownards**

Teal Rocks

Old Shore Road (Bramblewood)

Aldergrange

The Willows, Stanvilla Road

Lansdowne Road

Stanfield Court

Bowtown Road

Ballybarnes Meadows

Belfast Road, Lakeview

20-34 East Street

Judes Crescent

Bangor Road

Mark &amp; Thomas Street

Kilmia Avenue

Helen's View Park

Mountpleasant, Old Belfast Road

210-218 Donaghadee Road

**Portaferry**

Ballyphillip Road

Ballygalget, Olivers Close

1a Demesne View

**Portavogie**

Main Street (Portview Heights)

New Court/Close

Warnocks Road (Gowland Road)

Main Road (The Tides)

Princetoon

Springfield Road

**Saintfield**

Todd's Hill Park

Park Lane

The Mill

**Derryboye**

Alder Grange, Darragh Cross

Crossgar Road, Shrigley

Osborne Drive, Shrigley

**Kilmore**

Kilmore Village

**Ballymaglave**

Lord Moira Park

Edengrove Park

Riverview Heights

Magheraknock Park

**Ballynahinch**

Drummond Brae

Cedar Hill

**Killyleagh**

The Moorings

Inishmore

**Unadopted Roads in the Strangford Constituency**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the unadopted roads in the Strangford constituency with an outstanding road bond.

(AQW 3651/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to her Assembly Question AQW 3650/11-15.



## Burning of Effigies in Roads Service Owned Car Parks

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his Department's position on the burning of effigies in Roads Service owned car parks.

(AQW 3832/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service does not approve or support the unauthorised use of the Department's property for any purpose.

Under the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993, my Department has the power to remove any bonfire material near or on a public road, which may constitute a danger to road users. However, bonfire management is an inter-agency issue and it is often difficult to find solutions acceptable to the interested parties, when problems arise.

The support, co-operation and involvement of local communities is an important factor, as was recognised in the report of the inter-agency group, which produced guidelines on bonfire management. In these circumstances, my Department's Roads Service will continue to take a joint approach with the other agencies in the management of bonfire sites.

Roads Service experience has been that many of the complaints received from the public are related to the stockpiling of materials on sites adjacent to public roads, which are not owned by Roads Service. On occasions where the overspill from bonfire stockpiles obstructs a public road or footway, Roads Service will remove it or arrange for it to be pushed back off the road onto the bonfire site, in consultation with the police and local communities as necessary.

However, Roads Service has a duty of care to its staff and the immediate and ongoing safety of personnel tasked with removal work must be taken into consideration, in consultation with the police and other parties.

In the relatively few instances where bonfires are actually brought onto public roads for lighting, Roads Service will arrange for burnt out debris to be removed and will carry out any repairs to carriageways, footways and street lights that may be needed.

## Bus Service for Students from Queen's University to Derry

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will reinstate the bus service for students from Queen's University to Derry, in light of the challenges that were faced by students trying to get from Queen's to the Europa bus station during last year's severe winter weather.

(AQW 4009/11-15)

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink have operational responsibility in regard to service provision. They have advised me that they have no plans to reinstate the bus service at Queen's University (QUB) to Londonderry. They did say that they did previously provide buses to Londonderry from the Student Union facing Queens University on a Friday, however, the buses were only used by a very small number of students and the service became unsustainable. This appears to have been because lecture times on Fridays varied for individual students and many were unwilling to wait until late afternoon. Currently Translink transports students to Queens University on Sunday nights on services departing from Foyle Street at 19:00.

Translink has completed a review of winter preparedness and resilience across the organisation as a result of the lengthy period of disruption last winter due to extreme weather. This review looked at communications plans, fleet availability, staff resources, emergency cover and associated issues, i.e. resource plans. An action plan was drawn up following last year's review and is being progressed. It is not clear that there was any major problems for students at QUB getting to the Europa Bus Centre last year, especially as a train runs from Botanic station to the site of the Europa Bus Centre and Metro bus services ran reasonably well during the period.

## Department for Social Development

### Boiler Scrappage Scheme

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many households qualify for the Boiler Scrappage Scheme; and (ii) how many applications have been successful.

(AQW 3321/11-15)

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** Any private sector householder, aged 60 years or over, in receipt of Rate Relief or over 70 and in receipt of Lone Pensioner Allowance but not Housing Benefit and with an existing boiler that is 15 years old or more can apply for the scheme. The number of householders who meet all the eligible criteria is unknown.

At 30 September, 504 application forms from eligible applicants have been received and 114 formal approvals to proceed with replacement works have been issued.

### Co-ownership Housing Applications

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the current level of uptake of co-ownership housing applications.

(AQW 3390/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** In the period 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011 181 homes have been purchased through the Co-Ownership Scheme. With the recent funding I have announced for the remainder of this financial year it is anticipated that Co-Ownership will help around 600 homes to be purchased. In addition, the £3.25 million FirstBuy NI pilot scheme I launched last week will enable another 100 people to enter homeownership this year.

### Staff: Third Level Education Courses

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of staff in his Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by his Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3395/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is contained in the tables below for the last three academic years.

(a) and (b)

Year	Number of Staff Paid for in Whole	Number of Staff Paid for in Part
2008/2009	1	47
2009/2010	1	61
2010/2011	1	52

Includes staff receiving fees paid for each year of study

**(II) – (IV) 2008/09**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
ACCA – Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	1,009.20	Part Time	University of Ulster
ACCA – Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	732.60	Part Time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Arts Culture & Society	364.59	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Arts, Culture & Society	504.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Arts, Culture & Society	706.37	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Business Management	606.96	Part Time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) Business Management	627.20	Part Time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) Business Studies	680.54	Part Time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) Business Studies & Management	336.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Business Studies & Management	168.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Humanities	488.00	Part Time	Open University
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	692.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	504.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	672.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Social Sciences	336.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Social Sciences with Social Policy	501.65	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Accounting	347.20	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	694.40	Part Time	University of Ulster

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	173.60	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	434.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	694.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies with Accountancy	388.47	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	694.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	694.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	347.20	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.94	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	694.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	694.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice	280.00	Part Time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice	640.00	Part Time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Information & Communication Technology	608.00	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Information & Technology	224.00	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Mathematics	888.00	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Public Relations	447.60	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Social Policy	488.00	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Social Policy	506.40	Part Time	University of Ulster

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	628.59	Part Time	Belfast Metropolitan College
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	796.40	Part Time	Belfast Metropolitan College
LLB (Hons) Law	333.85	Part Time	University of Ulster
LLB (Hons) Law with Politics	520.80	Part Time	University of Ulster
MA Literature	1,000.00	Part Time	Open University
MA Social Policy	1,000.00	Part Time	Open University
MA Translation	912.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
Mres Social Research Methods	912.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
MSc Organisation & Learning	912.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
MSc Sustainable Rural Development	182.40	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
Post Grad Diploma – International Business	1,000.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
Post Grad Diploma – Social Research Skills	495.46	Part Time	University of Ulster
<b>Total 2008/09</b>	<b>28,272.02</b>		

**(II) - (IV) 2009/10**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
ACCA - Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	812.60	Part Time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Arts Culture & Society	344.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Arts Culture & Society	516.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Arts, Culture & Society	688.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Business & Finance	211.82	Part Time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Business & Management Studies	516.00	Part Time	Open University

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
BA (Hons) Business Management	92.80	Part Time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) Business Management	206.02	Part Time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Business Studies	320.00	Part Time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) History & Social Sciences	344.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Humanities	215.95	Part Time	Open University
BA (Hons) Literature	527.65	Part Time	Open University
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	172.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	688.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	415.20	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	688.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	149.64	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
BA Professional Development	1,000.00	Part Time	Belfast Metropolitan College
BSc (Hons) Accounting	140.36	Part Time	South Eastern Regional College
BSc (Hons) Accounting	257.52	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Accounting	217.54	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	832.00	Part Time	Belfast Metropolitan College
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	710.40	Part Time	Southern Regional College
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	532.80	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	532.80	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	177.60	Part Time	University of Ulster

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	355.20	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Communication, Advertising and Marketing	1,000.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	355.20	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	704.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice	640.00	Part Time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice Studies	568.00	Part Time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Information & Communication Technology	643.68	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Physical Science	229.68	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Public Relations	532.80	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Social Policy	288.00	Part Time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Social Policy Degree	504.00	Part Time	Open University
BSc Communications	173.60	Part Time	University of Ulster
BSc Psychology	504.00	Part Time	Open University
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	146.97	Part Time	Belfast Metropolitan College

Course Title	Fee/Cost £	Part-time/ Full-time	Educational Institute
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	161.01	Part Time	Belfast Metropolitan College
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	95.27	Part Time	University of Ulster
CIPD Graduate Programme	464.75	Part Time	DMS Consultants
LLB (Hons) Law	206.02	Part Time	University of Ulster
Course Title	Fee/Cost £	Part-time/ Full-time	Educational Institute
LLB (Hons) Law	532.80	Part Time	University of Ulster
LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology	139.20	Part Time	University of Ulster
LLB Law with Politics	818.40	Part Time	University of Ulster
LLM Human Rights	936.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
MA Social Policy	540.00	Part Time	Open University
MA Translation	936.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
MSc Communication, Advertising and PR	1,000.00	Part Time	University of Ulster
MSc Innovation Management in the Public Service	1,230.77	Part Time	University of Ulster
MSc Organisation & Management	936.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
MSc Rural Development & Project Management	177.60	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
Post Graduate Diploma In Personal Management	1,000.00	Part Time	Queens University Belfast
Professional Accountancy	290.00	Part Time	CIPFA
Professional Accountancy	1,564.00	Part Time	CIPFA
<b>Total 2009/10</b>	<b>32,533.65</b>		



**(II) - (IV) 2010/11**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
ACCA - Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	759.85	Part time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Arts Culture & Society	704.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Arts Culture & Society	704.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Business & Finance	113.66	Part time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Business Studies	161.36	Part time	Northern Regional College
BA (Hons) Business Studies	438.24	Part time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) Business Studies	235.32	Part time	University of Ulster
BA (Hons) Literature	542.89	Part time	Open University
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	512.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	168.96	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	704.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	317.85	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	245.35	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	704.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	688.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast
BA (Hons) Management & Business Studies	781.60	Part time	South Eastern Regional College
BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy & Economics	320.00	Part time	Queens University Belfast

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
BA Business Management	704.00	Part time	South West College
BSc (Hons) Accounting	231.09	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Accounting	116.22	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	235.52	Part time	South Eastern Regional College
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	363.00	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	181.60	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Business Studies	726.40	Part time	University of Ulster
Course Title	Fee/Cost £	Part-time/ Full-time	Educational Institute
BSc (Hons) Communication Advertising & Marketing	320.00	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	726.40	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	710.40	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	694.40	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Community Development	704.00	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice	640.00	Part time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice	692.88	Part time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Counter Fraud & Criminal Justice	642.88	Part time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Crime & Criminology	656.00	Part time	University of Portsmouth
BSc (Hons) Information & Communication Technology	628.00	Part time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Physical Science	285.44	Part time	Open University
BSc (Hons) Psychology	864.00	Part time	Open University

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee/Cost £</b>	<b>Part-time/ Full-time</b>	<b>Educational Institute</b>
BSc (Hons) Sociology & Social Policy	363.20	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc Business Studies	177.60	Part time	University of Ulster
BSc Communications	120.80	Part time	University of Ulster
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	292.59	Part time	Belfast Metropolitan College
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	324.99	Part time	University of Ulster
LLB (Hons) Law	726.40	Part time	University of Ulster
LLB (Hons) Law	726.40	Part time	University of Ulster
LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology	168.96	Part time	University of Ulster
LLB (Hons) Law with Politics	710.40	Part time	University of Ulster
LLM Human Rights Law	955.20	Part time	University of Ulster
MA Social Research	307.20	Part time	Queens University Belfast
MPA - Master of Public Administration	1,000.00	Part time	University of Ulster
MPA - Master of Public Administration	1,000.00	Part time	University of Ulster
MSc Innovation Management in the Public Service	5,538.42	Part time	University of Ulster
MSc Organisation & Management	422.44	Part time	Queens University Belfast
PgDip/MSc Communication Advertising & Public Relations	299.52	Part time	University of Ulster
Professional Accountancy	463.00	Part time	CIPFA
<b>Total 2010/11</b>	<b>31,820.43</b>		

### **Implications of Welfare Reform on Future Poverty and Deprivation**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development what research has been carried out to assess the implications of welfare reform on future poverty and deprivation.

(AQW 3409/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** No specific research has been carried out to date by my department on the implications of welfare reform on future poverty and deprivation.

However, work is ongoing at present to develop a Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which will be used for poverty and scenario analysis. The PSM will produce outputs including the financial impacts on different demographic groups from policy changes to the tax and benefits system.

We are also planning to participate in a Department of Work and Pensions research project on the impact of housing benefit reform in the private rented sector, subject to us securing appropriate funds within October Monitoring.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) was commissioned by the Minister for Welfare Reform in Great Britain to undertake an independent review of passported<sup>1</sup> benefits (for example free school meals, free eye tests etc) and provide advice on possible approaches to the provision of such benefits under Universal Credit. Following representations from me, SSAC has agreed to include Northern Ireland within the scope of this review. SSAC will develop guiding principles for the design of passported benefits under Universal Credit and it is intended that these will be presented to the Minister for Welfare Reform in Great Britain in January 2012.

Finally, on 5th September, an Equality Impact Assessment was issued for public consultation; the responses to this consultation will help us to assess the impact of the Welfare Reforms across the equality groups.

## Welfare Reform

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail any meetings he has had with the UK Government in relation to welfare reform.

(AQW 3410/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** I have discussed the issue of Welfare Reform on 3 separate occasions with Lord Freud the Minister of State responsible for Welfare Reform and on one occasion with the Secretary of State, the Rt.Hon. Owen Patterson MP

Further, my officials are in regular weekly contact with Westminster officials about this and other relevant issues.

As a result of the various discussions that I have had with Westminster Ministers, I can assure Members that they are only too aware of the difficulties and challenges which we face, and which are unique to Northern Ireland.

I will continue to ensure that full account is taken of the particular circumstances that exist in Northern Ireland and that operational flexibilities and safeguards within the social security regime will be applied where necessary in the implementation of all of the welfare reform proposals, although I have to stress that this can only be done in line with the principle of parity.

## Fuel Poverty

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development to provide an estimate in the number of families affected by fuel poverty in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3421/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Fuel poverty is measured through the House Condition Survey which is compiled every 3 years by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The latest survey was published using data from 2009.

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1 By Passported Benefits we mean those benefits to which working-age claimants of certain means-tested benefits are automatically entitled. For example, free school meals, free eye tests, free dental treatment, etc.

The survey does not contain specific information about families, however, the results are broken down by household type and found that 14% of large family households (up 1% since 2006) and 63% of lone parent households (up from 46% in 2006) were in fuel poverty.

The provisional results of the next House Condition Survey including fuel poverty figures will be available by July/August 2011.

## Strategic Review of Gambling Policy, Practice and Law

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of the Department's consultation on the Strategic Review of Gambling Policy, Practice and Law, whether she is planning to relax the law to permit registered clubs and licensed premises to allow poker competitions.

(AQW 3424/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** A major consultation on proposals for reform of the gambling legislation was carried out by my predecessor earlier this year. The consultation sought views on a change in the law to allow registered clubs and licensed premises to offer poker, bingo and other equal chance gaming, subject to limits on stakes and prizes. I am currently giving detailed consideration to the many complex issues raised in the consultation and the views expressed. I will make an announcement on the way forward for the gambling review in due course.

## Housing Executive Properties: Maintenance Schemes

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail all planned maintenance schemes for Housing Executive properties in the North Antrim area in each of the next three years, including which schemes include the replacement of single glazing with double glazing.

(AQW 3448/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The tables below detail the planned maintenance schemes for the next three years in the North Antrim area. From 2012/13 onwards all External Cyclical Maintenance schemes will include the replacement of single glazed windows with double glazed windows. It is not possible at this stage to provide estimated start dates for schemes starting in 2012/13 and 2013/14 until funding decisions are taken later in the financial year.

Scheme Name	Dwellings	Estimated Cost (£)	Start date
<b>2011/12</b>			
Clintyfinnan/Rasharkin ECM *	388	1,300,000	16.05.11
Glebeside Ph1 ECM *	167	382,000	Jan 2012
Ballintoy/Liscolman ECM *	18	36,000	Jan 2012
Ballee ECM *	363	773,000	02.08.11
Killane Pk/ Chichester East Kitchens	121	691,000	03.10.11
Ballykeel 2 Ph1 Kitchens	87	439,000	Mar 2012
Carnanny Heating	66	429,000	Jan 2012
Cushendall/Cushendun Heating	37	186,000	25.07.11
Lantarra/Lettercreeve Heating	101	656,000	03.10.11
BallymenaTown Heating	169	1,190,000	10.10.11
Ballymena North Heating	87	565,000	Feb 2012

Scheme Name	Dwellings	Estimated Cost (£)	Start date
<b>2011/12</b>			
Ballymena South Heating	79	592,000	Nov 2011
Ballymena Med-Rise Flats H&S	180	354,000	Jan 2012

Scheme Name	Dwellings	Estimated Cost (£)
<b>2012/13</b>		
Glebeside Ph2 ECM *	163	326,000
Ballycastle Town ECM *	22	44,000
Ballykeel 1/Killane Pk ECM *	130	426,000
Ahogill/Portglenone ECM *	158	316,000
BallycastleTown Kitchens	94	479,000
Bushmills/Liscoleman Kitchens	61	244,000
Ballykeel 2 Ph2 Kitchens	85	382,000
Ballee Ph2 Heating	80	520,000

Scheme Name	Dwellings	Estimated Cost (£)
<b>2013/14</b>		
Balnamore/Bendooragh ECM *	148	296,000
Bushmills ECM *	239	478,000
Broughshane/Millfield ECM *	200	400,000
Glebeside Ph2 Kitchens	102	408,000

\* External Cyclical Maintenance scheme

## Boiler Replacement Scheme

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister for Social Development how many householders in the South Antrim area have applied to the Boiler Replacement Scheme since the scheme was launched; and, of these, how many were successful.

(AQW 3478/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested. South Antrim is part of the areas covered by the Housing Executive's North East Grants Office which also covers East and North Antrim.

As at 30 September, the North East Grants Office has received 237 application forms, of which 128 have been deemed eligible. Of those, 67 formal approvals to commence replacements works have been issued.

## Social Housing

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister for Social Development what steps the Housing Executive intend to take to increase the supply of social housing in the next four years in (i) Antrim; (ii) Ballyclare; (iii) Crumlin; (iv) Mallusk; and (v) Randalstown.

(AQW 3480/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The following schemes are included in the Social Housing Development Programme for South Antrim Parliamentary Constituency for 2011/12:-

<b>Glenavy Road, Antrim</b>	<b>PSNI Site, Templepatrick</b>	<b>Belfast/Antrim (Muckamore Reprovision)</b>	<b>Norfolk Court, Antrim</b>
55 units	5 units	20 units	12 units

The Housing Executive is currently drafting the Social Housing Development Programme for 2012/13 – 2014/15 and this will be submitted for my approval early next year, and will then be published.

## Patients Diagnosed with Cancer

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of whether it is necessary for patients who are diagnosed with cancer and in receipt of benefits to attend a review board while they are undergoing treatment.

(AQW 3508/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Social Security Agency claimants who may be required to attend a review board are those claiming Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Income Support (paid on the grounds of incapacity) claimants undergoing reassessment and those claiming Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

Claimants who are claiming Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit for the prescribed disease Diffuse Mesothelioma are not required to undergo a medical examination where they have provided medical evidence to confirm the diagnosis.

Employment and Support Allowance claimants who are terminally ill cancer sufferers are fast tracked under Special Rules procedures. Employment and Support Allowance claimants under Special Rules will not have to attend a medical assessment and will be automatically placed in the Support Group. Claimants undergoing certain forms of chemotherapy such as intravenous, intraperitoneal or intrathecal can be placed directly into the Support Group. Following a review, changes were made to the work capability assessment in March 2011 to provide that people waiting for, or between, courses of chemotherapy are also automatically included in the support group without the need for a face to face assessment. Professor Malcolm Harrington, an occupational health specialist is currently undertaking a second independent review of the work capability assessment. Professor Harrington has asked Macmillan Cancer Support to consider whether further improvements are needed, including whether people receiving oral chemotherapy should be placed directly into the support group. Recommendations for any improvements arising from the review will be considered in due course

Existing Incapacity Benefit and Income Support (paid on the grounds of incapacity) claimants undergoing reassessment will be required to complete a medical questionnaire as part of the work capability assessment. Where sufficient medical evidence that the claimant is suffering from certain serious conditions including cancer is available, a healthcare professional can recommend that the claimant be placed directly into the Support Group and will not be required to attend a medical assessment

The Agency recognises the need to treat claimants suffering from cancer in a sensitive and sympathetic manner and has support arrangements in place.

## Boiler Replacement Scheme

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development how many elderly people have been deemed eligible for the Boiler Replacement Scheme; and, of these, how many have had new boilers fitted.

(AQW 3510/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme offers a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of a new energy efficient boiler to eligible householders. To qualify a householder must be over 60 and in receipt of Rates Relief or over 70 and in receipt of Lone Pensioner Allowance but not Housing Benefit and have a boiler at least 15 years old. At 30 September, 504 application forms had been received from eligible applicants. 114 formal approvals to proceed with replacement works have been issued.

## October Monitoring Round

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail any easements that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3546/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The outcome of the Monitoring Round, including details of easements identified by all Departments, was announced to the Assembly by the Finance Minister on 24 October 2011. My Department identified cash and non-cash easements totalling £7.19m; the details are shown in the table below.

Easements	
Cash	£m
Social Security Agency	2.58
Child Maintenance & Enforcement Agency	1.00
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group	1.81
<b>NON- CASH</b>	
Social Security Agency	1.75
Child Maintenance & Enforcement Agency	0.05

## Loss of 200 Housing Units on the Girdwood Site in North Belfast

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister for Social Development what alternative sites he has identified to compensate for the loss of 200 housing units on the Girdwood site in North Belfast from the Housing Programme.

(AQW 3569/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** There are plans for 172 new units of housing spread across 14 schemes in North Belfast in the current Social Housing Development programme this year. The full details of these can be found at [www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk).

## Oil Stamp Saving Schemes

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development how his Department plans to promote the existing Oil Stamp Saving Schemes.

(AQW 3576/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Oil Stamp Savings Scheme offer households an excellent means of budgeting for oil and I am delighted that so many Councils throughout Northern Ireland are now operating Oil Stamp



Savings Schemes. Officials have already engaged in discussions with some Councils about a range of measures to tackle fuel poverty locally and plan to engage with all Councils in the near future.

## Fuel Poverty

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister for Social Development what action his Department is taking to support people in fuel poverty whose properties are within Smoke Control Zones.

(AQW 3594/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** My department's primary tool in tackling fuel poverty is the Warm Homes Scheme. Eligible householders with solid fuel heating systems can apply to the scheme for assistance to install a new oil or gas central heating system. Within the social housing sector, the Housing Executive administers an annual Heating Replacement Scheme which replaces solid fuel systems with new oil or gas systems.

## Demolishing Unwanted Flats and Houses

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development under what circumstances the Housing Executive must acquire planning permission prior to demolishing unwanted flats and houses.

(AQW 3630/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Currently under Northern Ireland planning arrangements, planning permission is not required for the demolition of buildings by the Housing Executive.

However, in order to comply with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Department of the Environment intends to bring forward proposals to revise its planning legislation so that where the demolition project constitutes Environmental Impact Assessment development an application for planning permission accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required.

It is anticipated that the new Direction on Demolition and associated regulations for permitted development would be in place by April 2012.

## Flats at Cairngorm Drive and Shanlea Drive, Larne

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development when he intends to authorise the demolition of the fire-damaged flats at Cairngorm Drive and Shanlea Drive, Larne.

(AQW 3631/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** I am pleased to advise the member that I have now approved the demolition of these units and have attached the Press Release announcing this decision.

McCausland Gives the Go Ahead for Removal of Craigyhill Flats, Larne.

Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland, today announced plans to remove flats which had become the focus of anti social behaviour in the Craigyhill area of Larne.

The plans will see 58 flats demolished in total; 34 flats at Cairngorm Road, 8 flats in Linn Road and 16 flats in Shanlea Drive.

Minister McCausland said: "This is an important day for the people of Craigyhill and the Linn Road estate. The demolition of these 58 flats will remove the blight of void and unlettable stock, enhance the environment and protect previous investment in the area. The completion of this project will see a much more pleasant and harmonious environment for the local residents by removing the source of anti-social behaviour which has proved a problem in the past."

The Housing Executive will now begin to contact all those directly affected by the demolition to outline exactly how they will be affected. An implementation plan will also be developed in consultation with the local community detailing how and when this work will be delivered.

## Assisted Voluntary Sales Schemes

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of (i) the viability of Assisted Voluntary Sales schemes; and (ii) whether lenders should be encouraged to implement the schemes.

(AQW 3645/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Although I have not made an assessment of such schemes I understand that assisted voluntary sales are exceptionally used by some lenders; mortgagors who cannot meet their mortgage commitments, sell their properties voluntarily and reach an agreement regarding any subsequent shortfall caused by negative equity.

- (i) Although they can offer mutual benefits to both parties, in all cases, people with mortgage arrears should seek independent advice. (ii) I recently met with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and asked that they encourage lenders to develop and apply appropriate forbearance measures to assist borrowers, including those who voluntarily initiate sale of their property to resolve their debt and housing difficulties. It is important that lenders co-ordinate with advice agencies to mitigate against repossession.

## Pension Credit Claimants in North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development, given that the North Down area has the lowest number of pension credit claimants in Northern Ireland, what plans he has to increase the number of claimants in the North Down area.

(AQW 3647/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** I am committed to improving the uptake of all benefits and my Department, through the Social Security Agency, provides a range of services to make people aware of their benefit entitlement. These include an outreach service, a programme of targeted exercises involving offering a confidential benefits assessment to existing customers with potential additional entitlement, an online Benefits Adviser Service as well as a general assistance with advice and information through our network of local and centralised offices.

I am also pleased to announce that the 2011/12 Benefit Uptake Programme has profited from new investment in the form of a province-wide advertising campaign aimed at older people and an Innovation Fund of £375,000 to allow community and voluntary sector partners to test new ways of increasing uptake of benefits.

The Outreach to Older People strand during the 2009/10 Benefit Uptake Programme targeted older people in North Down as it was an area of high pensioner population but lower uptake of pensioner benefits. The campaign involved local press advertising and poster and leaflet distribution in health centres, GP surgeries, pharmacies, libraries and older peoples' centres. Benefit assessments over the telephone using a Freephone number and help with making a claim were also part of the campaign. In addition, in 2010/11 almost 3,000 older people in the North Down area received a letter inviting them to contact a Freephone Helpline operated by the advice sector partner, Citizens Advice Bureau, who carried out benefit assessments and gave advice on a range of services. Pensioners in North Down Borough Council received the second largest amount of annual benefits and arrears as part of the 2011/12 campaign accounting for nearly £750,000 of the £3.92 million generated.

## Defining Fuel Poverty in Northern Ireland- A Preliminary Review

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the report by Christine Liddell 'Defining Fuel Poverty in Northern Ireland- A Preliminary Review'.

(AQW 3679/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** My Department's new Fuel Poverty Strategy "Warmer Healthier Homes" instigated a review of the current definition of fuel poverty to ensure that it remained appropriate and inclusive. Professor Christine Liddell, University of Ulster working in collaboration with Dr Brenda Boardman,

Emeritus Fellow, University of Oxford, was commissioned by the Department to carry out the review. The review has identified a core group of 75,000 households who are experiencing extreme fuel poverty and I have asked officials to review how we deliver energy efficiency and other measures in the future to assist those households most affected by fuel poverty.

### **Disability Living Allowance**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people currently receive a Disability Living Allowance.

(AQW 3700/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** There were 187,029 recipients of Disability Living Allowance at 2 October 2011, the most recent figure available.

### **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many motability cars issued in each of the last five years have been for claimants with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

(AQW 3765/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is not held by my Department. People who receive the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance and decide to exchange all, or part of their allowance in return for a car enter into an agreement with Motability which is an independent charity.

### **Motability**

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many cases of enforcement action have been taken against people with motability cars in each of the last five years; and, of these, how many (i) agreements were terminated; and (ii) cars were withdrawn.

(AQW 3766/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Motability Scheme whereby people who receive the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance may exchange all or part of their allowance in return for a car is administered by the independent charity Motability. Information on administrative matters can be obtained from Motability by writing to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow, and Essex, CM19 5PX.

### **Housing Benefit Fraud**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the costs incurred by rate payers as a result of housing benefit fraud in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 3771/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The estimated cost of Housing Benefit fraud in each of the last three financial years was published in the 2010/11 Department for Social Development Resource Accounts (laid before the Assembly on 1 July 2011) and is set out again in the table below. Costs are expressed as a percentage of the relevant benefit expenditure and are produced on a calendar year basis.

2008			2009			2010		
Estimated Benefit Fraud (m)	Benefit Expend (m)	% overpaid	Estimated Benefit Fraud (m)	Benefit Expend (m)	% overpaid	Estimated Benefit Fraud (m)	Benefit Expend (m)	% overpaid
£3.0	£467.9	0.6	£5.0	£538.5	0.9	£1.7	£606.8	0.3

## Housing Executive's Unpaid Loans

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the Housing Executive's unpaid loans for new build social housing that was built in the 1970s and 1980s.

**(AQW 3772/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive drew down 40 loans in the 1970s and 1980s to finance New Build at a value of £1511.9 million. Since then some loans have been redeemed in full. The current position is that 20 loans with a reduced value of £160.2 million still exist. These will be repaid over the period between 2012 and 2037. Details of these loans are included in the table below.

### OUTSTANDING BALANCES OF LOANS ADVANCED TO NIHE FROM CONSOLIDATED FUND DURING THE 1970S AND 1980S

£ Advanced	Date	Years	Last Payment	£ Balance
1,987,028.00	1970	60	2030	1,023,481
2,592,972.00	1970	60	2030	2,305,173
4,470,000.00	1970	60	2030	3,754,074
2,962,658.00	1971	60	2031	2,487,991
4,197,342.00	1971	60	2031	3,555,627
3,102,279.00	1971	60	2031	3,080,641
2,507,721.00	1971	60	2031	1,569,391
7,600,000.00	1972	60	2032	6,249,496
5,576,656.00	1972	60	2032	4,835,376
3,423,344.00	1972	60	2032	2,990,600
11,650,000.00	1973	60	2033	8,267,753
7,750,000.00	1973	60	2033	7,000,906
16,300,000.00	1973	60	2033	14,406,100
17,883,000.00	1975	60	2035	17,120,060
51,880,555.83	1977	60	2037	25,193,443
50,000,000.00	1987	25	2012	7,080,763
57,500,000.00	1988	25	2013	11,260,780
48,000,000.00	1988	25	2013	10,933,157
65,000,000.00	1989	25	2014	17,795,998
30,000,000.00	1989	25	2014	9,298,181
<b>394,383,555.83</b>				<b>160,208,991</b>

## Small Pockets of Deprivation

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the areas in the Ards Peninsula that are designated as Small Pockets of Deprivation areas.

(AQW 3835/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** There are currently three areas designated as Small Pockets of Deprivation in the Ards Peninsula. These are: The Glen Estate Newtownards, the West Winds Estate Newtownards and the Bowtown Estate Newtownards.

## Gambling Laws

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has any plans to change the gambling laws.

(AQW 3842/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** A major consultation on proposals for reform of the gambling law was carried out by my predecessor earlier this year. I am currently giving detailed consideration to the many complex issues raised in the consultation and the views expressed. I will make an announcement on the way forward for the gambling review in due course.

## Urban Development Grant Scheme

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development how many property owners and developers (i) applied for; and (ii) received an Urban Development Grant in the (a) Coleraine; (b) Portrush; and (c) Portstewart areas, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3862/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** There have been no applications or grants paid for Urban Development schemes to property owners and developers in the Coleraine, Portrush and Portstewart areas to date. The Department has however received several expressions of interest and verbal enquiries in relation to properties and sites in Portrush since the scheme was extended to include regional towns outside of Belfast and Londonderry from 1 January 2011.

## Discretionary Housing Payment

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the maximum amount payable under a discretionary housing payment.

(AQW 3881/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** There is no maximum amount of discretionary housing payment. Each case is assessed on its individual circumstances. However, from a budget management perspective, the Housing Executive's Housing Benefit managers are advised to limit individual discretionary housing payment awards to £25 per week unless there are exceptional circumstances. Claims over £25 are referred to the Housing Benefit Policy Unit for a decision.

## Helm Housing Association Interim Report

**Mr P Maskey** asked the Minister for Social Development when he will publish his Department's Regulatory and Inspection Unit's interim report on the Helm Housing Association.

(AQW 3895/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The draft report in respect of the Helm Housing Association is being compiled at present and is due for release to the Association by 5th November for their comments. It is hoped to have the report finalised and ready for publication before the end of December 2011.

## Green New Deal

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Green New Deal, whether his Department has any plans (i) to encourage social landlords to support their tenants during times of high energy prices; and (ii) to introduce schemes similar to the Social Homes Ecofit scheme in Manchester.

(AQW 3906/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Green New Deal is a programme for retrofitting the domestic building stock to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. A Cross Departmental Group which includes my department, DETI and DFP are in the process of examining options for the delivery of the programme.

Housing Associations support tenants by building energy efficient homes to 'Code 3 and 4' including solar panels and heat recovery systems if possible. Economy 7 heating systems have in the main been removed and most dwellings now have gas or oil heating. In addition, a number of Housing Associations take advantage of Cosy Homes schemes to keep their houses properly insulated and draught-proofed, including cavity wall insulation. Housing Associations also ensure that their houses are well maintained through planned maintenance schemes. Some have changed their fuel providers which has resulted in tenants benefitting from a reduction in the service charges which covers the cost of lighting all communal areas of flats, and some are investigating the possibility of bulk purchasing fuel. The Housing Executive also administers the Heating Replacement Scheme which replaces inefficient heating systems within their housing stock.

One of the actions in my department's fuel poverty strategy entitled 'Warmer Healthier Homes' was to develop an Energy Brokering Scheme for Housing Executive tenants. The Executive are in the processing of developing a scheme and are confident that they will be in a position to market test a scheme by the end of March 2012

## Pursuit of Funds from Housing Associations

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the pursuit of funds from the Housing Associations as stated in the 2011 Budget.

(AQW 3917/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** During the development of Budget 2010 the Executive set out its requirement for the Department to access £80 million from the existing Housing Association Reserves. Housing Associations reserves are not reflective of their cash holdings as associations generally use available cash to minimise their borrowing levels. The Department does not have the authority to access the cash balances or reserves of Housing Associations but through grant rates can influence the levels of private finance which is contributed to new social housing provision.

A financial exercise determined that reducing the HAG by 15% (from 60% to 50%) would potentially realise in excess of £70 million over the four year period. A review of grant rates at the beginning of this year concluded that such a reduction would not jeopardise the delivery of the social housing programme and was therefore implemented from 1 April 2011. The budget acknowledges that there will be some more complex schemes which cannot be delivered at the reduced rates and which may require a Departmental adjustment. In the current year the reduced grant rates are estimated to lever in an additional £24 million and a total of £72 million over the Budget 2010 period.

In addition the Department is exploring the potential to facilitate the early redemption of long term loans provided to associations in an earlier funding regime. There is currently approximately £11 million outstanding from these loans and a business case is being developed for DFP approval regarding the required conditions of any proposal. It is anticipated that this proposal would generate the additional £8 million to meet the overall target.

## Pensioners' Bungalows in Bloomfield Estate, Bangor

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the timescale for the maintenance work required to the pensioners' bungalows in Bloomfield Estate, Bangor.

(AQW 3927/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** An Economic Appraisal detailing the options for the work to improve these homes is currently being assessed. I recognise residents have waited for several years now for news of this improvement scheme and I plan to make an announcement on the way forward in the coming weeks.

## Halifax Savers Prize Draw

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development, given that people who have savings with the Halifax are being denied the opportunity to take part in the Halifax Savers Prize Draw, whether he intends to change the regulations to bring Northern Ireland in line with the rest of the UK.

(AQW 3943/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** I would refer the Member to the answer to question AQW 3171 / 11-15, put down by Roy Beggs, Member for East Antrim.

The answer is contained in the Written Answers Booklet for week ending 21 October 2011.

## Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

### Senate Chamber

**Mr Swann** asked the Assembly Commission whether the sound/speaker problems that were reported in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday 11 October have been resolved to such a standard that they will not recur.

(AQW 3293/11-15)

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** After a thorough investigation, the Communications Office has been unable to identify that any sound/speaker problems were reported in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday 11 October 2011.

If you require any further information you can contact Gareth McGrath, Director of Information on 02890521311 or e-mail [gareth.mcgrath@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.mcgrath@niassembly.gov.uk).

### Childcare Voucher Scheme

**Mr Beggs** asked the Assembly Commission when Assembly Secretariat staff will be able to benefit from the tax efficient Childcare Voucher Scheme.[R]

(AQW 3536/11-15)

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Assembly Commission provides the Assembly Childcare Allowance Scheme. The Scheme enables staff to apply for an allowance towards the cost of childcare while parents are at work and operates on the basis of a cash payment to eligible participants i.e. a "salary plus cash" arrangement. Payments made through the Scheme are subject to personal income tax and national insurance contributions. The Commission bears the cost of employers' national insurance contributions.

Under a Childcare Voucher Scheme, childcare can be purchased up to the value of £55 per week (£243 per month) that is exempt from personal income tax and national insurance contributions and from employer's national insurance contributions. An administration charge is normally payable. In the wider public sector, a childcare voucher scheme is normally on a "salary sacrifice" basis where a member of staff foregoes a portion of their salary in exchange for childcare vouchers. The Assembly Secretariat's



payroll system does not currently facilitate salary sacrifice arrangements. However, this will be addressed through the implementation of a new Human Resource Management System (including payroll) during 2012.

Any decision to move from the present Assembly Childcare Scheme to a Childcare Voucher Scheme based on salary sacrifice would require further deliberation by the Assembly Commission.

### Press Officers and Public Relation Officers

**Mr Dallat** asked the Assembly Commission to detail the (i) number; (ii) grade; and (iii) annual salary of press officers and public relation officers employed by the Assembly Commission in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3561/11-15)

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Assembly Commission does not have posts titled press officer or public relations officer. However, the work of Communications Officers and Deputy Communications Officers focuses on raising awareness and understanding of the work of the Assembly and are included in this response. The numbers of staff in these categories are shown in the tables below. For data protection reasons the actual salaries of staff is not disclosed. The salary band for each post is provided.

#### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – ASSEMBLY GRADE 5

	Number of Staff	Salary Band
As at 31 March 2009	1	£28,153 – £38,893
As at 31 March 2010	2	£32,643 - £38,893
As at 31 March 2011	2	£36,485 - £41,331

#### DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – ASSEMBLY GRADE 6

	Number of Staff	Salary Band
As at 31 March 2009	2	£22,621 - £30,520
As at 31 March 2010	2	£27,764 - £30,520
As at 31 March 2011	2	£29,543 - £33,446



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