

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 24 February 2012**

**Volume 73, No WA1**



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

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

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 24 February 2012

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### **Organisations: Barring Members from Marrying Persons on the Basis of their Religion**

**Mr McKay** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what action their Department is taking to ensure that no organisation bars its members from marrying persons on the basis of their religion.

**(AQW 2148/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** The Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 makes discrimination on grounds of religious belief unlawful in the fields of employment, education, training, goods, facilities and services and premises. However, this legislation does not apply to membership of private clubs.

#### **Provisions of Employment Legislation**

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of their responsibility for equality, whether they have any plans to cause a review of the provisions of employment legislation which means that teachers in schools are not protected in employment against discrimination on the grounds of religious belief.

**(AQW 5441/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 makes discrimination on grounds of religious belief unlawful in the fields of employment, education, training, goods, facilities and services and premises.

The legislation does not, however, apply to the recruitment of teachers (Article 71).

Responsibility for the underlying policy in relation to the teachers' exemption and whether or not it is to be retained, modified or abolished rests with the Department of Education. OFMDFM would not envisage making any amendments to this section of the Fair Employment and Treatment Order without the full involvement of the Department of Education on the underlying policy. Therefore, OFMDFM is not planning a review.

However, we understand that the Department of Education has recently undertaken a review of recruitment opportunities in the teaching sector and this will shortly be submitted to the Minister of Education.

#### **Play and Leisure Policy**

**Mrs Overend** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the Play and Leisure Policy since March 2011.

**(AQW 6817/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Since March 2011 we have engaged fourteen councils to establish play and leisure strategic partnerships to ensure a joined-up approach to the planning and

commissioning of play and leisure services to meet the needs of local children, and we are currently engaging with the other twelve councils. We have additionally delivered seminars on risk-taking in play and on shaping communities to be play and child friendly; and invested in exemplar projects across council areas on new and innovative play areas.

### **Independent Economic Advice**

**Mr Lunn** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the process that is in place for the Executive to receive independent economic advice, compared to that of the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government.

**(AQW 7272/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** When independent economic advice is sought by Executive Ministers, it is obtained through the normal procurement process consistent with Central Procurement Directorate public procurement policy. Key considerations would involve the application of appropriate eligibility and selection criteria, including value for money, level of expertise, relevance and experience reflecting the specific requirements of the tender. Departmental economists provide advice to departments in support of investment appraisal, policy formulation, implementation and evaluation.

In addition, the Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment commissioned the Independent Review of Economic Policy (IREP) in 2009, to undertake a root and branch assessment of how DETI supports business in Northern Ireland. The independent panel was chaired by Professor Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ulster. One of the recommendations from the review was the formation of an Economic Advisory Group. The Group was established on 28 May 2010 with the primary role to provide the DETI Minister with independent economic advice.

Similarly in Scotland, the work of the Scottish Government is supported by a range of economic advice from analysts within the Scottish Government and, on occasion, by externally commissioned research. In 2007, the Scottish Government established the Council of Economic Advisers to provide expert economic advice to Ministers drawing on expertise from the academic and business communities.

In Wales, most economic research is commissioned externally. The Welsh Government has an Economic Research Advisory Panel whose purpose it is to advise the Welsh Government on a programme of economic research, monitoring and evaluation.

### **Mobile Phone Applications**

**Mr McKay** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) any mobile phone applications that have been designed by their Department, and its arm's length bodies, for use by members of the public; and (ii) any that are currently being developed.

**(AQW 7537/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** No mobile phone applications have been designed by our Department or any of its arm's length bodies for use by members of the public, nor are any currently being developed.

### **Business Plan 2011/12**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in relation to their Department's Business Plan 2011/12, for an update on the objective to implement the recommendations in the review of Ilex for the improved delivery of regeneration in Derry-Londonderry by October 2011.

**(AQW 7588/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Ilex and sponsor departments have made progress in the implementation of recommendations following the publication of the review of Ilex in 2011.

Progress has been made in the development of both internal and external relationships, processes and performance along with a number of organisational improvements. These have contributed to the

implementation of a number of Ilex regeneration objectives, such as completion of the Peace Bridge and the completion of Ebrington Square at Ebrington Parade Ground.

Departments continue to monitor progress and to work with Ilex to improve delivery or regeneration work in the City.

### Recruitment Agencies

**Dr McDonnell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the amount paid to recruitment agencies for (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time posts in their Department, and its arm's-length bodies, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7740/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Temporary workers are procured through recruitment agencies within a central DFP framework contract. Temporary workers may include administrative staff and staff in specialist areas for example, accountants.

The current contract, which has been in place since December 2011, also allows our ALBs, who cannot access NICS casual staff, to access the framework to engage temporary staff.

	2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011	
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time
Department	£82,074		£83,777		£18,307	
Arms Length Bodies	£351,575	£103,208	£351,741	£177,853	£238,498	£23,965

### Social Protection Fund

**Mr Swann** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister which Departments have submitted bids for funds from the Social Protection Fund for the 2012/13 financial year.

**(AQW 7849/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** As we said in answer to AQO 1213/11-15 on 6 February, the Executive established a Social Protection Fund to assist those most in need within the wider community.

This year the Executive agreed to prioritise fuel poverty through this fund and agreed that the entire £20 million budget would contribute towards a Winter Fuel Poverty Payment Scheme, brought forward by DSD and DHSSPS, under the Financial Assistance Act.

While funding for the programme was only secured for this financial year, the Budget document outlined our intention to seek additional money in years 2, 3 and 4 of this budget period from additional revenue streams identified by Ministers coming into operation and delivering new resources for deployment.

Our officials are continuing discussions with departmental colleagues to develop proposals that will target our most vulnerable individuals. These would then be capable of early consideration once the necessary funding has been secured.

### Chairperson and Board of the Maze/Long Kesh Development Board

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) why there has been a delay in the appointment of the Chairperson and Board of the Maze/Long Kesh Development Board; and (ii) when the appointments will be confirmed.

**(AQW 7851/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The recent public appointments competition to establish the Board did not identify a suitable candidate for the Chair of the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation Board and we are currently considering the way forward.

In order to ensure that the members of the Board have the necessary range of skills, including business and development expertise, we will shortly be re-advertising under the Public Appointments process in order to attract a broader pool.

We will be retaining the current pool of successful board members from the last competition and hope to have the Development Corporation Board operational by early summer 2012.

### Civil Service Posts

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many Civil Service posts existed in their Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv) Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by local Council area.

**(AQW 7858/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The vast majority of posts in our Department are based in the Stormont Estate. Small teams operate outside the Belfast City Council area and these are shown in the table below.

Grade level (includes analogous grades)	Number of posts at April 2007			Number of posts at February 2012		
	Belfast City Council	Armagh City & District Council	Derry City Council	Belfast City Council	Armagh City & District Council	Derry City Council
AA	20	2		14	1	
AO	68	1	3	51	1	3
EO II	44	2		43	3	
EO I	37	2		26		
SO	66	4		58	2	
DP	59	3		67	3	
Grade 7	41	1		41	1	
Grade 6	3			2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

### Services Tendered for the Opening of the Ebrington Barracks Site

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) how many applications were received for all services tendered for the opening of the Ebrington Barracks site; and (ii) the constituency in which each successful company is based.

**(AQW 7925/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Ilex procured an Events Management company to manage the opening of Ebrington Parade Ground. In line with procurement guidelines this opportunity was publicly advertised and three applications, one based in Dromore, one based in Derry/Londonderry and a joint venture between a Derry/Londonderry firm and a firm based in the North West of England, were received and assessed. The successful company is based in Dromore, but engages staff from across the region.



In the Terms of Reference issued for this role, Ilex requested that applicants would demonstrate a commitment to sourcing goods and services locally. As a consequence of this, almost 70% of goods and services for the event have been procured locally. Services were sought from a total of 103 suppliers. Of the 74 successful companies, local suppliers are located as follows:

Derry~Londonderry	52 suppliers
Down	10 suppliers
Antrim	9 suppliers

There are three successful suppliers beyond Northern Ireland.

### Department's Human Resources Section

**Dr McDonnell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many staff are employed in their Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7938/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We currently employ 6 staff in our Human Resources team (5 Full-Time Equivalent).

### Strategic Support Funding

**Mr Elliott** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what measures are in place to ensure that there is no delay in providing victims and survivors groups with Strategic Support Funding in the 2012/13 financial year.

**(AQW 7964/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Funding for Strategic Support Funding (SSF) for 2012-13 has been confirmed and procedures have been put in place to ensure that there will be no requirement to extend existing SSF contracts into next year.

It is fully intended that the Letters of Offer for 2012-13 will issue to successful applicants by 31 March 2012 to ensure that there is no delay in the provision of funding.

The Community Relations Council is fully committed to meeting this deadline.

### Planned Expenditure

**Mr Moutray** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the planned expenditure of their Department's arm's-length bodies in each (i) constituency; and (ii) council area, in the next 12 months.

**(AQW 7984/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** OFMDFM arm's length bodies are unable to analyse their planned expenditure into constituency and council areas. The majority of their spend is grant funding and this is dependent upon the geographical spread of applications received.

### Racism Strategy

**Mr Moutray** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they expect to announce a new racism strategy.

**(AQW 7985/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Work continues to develop a new Strategy to replace "A Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005-2010" and the Racial Equality Panel has discussed this at meetings during 2011. This work will continue to progress over the coming months.

We remain committed to developing the new Strategy through a partnership process with minority ethnic groups and the wider community, as we did with the original Strategy.

Once this development process is completed it is anticipated that an announcement will be made about consultation on the draft.

### **10-year Strategy for Children and Young People**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 7512/11-15, to detail when the review of progress against the indicators in the Strategy will be completed, and to explain why this piece of work is currently eight months overdue.

**(AQW 8028/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The review of progress against the indicators in the Children and Young People's Strategy will be completed by March 2012. The delay has been due to the need to ensure the evaluation incorporates the latest 2010-11 data.

### **Arm's-Length Bodies and Third Party Organisations**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the arm's-length bodies and third party organisations that report to them.

**(AQW 8029/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We sponsor a number of arm's length bodies, listed below, most of which are Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies. We also sponsor a Tribunal Non-Departmental Public Body and two statutory office holders. In addition, two of the organisations we support are treated as third party organisations but our Department, in conjunction with DFP, is currently considering whether these should be reclassified as Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

<b>Body</b>	<b>Classification</b>
The Commissioner for Children and Young People for NI	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
The Commission for Victims and Survivors for NI	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
The Commissioner for Older People for NI	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
The Equality Commission for NI	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Ltd	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
Strategic Investment Board Ltd	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
NI Judicial Appointments Commission	Executive Non Departmental Public Body
Planning and Water Appeals Commissions	Tribunal Non Departmental Public Body
Commissioner for Public Appointments for NI	Statutory Office Holder
Attorney General for NI	Statutory Office Holder
NI Community Relations Council	Treated as a third party organisation
NI Memorial Fund	Treated as a third party organisation

### **Strategic Support Fund application by FAIR**

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 6929/11-15, given that the information requested does not include the content of the legal advice provided, to detail (i) when the Departmental Solicitor's Office received a request for guidance from the Community Relations

Council, in relation to the Strategic Support Fund application by FAIR; and (ii) why there has been a delay in providing a response.

**(AQW 8199/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We refer to our answer previously given to AQW 6929/11-15. This question relates to the provision of legal advice by the Departmental Solicitor's Office to a Public Body. The provision of such advice is confidential and privileged. Therefore it is not appropriate for us to discuss or comment on such provision.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### Department's Human Resources Section

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many staff are employed in her Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7758/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** My Department has 35 staff (32.6 Full-time Equivalent) staff employed in its Human Resources section.

### Single Farm Payments

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much has been paid out in this round of Single Farm Payments; and how much has still to be paid.

**(AQW 7778/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** A total of 37,854 potentially eligible applications were submitted under the 2011 Single Farm Payment Scheme. At 10 February, some 34,627 (91.5%) of these applications have been finalised and a total of £239 million paid out to farmers. There remains, potentially, up to £28 million still to be paid. Not all of the remaining claims will be due a payment because of ineligibility or the application of penalties under scheme rules.

EU regulations require Paying Agencies, including my Department, to pay out at least 95.24% of its available 2011 SFP budget by 30 June 2012 in order to avoid them incurring late payment penalties.

### Department's Equality Unit

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in her Department's Equality Unit.

**(AQW 7795/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** There is a total of 4 staff employed in the DARD Equality Unit, all of which are part-time. The annual cost of employing these staff is £121,725.

### Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the timescale for the implementation of the proposed Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

**(AQW 7798/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The proposed Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments) Regulations (NI) 2012 have recently been the subject of a public consultation that closed on 10 January 2012. The consultation issued to over 2,000 consultees and has given dog breeders, specialist interest groups, Councils and the general public the opportunity to comment on the proposals. A substantial number of responses were received and my officials are currently analysing these. In the coming weeks I will

be considering all the responses before deciding the final detail of the draft Regulations. I anticipate that the ARD Committee will have the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Regulations in March 2012, following which I will seek Executive agreement to lay them in the Assembly for debate under the draft affirmative resolution procedure. Subject to approval by the Assembly, the Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishment) Regulations would come into operation during April 2012.

### **Price of Fertilisers for Farmers**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to help reduce the price of fertilisers for farmers.

**(AQW 7859/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Fertiliser prices are driven by the interaction of international demand and supply conditions and by energy prices. Therefore, it is not possible for me, or for government, to influence these drivers.

My Department is, however, working with farmers to help them minimise their requirements for chemical fertiliser inputs through a range of measures including; training workshops, nutrient management planning and capital grant support.

In recent years the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) delivered Nutrient Management Planning workshops to over 2027 farmers. These workshops focused on the interpretation of soil analysis, the value of slurry and manure, chemical fertiliser requirements to grow successful crops, understanding the Nitrates Directive and hands-on use of nutrient management decision support programmes to help farmers calculate nutrient content of slurry applications. These support tools are available through the RuralNI website.

Research at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) has shown that spreading slurry by a trailing-shoe system gave a 26% improvement in total Nitrogen utilisation compared to conventional splash plate method. The resulting improved grass yield is equivalent to applying chemical nitrogen fertiliser at a rate of 44 kg per hectare.

Therefore, my Department is providing capital grant support to farmers to encourage uptake of advanced slurry spreading equipment such as the trailing shoe system under the Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme (METS). This equipment achieves greater nutrient efficiency from slurry and therefore reduces chemical fertiliser requirements and input costs for farmers. This has been promoted through Slurry Efficiency workshops for farmers run by CAFRE.

In 2009 CAFRE has launched a Grass / Clover Monitor Farm technology project. The project encourages farmers to use clover in grass swards to fix atmospheric nitrogen. It is particularly relevant on beef and sheep farms where the use of chemical fertilizer is generally lower than on dairy farms. With the significant increase in chemical fertilizer costs training and development work over the past three years has focussed on reducing costs through the CAFRE technologists and advisers working with groups of farmers throughout the north.

### **Ranunculus Fluitans**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether *Ranunculus fluitans* has been added to any waterway by her Department in the last 25 years; and if so, what was the rationale for its addition.

**(AQW 7913/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department has not added *Ranunculus fluitans* to any waterway in the last 25 years.

### **Slaughter Houses**

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she would consider bringing forward proposals which would make CCTV mandatory for all slaughter houses to ensure that animal welfare laws are upheld.

**(AQW 8003/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** There is no evidence in the north of Ireland to suggest that compulsory CCTV is necessary to prevent acts of animal cruelty in slaughterhouses and I have no plans at the moment to introduce legislation to make it so. However, if there was evidence that the introduction of compulsory CCTV would significantly improve animal welfare here, I would certainly consider introducing legislation to do so.

I would advise that we have a total of 20 slaughterhouses here. 13 have already installed CCTV voluntarily. Two further plants have CCTV in place but not in the stunning area. The five remaining meat plants are small.

I can assure you that my Department and I take the welfare of animals very seriously. Veterinary Officers from my Department are present in all approved slaughterhouses during times of slaughter each day to verify that the slaughterhouse operator fulfils their obligations under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1996.

Late last year I met Kate Fowler, Animal Aid's Campaign Manager, to discuss CCTV in slaughterhouses. I made the point that my officials have a constant presence at point of slaughter. I also pointed out that in one of the highly publicised cases of animal cruelty in a slaughterhouse in Britain the plant did have CCTV installed and that this did not prevent the welfare incident occurring. So CCTV is not the perfect solution that some advocates maintain.

My Department is currently considering the role CCTV might play in helping ensure business operators comply with their obligations under EC Regulation 1099/2009, on the welfare of animals at the time of killing, which comes into effect on 1 January 2013. At my request, my veterinary officials have alerted the red meat industry to the potential benefits of CCTV in meat plants and have encouraged them to use it on a voluntary basis.

To consider making the installation of CCTV mandatory I have to be mindful of the fact there are only five small slaughterhouses that currently do not have CCTV in place. Rather than bringing forward legislation, I would prefer to try and secure agreement from the 5 remaining plants to install CCTV voluntarily. I intend to approach the slaughterhouses directly on this matter. However, if I feel that it is necessary to consider the introduction of compulsory monitoring using CCTV, I would want to assess the available evidence and also to examine developments in Britain and the south with input from stakeholders, including animal welfare groups and slaughterhouse operators, before making any such decision.

### **Stationery Costs in Replying to Assembly Written Questions**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department has spent on stationery costs in replying to Assembly Written Questions, including the price of the envelopes and paper used, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8049/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The information being sought is not available as the Department does not routinely estimate stationery costs incurred in answering Assembly Written Questions.

### **Tree Population in North Down**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the areas in North Down in which her Department is planning to increase the tree population.

**(AQW 8055/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I would like to see more trees planted throughout the whole of the north of Ireland, including North Down, to achieve our long term aim of increasing woodland cover to 12% of land area.

I announced to the Assembly, in November 2011, a review of the support arrangements for private planting, in order to find better ways to persuade landowners to plant trees. This report will feed into the new Rural Development Programme.

## **InterTradelreland report Agri-Food: A Study for Cross-Border Cooperation**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when she received the Intertradelreland report Agri-Food: A Study for Cross-Border Cooperation.

**(AQW 8079/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** At its meeting on 17 January 2012 the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment. This correspondence included the report from Intertradelreland on 'Agri-Food: A Study for Cross Border Co-Operation'. The Chair of the Agriculture Committee subsequently forwarded the report to me and it was received in my office on 20 January 2012.

## **Strangford Lough**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action she is taking to ensure that the sailing fraternity on Strangford Lough are consulted on all matters relating to Strangford Lough.

**(AQW 8136/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department's responsibilities are restricted to fisheries issues in Strangford Lough. However where any proposals might affect other users, the Department will ensure there is full consultation, including sailing interests if necessary and the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership where sailing interests are represented.

## **Strangford Lough Horse Mussel Reef Issue**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to list the communications her Department has had with Europe, over the last ten years, in relation to the Strangford Lough Horse Mussel reef issue.

**(AQW 8137/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department has communicated directly and indirectly with the European Commission over the last ten years in relation to the protection and restoration of Strangford Lough Horse Mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) reefs.

On 18th June 2004 the European Commission wrote to our Representative asking what measures the Member State proposed to comply with Articles 2.2 & 6.2 of Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC in order to protect the *Modiolus* communities in the Strangford Lough SAC. DARD and the DOE contributed to the response to the Commission that was issued via our Representative on 1st September 2004

The Commission wrote again to our Representative on 12th October 2005 raising concerns that the *Modiolus* reefs in the Lough were no longer in a favorable conservation status and proposing infraction unless restoration measures were undertaken.

DARD and the DOE contributed to the response to the Commission that was issued via our Representative on 23rd December 2005. This response detailed the further measures which had been implemented and outlined the *Modiolus* restoration plan. European Commission officials agreed the *Modiolus* restoration plan with DARD and DOE officials in early 2006.

There was no further communication with the Commission on the issue until 1st December 2010 when, DARD and the NIEA met the Commission along with the Fisheries Administrations in Britain to discuss implementation of the Habitats and Bird Directives in a number of protected sites throughout Britain and the north of Ireland (a "package" meeting). DARD and the NIEA contributed to a follow up response from DEFRA to the Commission with an update on the Strangford Lough Horse Mussel issue.

On 24 January 2012, DARD and the NIEA participated in a second "package" meeting with the Commission and the other Administrations. In relation to Strangford Lough further proposals for restoration and protection of horse mussels were discussed in the context of the complaint made to



the Commission by the Ulster Wildlife Trust in November 2011. The Departments are currently awaiting further communication from the Commission on the matter.

### **Safety Aboard Fishing Vessels**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what advice her Department has given to fishermen, and their representative bodies, regarding the funding which is available through the European Fisheries Fund for improving safety aboard fishing vessels.

**(AQW 8139/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The availability of funding for projects that improve safety onboard fishing vessels has been promoted by holding information seminars in three County Down and one County Antrim fishing ports. In addition, there is regular contact with individual fishermen and their representative groups where the availability and eligibility of funding is often discussed with my officials.

For the past 3 years, my Department has supported a part-time EFF Facilitator to promote awareness of opportunities under the Programme and provide fishermen with information and assistance in completing application forms. The DARD website provides information on the European Fisheries Fund Measures open for applications and a link to guidance notes for potential applicants, including a set specifically tailored to the vessel modernisation measure.

### **Injuries Aboard Fishing Vessels**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many injuries aboard fishing vessels have been reported in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8141/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department does not compile records of injuries aboard fishing vessels. Accidents involving fishing vessels and their reporting and investigation are the responsibility of the Department of Transport. Its agency, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, reports on accidents at sea and annual and other reports can be found at:

<http://www.maib.gov.uk/publications>

### **Safety Aboard Fishing Vessels**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what advice and assistance her Department gives to fishermen, and their representative bodies, to improve safety aboard fishing vessels.

**(AQW 8142/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** It is the responsibility of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to provide advice and guidance to fishermen on how to improve safety onboard fishing vessels, with my Department's role limited to advising the industry of the availability of funding opportunities for safety-focused improvements through the European Fisheries Fund.

To date, under the European Fisheries Fund's Vessel Modernisation Measure, my Department has awarded £167,000 grant support to 17 applicants to undertake £400,000 worth of safety-related investment onboard their vessels. A further £156,000 grant support has been offered to representative bodies to deliver 3 safety initiatives across the entire fleet, that focus on buoyancy aids, Man-overboard Guardians and the stability of our Under 15m fleet.

### **Meeting with Representatives of the Portavogie Fishing Industry and the UK Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon, MP**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why neither she, nor any of her officials, attended a meeting with representatives of the Portavogie fishing industry and the UK

Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon, MP on 7 February 2012; and to outline her diary commitments for that day.

**(AQW 8163/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The visit by Richard Benyon to Portavogie and Kilkeel on 7th February 2012 was arranged by the NIO and DEFRA. I and my Department were only informed of the visit on 30th January 2012. At this late stage my prior diary commitments meant that I was unable to attend. These commitments included a meeting with the Chief Executive of BT Ireland, a meeting with students in advance of the Greenmount Centenary Careers event, and the first of the DARD Stakeholder events on CAP Reform. The 7th February was also an Assembly sitting day.

However, I was able to meet with Richard Benyon on Monday 6th February and we had a useful discussion about a range of fisheries issues.

My officials were not expressly invited to attend the visits.

### **Theft in Rural Areas**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what contact she has had with the PSNI regarding theft in rural areas, and in particular livestock theft.

**(AQW 8198/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I recently met the Chief Constable to highlight the increase in rural crime, including the rise in theft from farms, and the very high level of concern it is causing within the farming community. The Chief Constable has since written to notify me of a recent intelligence led investigation which has resulted in the recovery of stolen items including a tractor, plant and tools. As a result of this investigation I understand that an individual is to appear at Court in the coming weeks charged with handling stolen goods. I will be meeting the Chief Constable again shortly to discuss how we can work together to tackle rural crime including raising awareness of measures which farmers can take to reduce incidences of rural crime. I also want to explore how DARD Direct Offices can be used to disseminate information to rural dwellers.

The Department's Veterinary Service Enforcement Branch has also been working closely with the PSNI in dealing with rural crime including carrying out joint on farm inspections, training some members of the PSNI in areas of livestock movement and identification and establishing 24/7 communication channels.

### **Vaccinating Badgers**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how her Department will be able to implement an effective course of action for vaccinating badgers without conducting area-specific research.

**(AQW 8233/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** We are closely tracking badger vaccine development progress in England and in the south of Ireland. It is important that we do not duplicate the expensive research work that is ongoing in other areas, but that we draw down the lessons from that work and also collaborate where appropriate. An international vaccination experts' workshop is planned on the island of Ireland for pre-summer 2012 to consider badger vaccination issues and to inform how best to proceed on badger vaccination.

My Department has commissioned a number of studies here that will inform our policy, including a Badger Population Survey which was conducted in 2007/08; and a TB Biosecurity Study which was carried out in 2010/11 in a TB high incidence area in Co. Down and which considered selected cattle and wildlife factors. The Study findings should add to our knowledge of TB risk factors and contribute to the development of best practice and biosecurity advice. Preparatory work is also underway for a study to investigate badger and cattle interactions at pasture and around cattle housing and farmyards.

Additional funding of some £4 million has been reserved in my Department's budget to commission a programme of TB and wildlife research and studies to help ensure we have well informed and evidence



based strategies to address the issue of cattle to cattle spread as well as the wildlife issue. We have engaged with industry and wider stakeholders to help us identify and refine our TB evidence needs and priorities.

We will monitor closely the outputs from all these trials and studies and draw down the lessons learned, where appropriate.

### **Farm Modernisation Scheme**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the third tranche of the Farm Modernisation Scheme will be targeted specifically towards farmers in Less Favoured Areas.  
**(AQW 8345/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I recently announced a consultation exercise on the proposed selection criteria for the third tranche of Farm Modernisation Programme.

In addition to the scheme's primary focus on modernisation of farms I am keen that the third tranche should prioritise younger farmers. I have therefore given more weight to this criterion in this tranche, however, we may consider whether targeting specific funds toward farmers in less favoured areas is required in the future

I have also introduced a new criterion awarding marks to those who have not applied for funding or received funding from the programme previously. The final criterion relates to the submitting of applications online and I would encourage as many farmers as possible to do so.

With the total funding for this tranche now £5.5m this will allow more farmers to benefit from the scheme and will provide significant support and a much needed boost to farmers and the wider economy in the current difficult economic climate.

### **Equality Impact Assessments and Consultations**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department has spent on (i) Equality Impact Assessments; and (ii) consultations in each of the last three years.  
**(AQW 8443/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Section 75 statutory duties make equality and good relations central to the whole range of public policy decision-making. Therefore the cost of carrying out Equality Impact Assessments and consultations are not maintained separately and cannot readily be disaggregated.

### **Civil Service Posts in the Department**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Civil Service posts existed in her Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv) Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by Local Council area.  
**(AQW 7690/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** A breakdown of the information requested is provided on the attached Annex. Because of the way that the 2007 information is held it has not been possible to separate the Grade 6s and Grade 7s or the Executive Officer 1s and Executive Officer 2s.

**(A) DARD PERMANENT STAFF IN POST (FULL TIME EQUIVALENT) AT 1ST JAN 2007 BY WORK LOCATION & DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA**

		(vii) & (viii) Grade 6 and 7	(vi) Deputy Principal	(v) Staff Officer	(iii)&(iv) Executive Officer 1 and Executive Officer 2	(ii) Administrative Officer	(i) Administrative Assistant	Total
District Council	Antrim	7	39	107	36	24	29	242
	Ards	12	0	1	13	8	10	44
	Armagh	10	0	1	24	11	12	58
	Ballymena	9	8	9	45	17	14	102
	Belfast	86	118	233	378	195	154	1164
	Castlereagh	8	19	15	15	3	10	70
	Coleraine	27	2	11	106	21	16	183
	Cookstown	2	12	29	11	3	1	58
	Craigavon	1	4	4	9	6	5	29
	Derry	5	5	8	41	63	27	149
	Down	0	2	6	14	8	3	33
	Dungannon	12	0	1	20	11	14	58
	Fermanagh	14	5	15	43	7	8	92
	Larne	6	0	0	17	8	8	39
	Lisburn	1	2	6	9	9	5	32
	Newry & Mourne	28	5	11	90	18	18	170

	(vii) & (viii) Grade 6 and 7	(vi) Deputy Principal	(v) Staff Officer	(iii)&(iv) Executive Officer 1 and Executive Officer 2	(ii) Administrative Officer	(i) Administrative Assistant	Total
	14	6	13	39	30	25	127
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>2650</b>

**Notes:**

Includes all Permanent DARD staff

Figures are Staff Full Time Equivalent

Excludes staff on Career Break

**(B) DARD PERMANENT STAFF IN POST (FULL TIME EQUIVALENT) AS AT 1 JAN 2012 BY WORK LOCATION & DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA**

Local Council Area	(viii)Grade 6	(vii) Grade 7	(vi) Deputy Principal	(v) Staff Officer	(iv) Executive Officer 1	(iii) Executive Officer 2	(ii) Administrative Officer	(i) Administrative Assistant	Total
Antrim	2.0	7.0	30.3	69.5	25.0	15.1	17.5	16.8	183.3
Ards		11.2	1.0	7.0	3.0	14.6	8.0	5.6	50.4
Armagh		13.2	2.0	10.5	12.4	17.4	15.4	11.2	82.1
Ballymena		10.4	5.6	14.3	31.4	17.5	14.3	13.2	106.7
Ballymoney				2.0					2.0
Belfast	10.5	69.4	132.7	167.6	113.9	146.6	117.7	51.9	810.2
Castlereagh	3.0	7.0	17.4	14.2	12.3	2.6	5.6	1.5	63.5
Coleraine		15.0	2.0	10.6	25.0	9.7	18.1	12.9	93.3

Local Council Area	(viii) Grade 6	(vii) Grade 7	(vi) Deputy Principal	(v) Staff Officer	(iv) Executive Officer 1	(iii) Executive Officer 2	(ii) Administrative Officer	(i) Administrative Assistant	Total
Cookstown		5.0	17.5	41.3	23.4	6.8	10.2	10.6	114.7
Craigavon		5.0	4.5	5.0	20.0	0.6	6.0	2.0	43.1
Derry		7.4	6.0	15.0	31.6	33.8	83.1	7.0	184.0
Down			2.0	7.6	10.5	2.0	8.6	1.0	31.7
Dungannon		6.9		9.8	23.0	15.6	10.3	8.8	74.4
Fermanagh		12.3	7.0	26.4	30.3	19.6	24.8	15.2	135.7
Larne		1.0		1.0	2.0	14.0	1.0		19.0
Limavady				3.6	2.0	1.0		1.0	7.6
Lisburn		1.0	2.0	7.0	8.9	3.4	8.4	4.0	34.7
Magherafelt		2.6	5.8	25.5	12.6	7.0	7.3	1.4	62.2
Newry and Mourne		20.7	5.0	18.1	21.5	30.3	14.6	10.1	120.3
Newtownabbey	1.0	7.3	0.8	3.5	7.2	12.9	7.0	8.6	48.3
Omagh		9.1	8.0	20.5	22.2	19.9	29.9	13.8	123.4
Strabane		1.0					1.0	1.0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>212.4</b>	<b>249.5</b>	<b>479.9</b>	<b>438.1</b>	<b>390.5</b>	<b>408.8</b>	<b>197.7</b>	<b>2393.4</b>

**Notes:**

Includes all Permanent DARD staff

Figures are Full-time Equivalents

Excludes staff on Career Break

## Flooding

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given the increase in flooding arising from designated watercourses, whether she will increase funding to address this problem.

**(AQO 1374/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Rivers Agency focuses on 3 key areas to tackle flooding in areas of significant risk; these are Prevention, Protection and Preparedness. Firstly, the Agency aims to prevent damage from flooding by providing advice to the public and DOE Planning. This enables informed decisions to be taken which should avoid development in areas at risk from flooding. Secondly, the Agency provides protection to existing property at flood risk through the ongoing maintenance of existing drainage and flood defence systems and where viable the construction of new defences. Thirdly, my Rivers Agency prepares for flooding by working with key organisations to develop flood risk management plans and a co-ordinated response to flood events. The updated Flood Maps also provide information to the public who may be at risk because this understanding will enable them to be better prepared to react when a flood event occurs. I am convinced that by working together we can manage flood risk to reduce its impact on people, property and the environment.

Reducing flooding risk and minimising the damage caused by flooding will continue to be a priority issue for my Rivers Agency. I have made available an additional £1 million funding in 2012/13 to help with flood alleviation measures throughout the north of Ireland. I am pleased that the additional funding will enable the Ballygawley scheme to start construction this summer. With this additional funding Rivers Agency has updated its capital programme and as a result the Beragh scheme is scheduled to commence construction in the 2013/14 financial year. It is my intention, to seek out every opportunity to secure additional funding for flood risk management and if necessary, I will take this to the Executive.

## Rural Crime

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what strategy her Department has in place to address the rising number of incidents of rural crime.

**(AQO 1373/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I am very aware of the increasing number of thefts on farms and recently met with both the Minister of Justice and the Chief Constable to highlight the increase in rural crime and the concern it is causing within the farming community. The Chief Constable has since written to notify me of a recent intelligence led investigation which led to the recovery of stolen items including a tractor, plant and tools. As a result of this investigation I understand that an individual is to appear at Court in the coming weeks charged with handling stolen goods. I welcome this investigation which the Chief Constable believes has disrupted an Organised Crime Gang and plan to arrange a follow-up meeting with the Chief Constable to further discuss how we can work together to tackle rural crime and how DARD Direct Offices can be used to disseminate information to rural dwellers.

I will continue to work closely with the Minister of Justice on raising awareness of rural crime and I welcome local initiatives brought forward by Community Safety Partnerships to prevent rural crime such as trailer marking and the forensic marking of sheep. I am encouraging farmers to participate in these initiatives and to continue to ensure that they secure their properties by taking steps to minimise the risk of theft from their farms.

I also plan to meet with Martin Callinan, the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána to discuss cross border rural crime, particularly the recent attacks on staff from the Loughs Agency of Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC).

## Agriculture: Production Diseases

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she is considering working with the farming industry on the control of production diseases such as Bovine Viral Diarrhoea.

**(AQO 1380/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** At farm level, production diseases and conditions such as BVD, mastitis, lameness and Johne's Disease can have a significant impact on productivity and competitiveness.

I welcome the fact that there is an increasing desire within industry in the north of Ireland to tackle such diseases and to develop a preventative approach to animal health. As is the case in other regions where production diseases such as BVD are being tackled, there has to be a clear industry lead to make such animal health initiatives work.

My officials are already closely engaged with the BVD Working Group that industry here has established. My Department is also supporting an industry-led BVD research project through the Research Challenge Fund aimed at determining prevalence of the BVD virus in both suckler and dairy herds.

My officials are also considering what, if any, further assistance can be given to any industry-led initiatives to deal with such production diseases.

I am aware that a proposed new partnership strategic approach to tackling such diseases was discussed at a recent meeting of DARD's Animal Health and Welfare Stakeholder Forum, with the intention that this would build on the work industry is already doing on BVD. I look forward to hearing the outcome of these discussions. In the first instance an approach targeted at eradicating BVD would go a long way to demonstrate what can be achieved by industry for industry.

It is important to note that reducing costs in other areas, such as TB and brucellosis compensation, may help me make funding available which could be used to support initiatives here to deal with production diseases.

## **Rural Crime**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the action her Department is taking to address rural crime.

**(AQO 1381/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I am very aware of the increasing number of thefts on farms and recently met with both the Minister of Justice and the Chief Constable to highlight the increase in rural crime and the concern it is causing within the farming community. The Chief Constable has since written to notify me of a recent intelligence led investigation which led to the recovery of stolen items including a tractor, plant and tools. As a result of this investigation I understand that an individual is to appear at Court in the coming weeks charged with handling stolen goods. I welcome this investigation which the Chief Constable believes has disrupted an Organised Crime Gang and plan to arrange a follow-up meeting with the Chief Constable to further discuss how we can work together to tackle rural crime and how DARD Direct Offices can be used to disseminate information to rural dwellers.

I will continue to work closely with the Minister of Justice on raising awareness of rural crime and I welcome local initiatives brought forward by Community Safety Partnerships to prevent rural crime such as trailer marking and the forensic marking of sheep. I am encouraging farmers to participate in these initiatives and to continue to ensure that they secure their properties by taking steps to minimise the risk of theft from their farms.

I also plan to meet with Martin Callinan, the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána to discuss cross border rural crime, particularly the recent attacks on staff from the Loughs Agency of Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC).

## **Strangford Lough: Pot Fishing**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why her department did not take the advice of the Department of the Environment, regarding the likely significance of pot fishing in Strangford Lough Special Area of Conservation, when completing the Article 6 assessment required by the EU Habitats Directive.

**(AQO 1382/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** A test of likely significance under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive into pot fishing in Strangford lough was produced in 2011 by the Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), not by my Department. AFBI record that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency of the Department of the Environment were consulted on the content of the document, and their responses are recorded on page 23 of the report. The AFBI assessment takes into account the information supplied by NIEA and reproduces significant parts thereof. The assessment makes full use of all sources of data available including 21 cited references independent of AFBI work. The assessment shows in figure 5 that the areas of pot fishery only overlaps marginally with areas identified as supporting *Modiolus* and provides 4 independent references to support the conclusion that pot fishing does not have a negative impact.

### **Common Agricultural Policy: EU Presidency**

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the Irish Presidency of the European Union in 2013 in assisting the Common Agricultural Policy reform negotiations.

**(AQO 1383/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** It is widely expected that the first half of 2013 will see a major push towards securing agreement on Common Agricultural Policy reform. Therefore, Ireland will be occupying the Presidency at a pivotal point in the negotiations and will play a key role in bringing the Commission, Member States and the Parliament to a point where agreement is possible. It is clear that the Commission will need to address the concerns so far expressed by the Council and the Parliament in response to its initial proposals. In the run-up to its Presidency, Ireland will have an increasingly influential role with the Commission and, therefore, given the similarities between the positions north and south, I will wish to work closely with the Minister Coveney.

### **Agri-food**

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how she plans to develop the agri-food sector to help economic recovery.

**(AQO 1384/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I am grateful for this opportunity to restate my view about the important role that the agri-food sector will play in the development of the wider economy. The sector has performed strongly during the recent downturn and I believe is well placed to exploit export opportunities on a global stage and also in building economic recovery.

I am delighted that the importance of the sector has been recognised by the Executive. The draft Programme for Government includes a target to develop a strategic plan for the agri-food sector. In support of this, my Department is working with DETI/InvestNI to establish an Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) whose role will be to develop and implement this strategic plan. We have recently appointed Tony O'Neill as the Chair and are currently in the process of recruiting members to the Board.

The AFSB will be industry-led as it is vital that the industry itself identifies and agrees its growth targets. Government will continue to play an important supporting role, with my Department continuing to work in close collaboration with Invest NI, DETI and DEL to deliver appropriate support functions. Ultimately, however, the growth of the sector can only be achieved by the industry itself.

The work of the AFSB will be instrumental in helping to shape the future of the sector. I look forward to the Board being established so that it can begin the important work of further developing a strategic vision to support growth and employment in this important sector.

### **Countryside Management Scheme**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the new Countryside Management Scheme will permit the transfer of the tenancies of participating farms to new owners during the term of the Scheme.

**(AQO 1385/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) provides funding for owned and leased land to be managed under an agri-environment agreement. An NICMS participant may sell or lease land that is under agreement to a new landowner or tenant. If the new landowner or tenant has an existing relevant agri-environment agreement, they can add the new land to the agreement and continue managing that land to benefit the environment.

Where the new landowner or tenant does not have an existing agreement, and does not indicate a wish to apply to NICMS at the next application period, DARD will reclaim NICMS payments plus interest from the vendor.

Where the new landowner or tenant does not have an existing agreement, there are administrative difficulties in transferring existing agreements between owners for schemes that are now closed. I have asked my officials to consider how this may be facilitated in the future.

### **Fisheries: Selective Gear**

**Ms Ruane** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the progress made in identifying selective gears for the fishing fleet, in line with commitments given at the December 2011 EU Fisheries Council meeting.

**(AQO 1386/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** A project has been approved to examine a range of selective fishing gears. The project is being led by the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) and a Steering Group, incorporating representatives from our 2 Producer Organisations, local net makers, AFBI scientists, and DARD policy officials has been established and had its first meeting in early January. The project, which my Department is co-funding through the European Fisheries Fund, has identified 5 different designs for highly selective gears for trialling.

An advertisement was placed in the Fishing News and a mail shot was issued to all local over 10 metre vessels, inviting applications for charter vessels to trial these selective gears in the Irish Sea. The closing date for receipt of applications was 10 February and the Steering Group will make a decision on selecting suitable vessels within the next couple of weeks.

The gear trials will take place over 15 to 20 days between March and April this year.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### **Bushmills Research Station**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what research projects are being undertaken at the Bushmills Research Station; and to outline the projected timescale of each project.

**(AQW 7920/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** DCAL currently has commissioned four monitoring and research projects facilitated by Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) staff based at Bushmills Salmon Station.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has commissioned one project facilitated by AFBI staff based at Bushmills Salmon Station.



Details of projects are outlined below:

<b>Title of project</b>	<b>The marine survival of Atlantic salmon from the River Bush, Northern Ireland</b>
Objective of research project	Investigate factors influencing the survival at sea of salmon smolts migrating from the River Bush until their return as adult salmon
Brief description of research project	This long-term project centres on enumerating numbers of migrating wild smolts and returning adults to the River Bush, by means of trapping facilities, in order to assess return rates and maturation schedules. A smolt microtagging programme provides age specific survival data and has contributed to the understanding of distribution, exploitation and survival in the marine environment. This data feeds into the annual National Report presented to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) which in turn forms part of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) advice to North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO).
Dates during which research will take place	Started in 1973. Project ongoing.

<b>Title of project</b>	<b>The freshwater survival of Atlantic salmon on the River Bush, Northern Ireland</b>
Objective of research project	Investigate and monitor factors influencing the survival in freshwater of juvenile salmon.
Brief description of research project	This long-term project involves the monitoring of freshwater phases of Atlantic salmon in the River Bush. Includes the evaluation of juvenile recruitment through electric fishing, the investigation of factors influencing juvenile production and the assessment of the efficacy of management actions.
Dates during which research will take place	Started in 1973. Project ongoing.

<b>Title of project</b>	<b>Salmonid Management Strategy Monitoring Programme</b>
Objective of research project	Development of conservation limits and monitoring programmes for the management of N Ireland's salmon stocks
Brief description of research project	The development of salmon conservation databases which are monitored on a range of rivers throughout the DCAL area.
Dates during which research will take place	AFBI took over this programme in 2007. Programme ongoing.

<b>Title of project</b>	<b>Studies and Advice on Brown trout Management</b>
Objective of research project	Development of scientific monitoring programmes for brown trout in the DCAL area.
Brief description of research project	The development of tools with which to monitor trout in a range of rivers throughout the DCAL area.
Dates during which research will take place	Jan 2011 on-going

Title of project	EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) fish classification
Objective of research project	To provide fish based WFD assessments on rivers through-out Northern Ireland.
Brief description of research project	Under a service level agreement with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) collect and collate fish data in both rivers and lakes to assist with the EU Water Framework Directive classification of water bodies in the DCAL jurisdiction of N. Ireland.
Dates during which research will take place	The implementation of the Water Framework Directive does not have a completion date but the immediate aim is the production of the next River Basin Management Plan in 2015 which will be upgraded in 2021 and then again in 2027.

### Football Association of Ireland

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has met with, or plans to meet with, representatives of the Football Association of Ireland.

**(AQW 7943/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I can confirm that to date I have not met with representatives of the Football Association of Ireland. At this time I do not have plans to meet with representatives of the Football Association of Ireland.

### Total Spend on Hospitality

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what has been the total spend on hospitality by her Department in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8073/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** In the financial years 2006-07 to 2010-11 inclusive, the Department's spending on hospitality was as follows:

2005-07	£32,493
2006-08	£41,117
2007-09	£64,452
2008-10	£44,930
2010-11	£37,027

### Department Spend on Conferences, Away-days and Team Building Exercises

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much her Department has spent on conferences, away-days and team building exercises in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 8098/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** In the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 inclusive, the Department's spending on conferences, away-days and team building exercises was as follows:

2007-10	£23,197
2008-11	£25,380
2010-11	£15,830

## Doping in Sport

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her Department's policy to combat doping in sport; and how much her Department has spent on addressing this issue in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8150/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is in favour of combating doping in sport as it regards the practice of doping as contrary to the sporting values of equity, honesty and integrity enunciated in its strategy for sport, Sport Matters.

Primary responsibility for addressing the issue rests with sports governing bodies and athletes. However, over the last 5 financial years Sport NI, which is responsible for the development of sport and the distribution of funding, has spent £123,179.54 of exchequer monies in helping governing bodies and athletes combat doping. This spending, which has been used to support the appointment of an Anti-Doping Education Officer and related sports education programmes, may be broken down as follows:

Financial Year	Exchequer Funding
2007/08	0
2008/09	£27,215.45
2009/10	£36,811.39
2010/11	£30,621.61
2011/12	£28,531.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>£123,179.54</b>

## Arts Council Funding to the Braid Centre in Ballymena

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 6501/11-15, whether her Department can seek legal advice on an alleged breach of funding conditions.

**(AQW 8175/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department can seek legal advice on an alleged breach of funding conditions if it considers it necessary.

## Meeting Between the Arts Council and Ballymena Borough Council

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the recent meeting between the Arts Council and Ballymena Borough Council.

**(AQW 8176/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Representatives from the Arts Council met with staff from Ballymena Council to discuss the display of flags and emblems at The Braid complex. The meeting followed concerns, raised recently by some elected members, that there was an issue for the Arts Council to address regarding the terms and conditions of a grant awarded to Ballymena Council in 1999.

The Arts Council has carried out a site visit and will report to its Board at the end of March. The Board will decide if any further action is required.

## Contentious Flags and Emblems

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the use of contentious flags and emblems by projects, which are funded by her Department on the premise of being open and accessible to the whole community, is a breach of funding conditions.

**(AQW 8177/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Applicants for funding from my Department, and associated arms length bodies, are required to sign and adhere to equality and good relations clauses.

This requires successful organisations to comply with legislative regulations laid out in Equal Opportunities legislation; and that the activity/project funded will be open to all sections of the community.

### **Lottery Funding from the Arts Council**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what are the equality implications of the use of flags and emblems by projects which receive lottery funding from the Arts Council.

**(AQW 8178/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** All organisations applying for Arts Council funding are required to sign a Good Relations Commitment and to submit their Equal Opportunities Policy at the time of application. In addition all contracts require successful organisations to comply with legislative regulations laid out in Equal Opportunities legislation. The Arts Council has the right to claim back any grant payments if a grant recipient is proved to be in breach of its conditions of grant.

### **Arts Council**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what legal advice her Department and the Arts Council have received in relation to the use of flags and emblems in buildings that are to be a neutral and shared space and open to all.

**(AQW 8179/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** No legal advice has been sought on this issue.

### **Refurbishment of Enniskillen Library**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the refurbishment of Enniskillen Library.

**(AQW 8284/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI's proposed refurbishment of Enniskillen library is currently 'on hold' as a capital funding bid for the project was not met in the Budget 2010 process.

I am disappointed not to have the money to invest in this project, at this time. The project remains a priority for Libraries NI if future funding becomes available.

### **Proposed Mandatory Catch and Release of Salmon Species**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the proposed mandatory catch and release of salmon species by rod and line anglers will be required on the departmental Angling Estate.

**(AQW 8395/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The catch and release only of salmon by rod and line anglers will be introduced to Public Angling Estate waters for the 2012 season to protect and conserve the declining salmon stocks present in those waters.

### **Proposed Mandatory Catch and Release of Salmon Species**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when the proposed mandatory catch and release of salmon species by rod and line anglers on the departmental Angling Estate will commence and how long it will remain in force.

**(AQW 8396/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Current legislation requires that anglers must practice catch and release of salmon by rod and line across the DCAL jurisdiction from the start of the game fishing season on 1 March until 31 May.

As fishery owner the Department will introduce catch and release only for salmon on all Public Angling Estate waters with effect from 1 June 2012. This will remain in force until the end of the game fishing season on 31 October.

### **Proposed Mandatory Catch and Release of Salmon Species**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether angling clubs, which lease departmental-owned waters, will be required to comply with the proposed mandatory catch and release of salmon species by rod and line anglers.

**(AQW 8397/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Angling clubs, which lease waters for which the Department owns the fishing rights, will be required to comply with catch and release only for salmon by rod and line anglers for the 2012 season.

### **Proposed Mandatory Catch and Release of Salmon Species**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, under what legal authority she is going to issue instructions in relation to the proposed mandatory catch and release of salmon species by rod and line anglers on the departmental Angling Estate.

**(AQW 8398/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** DCAL as owner or lessee of the fishing rights for waters which make up the Public Angling Estate has the authority as fishery owner to introduce conditions and restrictions on angling at these waters.

### **Proposed Mandatory Catch and Release of Salmon Species**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the proposed mandatory catch and release of salmon species by rod and line anglers on the departmental Angling Estate, to detail (i) who advised her Department of these changes; (ii) what measures will be put in place to ensure that the wider angling community is aware of the changes before the start of the fishing season; and (iii) whether she will make a statement, to the Assembly and the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure, on this matter.

**(AQW 8399/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:**

- (i) DCAL technical staff and officials have advised the Department on the need to introduce catch and release only for salmon in the DCAL Public Angling Estate, based on the consideration of local and international scientific research and monitoring.
- (ii) The Department has issued a press release on this matter and has written to angling clubs that manage or lease waters for which DCAL owns the fishing rights. Anglers will also be informed through the NI Direct angling website and leaflets will be provided for Permit and Licence distributors to give to anglers when they purchase these documents.
- (iii) It is not envisaged at this stage that I will make a statement on mandatory catch and release on DCAL owned waters to the Assembly or the Committee for Culture Arts and Leisure.

### **Museums: Accessibility**

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans she has to make the collections of National Museums Northern Ireland more accessible to local people.

**(AQO 1341/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** While this matter is operationally the responsibility of National Museums it is also a priority for me.

The Museums Policy was launched by my Department in March 2011. The Policy includes a strategic priority around the Development, Care, Management and Use of collections.

Officials from National Museums, the Museums Council and DCAL are working closely to ensure the successful implementation of the Policy.

Officials from all 3 organisations discussed implementation with the CAL Committee on 9 February 2012.

I have asked National Museums and the Museums Council to clearly set out how they intend to implement the Museums Policy in their Corporate and Business Plans for 2012/2013.

### **DCAL: Arm's-length Bodies**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what proportion of her Department's annual budget is allocated to arm's-length bodies.

**(AQO 1331/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Of the 2011/12 total opening allocation of my department of £128.39m, 84% has been allocated to Arms length bodies.

This is based on the following 2011/12 opening allocations to ALBs:

	<b>Resource £m</b>	<b>Capital £m</b>	<b>Total £m</b>
Arts Council	15.20	3.83	19.03
National Museums NI	17.68	0.25	17.93
Libraries NI	31.56	2.30	33.86
Sports Council	11.49	11.75	23.24
AOP	1.83	0.00	1.83
NI Screen	1.26	0.00	1.26
NI Museums Council	0.27	0.00	0.27
N/S Languages*	6.47	0.00	6.47
Waterways Ireland	3.75	0.00	3.75
World Police & Fire Games	1.14	0.00	1.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>90.65</b>	<b>18.13</b>	<b>108.78</b>

### **Líofa 2015**

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has any plans to set a new target for the Líofa 2015 initiative, given that the original target of 1000 has already been met.

**(AQO 1332/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Since I launched Líofa in September, I have been pleased at the support it has received across the north of Ireland. We have already surpassed our target of 1,000 people signing up to be fluent, and are now aiming for 2,015 by 2015.

### **Paper and Envelopes used in Providing Answers to Assembly Written Questions**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much the paper and envelopes used in providing answers to Assembly Written Questions cost per item, per box or per hundred units.

**(AQW 8520/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department does not routinely estimate the cost of answering Assembly Questions and so the information requested is not available.

## Commemorations

**Ms Ruane** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how she will demonstrate that the suite of commemorations and events that she is bringing forward will be inclusive.

**(AQO 1342/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Centenaries and significant anniversaries during the decade ahead provide all of us on this island with the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of our shared past and how it shapes Irish and British identities and relationships today.

The key issue is not whether these events are remembered but how they are remembered. I am supportive of an inclusive, non-triumphalist and strategic approach to commemorations. I endorse the principles developed by the Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund to remember the past in the context of an inclusive and accepting society.

The arts and cultural sectors can provide innovative ways to remember the past. Arm-length bodies supported by my Department can help to tell the stories behind the decade of centenaries and other significant anniversaries. The Community Festivals Fund can also now be used by local councils to support an inclusive approach to remembering the past.

A recent event at St Mary's University College on the Falls Road marked the centenary of a speech by Winston Churchill in the grounds of Belfast Celtic Football Club. A drama production brought that speech back to life and demonstrated the role the arts can play in telling the stories and different perspectives of that period.

## Fishing: Lough Neagh

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many illegal nets have been seized in Lough Neagh in the past three months.

**(AQO 1337/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** In the three months from 1 November 2011 to 31 January 2012 20 nets totalling 14,000 yards have been seized from Lough Neagh by DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers.

## Museums

**Mr F McCann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether there is a complete and accurate inventory of artefacts held by Museums NI.

**(AQO 1339/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Historically the artefacts held by National Museums were documented by various people with differing and disparate methods and standards.

In 2007, National Museums initiated a programme to ensure that all of its artefacts are on a computerised inventory through the Comprehensive Documentation Plan 2007-14.

To date National Museums has a complete and accurate computerised inventory for 74% of its collections. It aims to have a complete inventory by 2014.

## Kennedy Kane McArthur

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on her Department's plans to celebrate the centenary of Kennedy Kane McArthur's Olympic Marathon victory.

**(AQO 1343/11-15)**



**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Firstly I would like to acknowledge the work of one of Kennedy Kane McArthur's greatest supporters, Mr Mervyn Storey. The elected member for the area has been tremendously successful in both raising the profile of this issue and supporting the many local groups that wish to mark the centenary of this local man's Olympic success.

I am particularly pleased that, through the advice and support of my Department, Ballymoney District Council and the Dercock and District Community Association (DDCA) has been awarded the prestigious London 2012 Inspire mark for their centenary celebrations this year. They have also secured a visit from the Olympic Torch on Sunday 3 June. My officials will continue to provide guidance and advice as appropriate to help the council and the DDCA maximise their plans and their association with the 2012 Games.

## Department of Education

### Primary School: Compulsory Starting Age

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education what plans he has to address the issue of children starting primary school before the compulsory starting age of four.

**(AQW 7395/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** As indicated in my announcement on the Review of Pre-School Admission Arrangements on 17 January 2012, the Department will seek to bring forward legislation at the earliest opportunity to prevent schools from offering reception provision as it is not educationally desirable and can cause operational difficulties.

It is recognised, however, that this will require a plan and resources to replace this provision with suitable alternative pre-school places over the next few years.

### P1 Children who have had Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Education, in each of the last five years, (i) how many children in P1 have had speech, language and communication difficulties, broken down by council area; and (ii) how these figures compare with other regions of the UK.

**(AQW 7883/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested in part (i) is detailed in the table below and is based on the number of pupils recorded by schools as having speech and language difficulties, in line with Departmental guidance.

(ii) It is not possible to make direct comparisons with other regions of the UK, as there are differences in compulsory school starting age and in the recording of pupils with special educational needs.

#### YEAR 1 PUPILS RECORDED AS HAVING SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES, BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT OF PUPIL RESIDENCE, 2007/08 – 2011/12

Local Government District	2007/ 08	2008/ 09	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12
Postcode not provided/ unknown/not recognised	44	19	22	5	8
Antrim	20	16	26	28	20
Ards	16	18	16	19	17
Armagh	18	20	25	17	13
Ballymena	17	11	11	12	9
Ballymoney	10	*	10	5	17



Local Government District	2007/ 08	2008/ 09	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12
Banbridge	10	9	18	9	22
Belfast	156	125	135	123	139
Carrickfergus	6	#	8	7	7
Castlereagh	12	13	13	27	14
Coleraine	8	10	10	19	18
Cookstown	14	8	13	10	13
Craigavon	39	45	38	35	50
Derry	62	59	40	51	73
Down	15	27	35	49	29
Dungannon	19	16	32	19	24
Fermanagh	24	19	26	30	31
Larne	#	15	10	9	8
Limavady	13	20	16	12	#
Lisburn	72	82	76	71	82
Magherafelt	10	9	18	20	18
Moyle	*	0	6	5	*
Newry & Mourne	30	32	22	30	44
Newtownabbey	20	24	15	21	20
North Down	24	16	18	39	12
Omagh	19	24	30	26	29
Strabane	13	20	7	21	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>751</b>

**Source:** NI school census

**Note:**

- 1 Figures relate to pupils in primary and special schools.
- 2 It is a possibility that some pupils at SEN stages 1 and 2 with these conditions may have been recorded under a more generic 'Communication and Interaction difficulties' classification and not therefore included in the totals presented in this table.

'\*' denotes fewer than 5 cases.

'#' means a figure  $\geq 5$  has been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere.

### Woodlands Language Unit, Derry

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the rationale for the proposed closure of the Woodlands Language Unit, Derry.

**(AQW 7910/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Woodlands Language Unit provides speech and language support for children, who do not have statements of Special Educational Need (SEN), and who are enrolled in mainstream primary schools. Its location, within the grounds of Belmont House Special School, is considered unsuitable by

the Western Education and Library Board as the current approach for children who need such support is to provide it at mainstream primary schools.

The Western Board has, therefore, been in discussion over the past two years with the Board of Governors of Belmont House Special School about the relocation of the 4 speech and language classes to mainstream primary school locations in both the controlled and maintained sectors.

The Western Board intends to publish a supporting statutory Development Proposal, which will afford anyone with an interest an opportunity to comment directly to the Department. However, at this stage, the issues involved are a matter for the Board to consider.

I understand that this issue has been the subject of public comment and concern and I am assured that the WELB will be writing to parents to clarify the position.

### **Woodlands Language Unit, Derry**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Education when, and to which language centre, the children who currently attend Woodlands Language Unit, Derry, will be relocated.

**(AQW 7914/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Woodlands Language Unit provides speech and language support for children, who do not have statements of Special Educational Need (SEN), and who are enrolled in mainstream primary schools. Its location, within the grounds of Belmont House Special School, is considered unsuitable by the Western Education and Library Board as the current approach for children who need such support is to provide it at mainstream primary schools.

The Western Board has, therefore, been in discussion over the past two years with the Board of Governors of Belmont House Special School about the relocation of the 4 speech and language classes to mainstream primary school locations in both the controlled and maintained sectors.

The Western Board intends to publish a supporting statutory Development Proposal, which will afford anyone with an interest an opportunity to comment directly to the Department. However, at this stage, the issues involved are a matter for the Board to consider.

I understand that this issue has been the subject of public comment and concern and I am assured that the WELB will be writing to parents to clarify the position.

### **Statementing System in Schools**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education (i) whether he is aware of the concern amongst parents in relation to the planned changes to the statementing system in schools; and (ii) whether the introduction of the co-ordinated support plans might reduce the amount of support which children holding a Statement of Special Educational Needs currently receive.

**(AQW 7929/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In response to i) I am acutely aware of the anxiety that has recently been generated among parents of special needs children, which followed the publication of the Summary Report of Responses to the Consultation on The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion. I have made it very clear publicly my concerns about the claim that statements were to be scrapped with the implication that the necessary help for vulnerable pupils would not be provided. I have made no proposals to remove statutory support from special needs pupils with the greatest level of need. I indicated in my foreword to the summary report that I have asked that officials to engage with parents, schools and other key stakeholders on my proposals, so that I can make final decisions about how these can be taken forward. This engagement is already underway.

In relation to ii) I am proposing that co-ordinated support plans (CSPs) would be introduced for those special needs children with complex and /or multiple needs and that those plans would have broadly the same statutory basis as currently exists for statements. I am not proposing to reduce the necessary support for any child with special educational needs. I do want the system to be

more responsive, less bureaucratic and able to provide supports for children in a more timely and straightforward manner. I also want to see a focus, through CSPs, on the outcomes expected for children in order for them to achieve the best educational outcomes possible.

### **Newly Qualified Teachers**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the proportion of newly qualified teachers who have obtained a full-time permanent teaching post in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7950/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I refer you to your question AQW 777/11-15 which was published in official report on 24 June 2011.

### **Newly Qualified Teachers**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Education how many newly qualified teachers have found (i) permanent teaching posts; (ii) temporary teaching posts, including maternity cover and one year posts, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7955/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number of newly qualified teachers who have found permanent or temporary teaching posts in each of the last five years is detailed in the table below:

Graduated in Financial Year	All NI Grads (1)	Total NI Grad's Reg'd with GTCNI	Proportion of teachers & capacity of first employment in each Academic year (2)																				
			2006/2007			2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010			2010/2011								
			Perm		Temp	Perm		Temp	Perm		Temp	Perm		Temp	Perm		Temp						
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%					
<b>2006/2007</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>708</b>	107	13.3	246	30.5	140	17.3	24	3.0	99	12.3	7	0.9	61	7.6	4	0.5	37	4.6	3	0.4	
<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>712</b>				118	14.7	256	31.8		126	15.7	20	2.5	71	8.8	6	0.7	51	6.3	6	0.7	
<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>646</b>								118	16.1	310	42.2	80	10.9	20	2.7	59	8.0	17	2.3		
<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>578</b>													90	13.0	344	49.8	77	11.1	37	5.4	
<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>584</b>																	54	8.0	442	65.2	

**Notes:**

- 1 Not all the NI graduates in each year will have registered with the GTCNI in order to be able to teach in a grant-aided school here, as they may wish to teach elsewhere or to pursue a different career path. The graduate list can also vary slightly year on year due to late notifications by the universities.
- 2 Figures do not include Voluntary Grammar Schools as the Department does not hold their payroll information.
- 3 Permanent teaching posts include permanent full-time, permanent part-time (pro rata) and one year contracts. Temporary teaching posts include teachers employed on a casual hourly or daily basis.

## Efficiency Savings

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education what level of efficiency savings are planned in (i) departmental administration; (ii) Curriculum Advisory and Support Services; and (iii) the Regional Training Unit, over the next three years.

**(AQW 8001/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The planned savings to be delivered over the next three years for departmental administration are £3.2m / £3.7m / £4.2m and £30m / £30m / £30m for Professional Support for Schools, including Curriculum Advisory Support Service (CASS), Regional Training Unit (RTU) and other priority earmarked funding for core policy initiatives. The savings required by the Department to manage its budget over the Budget 2011-15 period are outlined in the Departmental Savings Delivery Plan which is published on the Department's website at:

[www.deni.gov.uk/budget\\_2011-15\\_savings\\_delivery\\_plan\\_revised.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/budget_2011-15_savings_delivery_plan_revised.pdf)

## Communications with Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education what plans his Department has to improve communications with schools, so that schools can be kept informed of policy announcements that are made in the media.

**(AQW 8005/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department uses a range of methods to communicate directly with schools. Traditional forms of communication include the use of the "DEMail" e-mail account which is used to communicate policy updates, circulars, and urgent correspondence to schools and Boards of Governors. My Department also sits on the steering group of 'Linked', a magazine aimed at communicating major policy issues directly to teachers.

My Department is currently expanding its use of new media. The Department's website is currently undergoing a review with a view to a new site being launched later in the year. Increasing use is also being made of Twitter and YouTube, whilst the launch of Every School a Good School television (ESaGS.tv) last month is designed to support schools in raising standards through the sharing of best practice. I have also recorded video messages for staff across the education sector for distribution after major policy announcements. The use of new media enables my Department to reach schools, teachers, parents and young people directly, quickly and effectively and will be a key focus for communications in the future.

## Funding Applications Made by Bunscoil Cholmcille in Derry

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the funding applications made by Bunscoil Cholmcille in Derry, including whether these applications are still under consideration; and how much capital funding is currently available for the Irish medium sector.

**(AQW 8021/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In November 2010 Bunscoil Cholmcille received minor works funding amounting to £15,330 for special needs adaptations. A request for a storage container was also approved in November 2011 at a cost of £6,500. However the contractor who was awarded the contract ceased trading and the work has had to be retendered.

Following a number of recent incidents of vandalism at the school, the WELB Security/Health and Safety officer has carried out an assessment of the premises and has made a number of recommendations and work to improve security at the school will be considered for inclusion in the 2012/13 programme of minor capital works.

All applications for minor capital works in grant maintained schools are considered against expressed funding priorities for the delivery of minor capital works and as such no specific minor works budget is allocated to the Irish medium education sector

## Efficiency Savings in Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education whether he can offer an assurance that any future pay rises, or increases in National Insurance contributions, will be met by departmental funding rather than by efficiency savings in schools.

**(AQW 8067/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In agreeing Budget 2011-15 allocations, my predecessor made provision for increases in the pay bill (including pay awards and national insurance increases) across the 4 year period based on pay assumptions available at that time.

The impact on the budgetary position of any future deviations from those original assumptions can only be assessed at that time.

## Primary Schools in the Lagan Valley: First Preference Applications

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of first preference applications for each primary school in the Lagan Valley area for the 2012/13 academic year; and the enrolment capacity of each school. [R]

**(AQW 8120/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The admissions process for places in primary schools in the 2012/13 academic year is currently ongoing. The South-Eastern and Southern Education and Library Boards, which administer the admissions process for areas within the Lagan Valley constituency, will not be in a position to provide the information requested until after the process is completed on 18 April 2012, when letters issue to parents advising them of the primary school for which their child has been accepted/not accepted. I will be pleased to provide the information to you after that date if that would be helpful.

## Pre-school Providers in the Lagan Valley: First Preference Applications

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of first preference applications for each pre-school provider in the Lagan Valley area for the 2012/13 academic year; and the enrolment capacity of each pre-school. [R]

**(AQW 8121/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The admissions process for places in pre-school education in the 2012/13 academic year is currently ongoing. The South-Eastern and Southern Education and Library Boards, which administer the admissions process for areas within the Lagan Valley constituency, will not be in a position to provide the information requested until after the process is completed on 1 June 2012, when final placement letters issue to parents. I will be pleased to provide the information to you after that date if that would be helpful.

## School Closure

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the criteria used to determine a school closure. **(AQW 8172/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Any significant change to the schools' estate, such as a school closure, would require the publication of a statutory Development Proposal to support that intent. This must be preceded by consultation and once published, there is a further statutory 2-month period during which anyone who wishes to do so can forward their comments to the Department.

Each case will be considered on its individual circumstances taking account of all the pertinent issues and the comments received both for and against the proposal. Above all, the provision of a quality education must be the overriding consideration and the criteria set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy criteria must therefore be taken into account:

- Quality Educational Experience
- Stable Enrolment Trends

- Sound Financial Position
- Strong Leadership and Management
- Accessibility
- Strong Links with the Community

### **Update on New Builds**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new builds for (i) St Michael's Grammar School, Lurgan; (ii) Tannaghmore Primary School, Lurgan; (iii) St Teresa's Primary School, Lurgan; and (iv) Portadown College, Portadown.

**(AQW 8185/11-15)**

**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.

I have asked for area plans to be completed by the end of March 2012 for post-primary schools and June 2012 for primary schools.

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.

### **Gaeltacht and Irish-Medium Schools: Cross-Border Collaborative Programme**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost to his Department of the cross-border collaborative programme for the 2011/12 academic year to support Gaeltacht schools and Irish-medium schools; and the number of teachers involved.

**(AQW 8203/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** A collaborative programme of work for the initial, early and continuing professional development of teachers in the Irish Medium Education sectors North and South, which has been developed by the North South Teacher Qualifications Working Group, is currently being implemented.

The Department has provided funding of £22,000 in the current financial year to meet the costs of participation by teachers from the North in the programme, and by the end of March 2012 it is anticipated that approximately 72 teachers will have participated North and South. The Department of Education and Skills in the South is meeting the costs of participation of teachers from the South.

A small amount of funding would be required to complete residual elements of the programme in the period April to June 2012.

### **Educational Underachievement Working Group**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the work of the Educational Underachievement Working Group.

**(AQW 8243/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The focus of the Joint North South Educational Underachievement Working Group's (the Group) work is on sharing of best practice in tackling underachievement in literacy and numeracy and integrating work on addressing barriers to learning that may adversely affect pupils' attendance and achievement at school. The Group last met in October 2011.

Through the work of the Group, both DE and DES provided funding to support Maths Week Ireland 2011, held in October 2011. I was pleased to launch this event in the north of Ireland which is aimed at raising awareness and promoting positive attitudes towards maths among children and parents.

We also want to learn from best practice internationally. The two Departments supported a recent peer learning event bringing together educationalists from across Europe to explore policies aimed at identifying and tackling underachievement.

The Group is also working to promote literacy skills amongst our young people and is considering the possibility of commissioning further joint Inspectorate reports on best practice in literacy and numeracy. In addition, officials from DE and the National Educational Welfare Board are considering the way forward on the sharing of best practice on attendance and retention.

I am committed to tackling underachievement and promoting the raising of standards for all our young people especially in the skills of literacy and numeracy that are so vital to our economic development. There is much good practice we can share and the Group continues to play an important role in taking this work forward.

### **Employees Attending Antenatal Appointments**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has a policy in relation to allowing employees to attend antenatal appointments during working hours.

**(AQW 8261/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** All NICS HR policies are contained in the NICS HR Handbook. The Handbook makes provision for NICS staff who are pregnant and who have, on medical advice, made an appointment to receive antenatal care, to be given time off to keep the appointment. Except for the first appointment, an employee may be asked to produce a certificate of pregnancy and proof that the appointment has been made.

### **Academic Selection Tests**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education how many grammar schools currently set their own academic selection tests.

**(AQW 8282/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department does not collect information on the use of unregulated tests by grammar schools.

### **Pupils with Statement of Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education how many children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs have attended mainstream schools in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 8286/11-15)**

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

#### **STATEMENTED CHILDREN IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS BY CONSTITUENCY 2009/10 - 2011/12**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Not known	182	173	122
Belfast East	346	381	424
Belfast North	415	430	460
Belfast South	319	360	401



Constituency	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast West	564	578	601
East Antrim	246	253	257
East Derry	528	536	530
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	600	631	682
Foyle	553	588	566
Lagan Valley	489	504	515
Mid Ulster	586	607	599
Newry And Armagh	917	930	937
North Antrim	406	413	431
North Down	283	285	280
South Antrim	341	347	368
South Down	905	924	894
Strangford	442	445	441
Upper Bann	845	837	822
West Tyrone	426	440	475
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,393</b>	<b>9,662</b>	<b>9,805</b>

**Source:** NI school census.

**Note:**

- 1 Figures relate to pupils in nursery, primary and post-primary schools.
- 2 Figures for pupils at primary and post-primary schools relate to pupil residence, where known. Figures for pupils at nursery schools relate to school location.
- 3 Figures relate to pupils in special units and mainstream classes.
- 4 Statemented pupils are at Stage 5 on the Special Education Needs Code of Practice. Speech and Language Therapists

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education how many speech and language therapists in the Western Education and Library Board area are members of the Language and Communications Team.  
**(AQW 8289/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Western Education and Library Board has advised that none of the speech and language therapists working in the area are members of the board's Language and Communications Team.

### Education and Skills Authority

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail the process which led to the granting of a redundancy package for the Chairperson to the Board of the Education and Skills Authority.  
**(AQW 8295/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Chairperson designate of the Education and Skills Authority informed me on 5 January of his decision to resign from this position with effect from 31 January 2012. I have accepted his resignation. The Chairperson has not been made redundant; this is a Ministerial public appointment and no redundancy package has been granted.

## Capital Works at Ballymoney High School

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, in light of the Court of Appeal's judgement on Loretto Grammar School, Omagh, to detail the implications for capital works at Ballymoney High School which have been announced, but have not yet commenced.

**(AQW 8296/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his earlier question AQW 6920/11-15 which was published in the Official Report on 10 February 2012.

The Appeal Court ruling stated that the Loreto Grammar School could not assume a substantive legitimate expectation based on the Ministerial announcement made in 2004. It concluded that capital planning announcements are not without qualification as all necessary approvals need to be in place and finance must be available before a project gets the necessary final approval.

As I have previously stated, the Department's legal advice is that the ruling applies to all projects previously announced but which have not yet commenced, including that for Ballymoney High School,.

As you will be aware the policy and financial context within which we are currently operating has changed considerably. Any future capital projects coming forward will therefore be looked at in the context of Area Planning and no project will be considered in isolation.

## Pupils from the Republic of Ireland

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what work his Department is undertaking in relation to a legislative change regarding children from the Republic of Ireland being educated in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 8297/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Legislation currently requires that schools and pre-schools give priority in admission to those who are resident in the north over those who are not resident. Legislation also permits assistance with home-to-school transport only for journeys to schools in the north. I believe this legislation should change to reflect and facilitate the reality of the lives led by people who live in border areas and the way in which they access public services.

Work in this regard consists of ongoing investigation to understand the nature of our current legislation in the context of EU mobility laws. Alongside this, joint work is being undertaken by my Department and the Department of Education and Skills that will help us understand the implications of introducing a new legislative position. At the NSMC Education Meeting of September 21, 2012, I agreed with the Minister for Education and Skills that the two Education Departments should jointly design and conduct a survey to establish the current and future schooling capacity and need in border regions and the level of demand from parents and young people for the option to choose a school across the border. Officials from the two departments have been jointly developing the nature and detail of this agreed survey – which aims to report for the first NSMC meeting of 2013. One of the survey's aims, as agreed at the 1 February, 2012 NSMC Education Meeting, is that it should support estimates of costs and numbers in relation to the potential cross-border school attendance if current obstacles (including our current admissions and transport legislation) were removed.

## Pupils from the Republic of Ireland

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of children from the Republic of Ireland who are being educated in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 8298/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** According to figures recorded in the school census, there are 406 pupils from the Republic of Ireland attending schools in the North in 2011/12. This includes 44 pupils who are boarders.

## Pupils from Northern Ireland being Educated in the Republic of Ireland

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of children from Northern Ireland who are being educated in the Republic of Ireland.

**(AQW 8299/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** This information is not held by my Department.

## Educational Attainment: Children and Young People with Disabilities

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the quantitative and qualitative data available on the educational attainment of children and young people with disabilities.

**(AQW 8380/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Quantitative data are taken from the school leavers survey (SLS) which details the qualifications and destinations of all pupils leaving mainstream grant aided schools. Pupils with special educational needs have been used in this instance as an indication of disability. The table below shows the performance of school leavers with a special educational need attending mainstream grant aided schools.

### PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS ACHIEVING GCSEs AND A LEVELS BY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED STAGE 2009/10

	No SEN	SEN Stages 1-4	SEN Stage 5	NI Average
3 + A Levels A*-E	57.2	21.2	8.5	50.8
2 + A Levels A*-E	59.4	22.7	9.7	53.0
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C inc. equivalents	79.1	38.3	21.0	71.9
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C (inc. equivalents) including GCSE English and maths	66.1	25.3	13.4	59.0
No GCSEs	1.0	6.0	13.1	2.1

Data excludes special and independent schools

**Source:** School Leavers Survey

These data show that seventy nine percent of all school leavers without a special educational need (SEN) achieved at least 5 GCSEs A\*-C (inc. equivalents) in 2009/10. For school leavers with a statement of special educational needs, twenty one per cent attained this standard. One percent of all school leavers without a special educational need did not achieve any GCSEs compared with thirteen percent of school leavers with a statement of special educational needs.

In addition, in 2009/10 less than five school leavers attending special schools achieved at least five GCSEs A\*-C (inc. equivalents). Eighty one percent left special schools without any GCSEs.

In terms of qualitative data, the school improvement policy makes clear that schools are responsible for their own improvement, through the process of self-evaluation and action planning for improvement. Alongside self-evaluation by schools, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) provides an external, professional assessment of provision in our schools. The ETI comments on a school's leadership and management; the standards achieved by all the pupils in the school; and the quality of teaching and learning, including provision made to support pupils with additional or special educational needs (SEN). In evaluating the quality of provision and in particular standards achieved by those pupils who have SEN, ETI will take into account also any accredited courses which are below GCSE level (e.g. Level One or Entry level) but which will allow for appropriate progression routes for each individual pupil according to their needs.

School inspection is a key part of the school improvement process through which we can identify the schools most in need of support and take action to ensure the quality of education provided is at least satisfactory. We can also identify schools with outstanding and very good provision and take steps to disseminate their good practice across all schools.

### Post-Primary Schools in the South Down Area

**Ms Ruane** asked the Minister of Education, for each post-primary school in the South Down area, to detail (i) the enrolment number; (ii) the enrolment capacity; (iii) the current financial situation at the school; (iv) the percentage of pupils who gained five or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C in the 2010/11 academic year; and (v) the percentage of pupils (a) with special educational needs; and (b) in receipt of free school meals.

**(AQW 8388/11-15)**

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

**TABLE 1 - ENROLMENTS INFORMATION ON POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY – 2011/12**

School name	Enrolment Number1 (i)	Enrolment Capacity 2 (ii)	% pupils with SEN3	% pupils entitled to free school meals
Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	894	850	4.3	9.5
Blackwater Integrated College	310	400	51.3	19.4
De La Salle High School	358	430	20.7	33.5
Down High School	950	934	3.4	3.7
Kilkeel High School	696	830	12.9	10.8
Rathfriland High School	296	330	16.6	16.6
Sacred Heart Grammar School	845	875	1.0	9.4
Shimna Integrated College	532	480	23.5	16.0
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	396	450	25.0	19.2
St Columban's College, Kilkeel	230	550	21.3	29.6
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	585	570	3.6	12.1
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	1,037	950	16.3	29.3
St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	897	850	32.1	27.5
St Mary's High School, Downpartick	425	600	20.5	29.9
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	689	665	10.6	6.2

**Source:** NI school census for actual enrolments. DE School Access Team for approved enrolment capacity figures.

**Note:**

- 1 The Enrolment Number has been interpreted to be the actual number of pupils on the school roll as at the October 2011 school census and includes children in receipt of a statement of special educational needs, admitted on appeal or by direction of the Exceptional Circumstances Body. These pupils are supernumerary to a school's approved enrolment capacity.

- 2 Enrolment Capacity has been interpreted to be the approved enrolment number for the 2011/12 school year and does not include any temporary variation to that number which may have been granted by the Department.
- 3 Figures for % SEN pupils relate to pupils at Stage 1 – 5 on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

**TABLE 2 - PERFORMANCE INFORMATION ON POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY – 2010/11**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Percentage of Year 12 pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs (inc equivalent qualifications) at grades A*-C</b>
Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	100.0
Blackwater Integrated College	52.5
De La Salle High School	71.1
Down High School	97.1
Kilkeel High School	76.6
Rathfriland High School	76.1
Sacred Heart Grammar School	98.4
Shimna Integrated College	70.4
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	68.8
St Columban's College, Kilkeel	43.8
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	100.0
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	59.2
St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	74.4
St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	67.2
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	97.9

**Source:** Summary of Annual Examination Results.

**TABLE 3 - FINANCIAL INFORMATION - EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY**

<b>School name</b>	<b>Cumulative surplus/ deficit at March 2011(1) £</b>	<b>Cumulative surplus/ deficit as a % of available Delegated Budget</b>
De La Salle High School	273,052	14.12%
Down High School	178,647	4.50%
Kilkeel High School	-114,208	-3.83%
Rathfriland High School	169,308	11.38%
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	-63,668	-3.26%
St Columban's College, Kilkeel	-36,375	-3.14%
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	244,598	5.22%

School name	Cumulative surplus/ deficit at March 2011(1) £	Cumulative surplus/ deficit as a % of available Delegated Budget
St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	-157,499	-4.40%
St Mary's High School, Downpartick	90,981	4.12%

**TABLE 4 - FINANCIAL DATA - VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR/GRANT-MAINTAINED INTEGRATED POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS(2) & (3) SOUTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY**

School name	Comment on Financial Position(1)
Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	The reported financial position of these schools includes an element of non-public funds which means that it cannot be compared on a like for like basis with each other or with ELB schools. The Department of Education can confirm that there are no VG/GMI schools with a deficit of public funds at March 2011
Blackwater Integrated College	
Sacred Heart Grammar School	
Shimna Integrated College	
St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	

**Note:**

- 1 2010/11 is the latest Financial year for which financial data is available.
- 2 DE is Funding Authority for these Sectors
- 3 These schools are not reported on in the same way as schools for which ELBs are Funding Authority.

### Education and Skills Authority

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education when, and how, the post of Chief Executive (Designate) of the Education and Skills Authority was advertised and filled.

**(AQW 8439/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The recruitment advertisement for the post of Chief Executive (Designate) of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) was published in the press and on the internet during week commencing 4 September 2006. The post was advertised as a five year fixed term contract with the possibility of renewal. The successful candidate took up post on 1 February 2007 and his contract was recently renewed with effect from 1 February 2012.

### Panel for School Principals

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Education to (i) outline any previous agreements made to create a panel for school principals to improve consultation with education sectors; and (ii) how many times any such panel has met.

**(AQW 8475/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department has not established a panel of school principals, and has no plans to do so. My Department will continue to consult a broad range of education stakeholders, including boards of governors, school principals, and representative sectoral bodies.

### DE: Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister of Education how his Department intends to take forward the recommendations of the Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit.

**(AQO 1344/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I will shortly publish action plans for each report setting out the action my Department will be taking in regards the PEDU report. Some of that action will be immediate; other areas will be addressed as we move towards the establishment of ESA which will be providing single, regional services in these and other service areas.

I want to be sure that the services provided in support of pupils and schools are both efficient and effective and represent value for money. In a challenging financial climate I also want to ensure that funding is prioritised towards frontline education services.

## School Transport

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education what rules or guidance are in place in relation to the maximum travel time allowed for pupils travelling from home to school.

**(AQW 8533/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There are no specific rules or guidance in relation to the maximum travel time allowed for pupils travelling from home to school. Parents define what is an acceptable journey for their child to take.

The extent to which the issue of a journey's acceptability has a role in support provided under the Home-to-School Transport scheme is as follows: once a school has been selected by parents/children, if the pupil is eligible for transport assistance under the Home-to-School Transport Scheme, an obligation is placed on Boards under Article 52 of the Education (NI) Order 1986 (as amended) to facilitate attendance of the pupil at the school. Boards are required in paragraph 5.2 of the transport Circular 1996/41 (as amended), in determining their response in terms of transport assistance, to take into account such factors as the age of the pupil, whether it entails an unduly early start or late ending to the pupils period of absence from home, including the duration of the journey.

However, it is not always possible for Boards to reduce the journey time significantly, whilst also complying with the duty in Article 44 of the 1986 Order not to incur unreasonable public expenditure. Where journey times exceed approximately one hour for post-primary pupils and half an hour for primary school pupils, and where Boards have a limited ability to respond, then it is for parents to consider the impact of a long journey on their child's ability to perform acceptably in their chosen school.

## Integrated Schools: Area Planning

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education whether the guidance to be issued by his Department, in relation to the area planning process, will specify the procedures to be followed to ensure that integrated schools and their plans for sustainability and growth are considered.

**(AQO 1351/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Terms of Reference for Area Planning were issued to the Boards on 15 December 2011. They require the Boards, working with CCMS and other school sectors, to take account of the relevant Departmental policies and priorities, including the commitments in the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent legislation to encourage and facilitate Integrated and Irish-medium education. Guidance issued by my Department will supplement the Terms of Reference.

## Educational Achievement at Post-primary Level

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the recent report comparing achievement at post-primary level locally with results in England.

**(AQO 1352/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** International evidence tells us that our education system, and the English system, are both average performers, so comparisons with England don't reflect my ambitions for a world-class education for our pupils.

The recent media coverage comparing post-primary education here with England completely failed to take account of the very different post-primary systems we operate.



In England there is a floor target that at least 35% of pupils in all schools will get 5 or more good GCSEs including English and maths. Whilst I don't want to comment in detail on the English system, floor targets for all schools only make sense if the vast majority of schools have similar intakes of students, as in England. Here, unregulated selection and rejection means we have schools with very different intake profiles. I set overall targets for the system, and then each school sets its own targets, which are monitored by the local ELB to ensure they are realistic yet challenging.

Tackling underachievement is my priority and I have a range of policies that are bringing about improvement, but more needs to be done for the sake of all our young people.

### **Special Educational Needs**

**Mr S Anderson** asked the Minister of Education how his proposals for special educational needs will end the delay in identifying and addressing the needs of pupils.

**(AQO 1353/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My proposals aim to end delays through a comprehensive range of measures, which together will contribute to a framework that is more responsive, less bureaucratic and able to support children more quickly.

A straightforward 2-level framework will replace the cumbersome and outdated 5-stage process for identifying and meeting needs. Level 1 will be school-led and level 2 will be Education and Library Board-led. This will immediately reduce the delays where children slowly move through the 5 stages of the current process, without their needs being addressed earlier by schools.

I propose strengthening the duties on Boards of Governors to actively promote supports for SEN pupils in a timely manner. Schools would have a duty to ensure that every child with SEN has a Personal Learning Plan, setting out the interventions to be put in place, and the outcomes to be achieved. I will set out in statutory guidance the time limits within which I expect schools to provide supports.

A comprehensive SEN Resource file is in every school, and together with online and E-learning materials, means that teachers are now immediately able to update their SEN knowledge and to take actions within their professional competence to support pupils. This will reduce the need for SEN information and advice to be sought from Board services in many cases.

Boards too would have a duty to set out their SEN support services for schools and pupils, with associated time limits set out in statutory guidance for these services to be made available.

The time taken by Boards to complete a statutory assessment would be reduced from 26 to 20 weeks, for those children with the greatest level of need.

I plan to reduce the bureaucracy associated with the current annual review process. A formal review of a coordinated support plan will only be conducted if either the parent or the school feels this is necessary. This will free up time within schools and Boards, which will be much better spent in supporting children's needs.

I have funded pilots in early years' settings and mainstream schools, which also play an important role in supporting SEN pupils. The pilots in early years' settings will increase capacity and at the same time identify more quickly those children who need targeted or individual support. The 'test user' pilots in mainstream schools will improve the skills of teachers in educational assessment, so that they can be more responsive to needs in-school and avoid delay in waiting for unnecessary educational psychology assessment.

### **Schools: Classroom Assistants**

**Ms Ritchie** asked the Minister of Education to outline the position regarding the withdrawal of direct payments for Classroom Supervisory Assistants.

**(AQO 1354/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Chief Executive of the South-Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) wrote to the Principals of all Post-Primary schools in the SEELB on 28 September 2011 to advise them that the Board was reviewing the payment of Supervisory Assistants. The SEELB proposed that as Supervisory Assistance is a universal requirement for pupils attending mainstream school, in most circumstances, it should be the responsibility of the management of the school to ensure and fund adequate adult supervision during breaks including the lunch time period. Principals were invited to submit their views/comments on the proposal.

The post of Classroom Supervisory Assistant is a distinct post separate from that of Special Needs Classroom Assistant. Staff employed as Supervisory Assistants are employed on a contract that relates to that post only.

Where a pupil's statement requires supervision/assistance at lunchtime/break times, this will continue to be funded by the Board.

Officers in Special Education within the SEELB will consider requests for specific supervisory assistant support in respect of pupils with statements which do not specify lunchtime supervision. In the event of the Board being satisfied that supervisory assistant support is required for a named pupil, the associated costs will be charged to the Board.

No other Education and Library Board issued a letter regarding the withdrawal of direct payments for Classroom Supervisory Assistants.

## Schools

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Education how his Department calculates the level of influence that schools have on the education of children.

**(AQO 1355/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Every school is subject to inspection by the Education Training Inspectorate (ETI). The ETI provide an external, professional assessment of provision in our schools and comments on the school's leadership and management; the standards achieved by all the pupils in the school, especially in literacy and numeracy; and the quality of teaching and learning.

We know that a child's background too often has an influence on their attainment in our education system, and that is not acceptable. Other education systems have successfully broken this link, and to quote a 2010 OECD report on the issue of overcoming social background "The best performing school systems manage to provide high-quality education to all students".

My concern is to minimise the negative influence of factors outside the school, especially for our most disadvantaged pupils, and to emulate the success of systems such as Canada and Finland.

There is a clear danger in focusing on quantifying how factors outside school negatively impact on education, as this can provide an excuse for educational underachievement, entrenching low expectations, and becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. We know what raises standards, and improves outcomes for pupils regardless of their backgrounds: good teaching in well-led schools, supported by their communities, that put pupils' interests at the heart of their decisions.

We have examples, in our own system, of schools serving disadvantaged communities that have successfully broken this link for large numbers of pupils. We need to make this the reality for all our pupils.

## Schools: Viability Audit

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the viability audit.

**(AQO 1356/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The first viability audits were received from the Education and Library Boards on the 16th of January. As they did not fulfil the requirements of the terms of reference, I asked for them to be resubmitted in two stages.

The first part of the report which includes the basis information in relation to the criteria, enrolment, quality and finance, was received by the Department on the 6th of February.

The second part of the report which presents high level proposals to address issues in those schools demonstrating stress was received on the 15th of February.

My officials are now examining the viability audits and will be working closely with the school managing authorities in the context of area planning taking account of the information in the audits.

The Viability Audits will be published as soon as practicable.

## **Special Educational Needs**

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister of Education what legislative protection will be in place for pupils with special educational needs following the outcome of the Special Educational Needs review.  
**(AQO 1357/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Review of Special Educational Needs & Inclusion has given careful consideration to the legislative protection for children with special educational needs.

Firstly, I propose to retain the current legal definition of SEN as contained in the 1996 Education Order, so that confusion is not caused by the creation of a definition of additional educational needs.

I also propose to introduce statutory coordinated support plans, for special needs children with the greatest level of need, which will afford parents broadly the same legal rights for educational provision and for appeal as currently exist for statements.

I propose to ensure that the dispute avoidance and resolution service for parents, in dispute with schools or Education and Library Boards, is provided in a more independent way than at present.

The annual school census for 2010 records some 64,900 children with special educational needs in our schools. As Minister I want to take measures that will ensure that the needs of all these children are addressed, not only those who have the individual statutory protections afforded by a coordinated support plan.

I therefore propose to strengthen the general duties on boards of governors of mainstream schools to support all children with special needs. I want to ensure that every SEN child will have the actions required by the school to support their needs clearly set out in a Personal Learning Plan, which will be put in place by the school. Importantly the Personal Learning Plan will also set out the outcomes to be achieved that will enable each child to reach his or her potential.

These measures will provide parents with a greater assurance that their child's educational needs will be addressed by their school. They will reduce the delays in accessing provision that children currently face as a direct result of the current framework.

I also want to ensure that the Boards, and in time the Education and Skills Authority, are better prepared to assist the schools with provision, interventions, training and support in a more flexible and timely way than at present. I therefore aim to strengthen their duty to set out the offer of SEN services that they will make available to all schools.

## **Department for Employment and Learning**

### **Foreign Students Attending Northern Ireland Universities**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many foreign students are attending Northern Ireland universities in the 2011/12 academic year; and how many students left Northern Ireland to attend a university in other parts of the UK in the same period.  
**(AQW 7619/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** As there are various definitions of ‘Foreign students’ and limited coverage within the NI Higher Education Sector data, ‘Country of Domicile’ has been used in this instance as a valid proxy. The number of student enrolments, across all years of study, full-time and part-time and undergraduate and postgraduate provision, at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by domicile in 2010/11 is detailed in the table below.

Country of domicile	Total enrolments
Northern Ireland	43,960
Great Britain	1,455
Republic of Ireland	4,285
Other European Union	370
Non European Union	1,945

In the same period (2010/11), there were 16,730 Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at HEIs in Great Britain, across all years of study, full-time and part-time and undergraduate and postgraduate provision.

**Source:** Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

**Notes:**

- 1 Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
- 2 The latest available data are for 2010/11.

### **Merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen’s University**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an estimate of the total cost of the merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen’s University.

**(AQW 7620/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** It is estimated that the merger will generate annual savings of up to £1.5m per annum. In preparation for the merger, costs amounting to £378k have been incurred by my Department, Stranmillis and Queen’s University since 2008 on issues such as the business case, consultation, Equality Impact Assessment, survey reports and evaluations and management and administration. No further costs are accruing at present. I have also advised you previously that should the merger proceed, it would be neutral in budgetary terms for this Department.

### **Departmental Revenue Expenditure**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether his departmental revenue expenditure varies proportionately to his capital budget allocation.

**(AQW 7640/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Executive’s budget allocations to departments are divided into capital and current (revenue). The revenue expenditure by the Department for Employment and Learning does not vary proportionately or disproportionately to its capital budget allocation – they are different types of funding and are not related.

### **Proposed Merger of Queen’s University and Stranmillis University College**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what meetings he or his officials have had, or intend to have, with the Equality Commission in relation to the proposed merger of Queen’s University and Stranmillis University College.

**(AQW 7656/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I have had one meeting with the Equality Commission to discuss their response to the consultation exercise on the proposed merger of Queen's University and Stranmillis University College. My officials have not had any meetings with the Commission in relation to the proposed merger.

### Civil Service Posts

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many Civil Service posts existed in his Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv) Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by local Council area.

**(AQW 7693/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** This information has been placed in the Library and on my department's website: <http://www.delni.gov.uk>.

### Department's Equality Unit

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in his Department's Equality Unit.

**(AQW 7715/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department for Employment and Learning currently has two Civil Servants who are employed on a full-time basis in the Department's Equality Unit. Salary costs have been provided in terms of pay bands as release of the information requested would result in a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998, in particular the first data protection principle of the Act.

Civil Servants employed in Equality Unit	Grade	Pay Band at 1 August 2011
1	Deputy Principal	£34,163 - £38,893
1	Staff Officer	£27,115 - £30,520

### Recruitment Agencies

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the amount paid to recruitment agencies for (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time posts in his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7744/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The amount paid to recruitment agencies within the Department for Employment and Learning, and its arms-length bodies, in each of the last three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Amount Paid £'000
2008/09	355
2009/10	370
2010/11	175
<b>Total:</b>	<b>900</b>

Figures above relate to full-time posts.

## **ApprenticeshipsNI Programmes**

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) how many ApprenticeshipsNI programmes are currently running; (ii) how often each programme is inspected; and (iii) what checks are used to ensure that the programmes represent value for money.

**(AQW 7775/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** ApprenticeshipsNI is my Department's flagship training model for those in employment. Apprentices can choose from over 100 apprenticeship frameworks which cover training in a diverse range of occupational areas. Despite the present economic and fiscal difficulties facing employers, current occupancy is very encouraging with around 11,600 apprentices participating on the ApprenticeshipsNI programme.

My Department has contracts with forty-nine training suppliers to deliver the ApprenticeshipsNI programme on its behalf. To ensure the effective use of public resources, the provision of good quality training and contract compliance my Department has a cycle of inspection programmes which each training supplier must comply with.

My Department's Quality and Performance Branch maintains regular, consistent and robust reviews of suppliers' overall performance and monitors each supplier at least once per year. Additional monitoring visits take place if significant shortcomings have been identified. Comprehensive reports are produced detailing findings and highlighting issues, where applicable, which suppliers must address and which are followed up by officials.

The Department's Financial Audit and Support Team (FAST) inspect training suppliers annually and all will be visited as a minimum once every 18 months. The main aim of the FAST inspections is to provide an assurance as to the safeguarding of public monies in funded organisations. This is achieved through a series of audit tests aimed at assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of the supplier's system of financial control within the programmes, the degree of compliance with Departmental guidelines and other related instructions, and the accuracy, reliability and completeness of associated accounting records.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) inspect all of the Department's contracted work-based learning provision on a three year inspection cycle. This means that all contracted training suppliers of the ApprenticeshipsNI programme will have a full inspection of their training provision conducted once every three years. The outcome of each inspection is a published report, which is accessible on the ETI's web site. The structure of each published report follows the headings and performance indicators outlined in the Improving Quality: Raising Standards (IQ: RS) document. The three main sections of the report evaluate, for the ApprenticeshipsNI programme the supplier is contracted to provide, the Quality of the Leadership and Management, Achievements and Standards and the Quality of Provision for Learning.

Within the IQ:RS there is an indicator on public value, which evaluates the extent to which a supplier manages its resources well enough to ensure that it provides cost effective, high quality training that meets the needs of local and regional economies, employers and communities.

A robust inspection programme including value for money considerations will continue to play a key role in the quality monitoring of the ApprenticeshipsNI programme.

## **Specialist Employment Schemes for Care Leavers**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what specialist employment schemes for care leavers his Department (i) fully funds; and (ii) partly funds; and what other schemes he is aware of that are not funded by his Department.

**(AQW 7821/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My Department does not provide schemes which solely target care leavers; however my officials work closely with Health and Social Care Trust staff to enhance the employability of care leavers. This joint working is undertaken through a Regional Steering Group, jointly chaired with the Health and Social Care Board, which takes forward a range of activity to improve the support available



to care leavers. This ranges from better arrangements for careers guidance and a more flexible approach to Steps to Work participation, to extended age criteria for participation on the Training for Success programme. My Department will continue to place a high priority on providing assistance to removing barriers to employment, training and education.

In addition, my Department contributes to a cross Departmental strategy, led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, called "Care Matters in Northern Ireland". This strategy has brought forward a number of initiatives to improve the employment outcomes for young people leaving care, which include the establishment of dedicated employability schemes in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

### **Young Carers Who Leave School with No Qualifications**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what support is available for young carers, who leave school with no qualifications, to help them access further or higher education.

**(AQW 7822/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** DEL's Careers Service has in place partnership agreements with post-primary schools across Northern Ireland (NI) to support the schools' careers education programmes. These allow schools, in consultation with careers advisers, the opportunity to select from a range of services appropriate to the needs of their pupils, including young carers. This support includes the offer of an individual careers guidance interview for all year 12 pupils before they decide on a career pathway. During the interview all options, including access to further and higher education are discussed.

In addition, the agreement facilitates the identification and referral of young people with significant barriers to employment, such as those with caring responsibilities. Careers guidance services can also be accessed by young people and adults in Careers Resource Centres/Offices, JobCentres and Jobs and Benefit Offices throughout NI. Arrangements are also in place to enable clients availing of Employment Service support to access careers guidance. This may include young carers.

The Higher and Further Education institutions can provide specific support/guidance through their pastoral care arrangements, for those who choose to disclose that they are a carer. The pastoral care provided should contribute to retaining young carers in their courses. The importance of self disclosure should not be under-estimated.

### **Teachers Qualified in STEM Subjects**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people qualified as teachers in each of the STEM subjects at post-primary level in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7837/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** For all institutions, the number of newly qualified teachers in STEM subjects at post-primary level in each of the last three years was:

2008/9	114
2009/10	127
2010/11	139

### **Apprentice Positions in the Public Sector**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans he has to create more apprentice positions in the public sector, given the shortfall in the private sector due to the economic downturn.

**(AQW 7860/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The ApprenticeshipsNI programme is an employer-led provision and, as such, it is employers and not my Department that create apprenticeship positions. Despite the present economic and fiscal



difficulties facing employers, current occupancy is very encouraging with around 11,600 apprentices participating on the ApprenticeshipsNI programme.

Public Sector employees, including those employed by Local Councils, are not eligible for ApprenticeshipsNI funding. The Public Sector can, and has benefitted from the ApprenticeshipsNI training model but the funding for public sector employees is a matter for their Departments or Public Sector organisations.

### **Catholic Certificate of Religious Education**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 6767/11-15, in relation to students from Stranmillis University College, Belfast sitting the Catholic Certificate of Religious Education at St Mary's University College, Belfast, and to clarify whether this idea has been suggested and considered.

**(AQW 7875/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In response to AQW 6767/11-15, I responded, "I believe that all students should be able to access the Certificate of Religious Education locally and the way forward you have suggested is one option in making this a reality." This idea will be explored during the study on the teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland which I announced on 28 November 2011.

### **Total Spend on Hospitality**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 6357/11-15, whether the figures provided include his Department's arm's-length bodies; and if not, to provide this information for each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7895/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department's response to AQW 6357/11-15 did not include arms-

length bodies. The total spend on hospitality by the Department's arm's-length bodies in each of the last five years was as follows:

2006-07	£10,187
2007-08	£10,554
2008-09	£14,641
2009-10	£11,914
2010-11	£10,147

### **Department's Human Resources Section**

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many staff are employed in his Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7939/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department for Employment and Learning currently employs 2094 staff of which 29 work in the Human Resources section.

### **Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College, Belfast**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people currently sit on the Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

**(AQW 7947/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Eleven people currently sit on the Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

### Meeting with the Staff of Stranmillis University College, Belfast

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 6899/11-15, whether he attended the meeting with staff at Stranmillis University College, Belfast, on 19 January 2012.

**(AQW 7953/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I did not attend a meeting with the staff of Stranmillis University College on 19 January 2012.

### Newly Qualified English Teachers at Post-Primary Level

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of newly qualified English teachers at post-primary level in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7988/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** For all institutions, the number of newly qualified English teachers at post-primary level in each of the last three years was:

2008/9	40
2009/10	32
2010/11	39

### Former Premises of the Belfast Metropolitan College

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) for an update on the restrictive use covenants on the former premises of the Belfast Metropolitan College; (ii) how much has been paid, and to whom; and (iii) what restrictions remain for the future use of the premises.

**(AQW 7994/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In 2004, the then Belfast Institute of Further & Higher Education paid £150,000 to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution to relax a covenant in the lease for its College Square East building. The covenant was changed from “educational purposes only” to the following restrictions – “as a public house; as an off-licence; as a bookmakers; as a casino or other place for gambling; as licensed premises for the sale of intoxicating liquor on or off the premises except where this is ancillary to the use of the premises as a hotel; or for any illegal or immoral purpose”. This means all other uses such as residential accommodation are now possible.

There are no usage restrictions relating to the Brunswick Street Building.

### Steps to Work Programme

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what percentage of people who have participated in the Steps to Work programme found employment at any stage, by 31 January 2012.

**(AQW 8000/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Since the Steps to Work programme was introduced in September 2008, twenty-six percent of people who have participated in the programme found employment by March 2011 (the latest date for which statistics are available).

### Stationery Costs in Replying to Assembly Written Questions

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much his Department has spent on stationery costs in replying to Assembly Written Questions, including the price of the envelopes and paper used, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8016/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The overall stationery budget for my Department is recorded in such a manner that it does not allow for the costing of individual tasks. I am therefore unable to provide the information requested.

## Apprenticeship Programmes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people on apprenticeship programmes at the South Eastern Regional College lost their work placement in the 2010/11 academic year.

**(AQW 8053/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Programme-Led Apprenticeship (PLA) programme offers a similar training opportunity as the employer-led, ApprenticeshipsNI, by providing a participant with the opportunity to gain a full apprenticeship framework at Level 2. The work placement is a fundamental element of the PLA programme ensuring that the participant can gain evidence towards a competence based qualification.

I am aware that some training suppliers are finding it difficult to source relevant work placements with employers given the current economic situation.

The South Eastern Regional College has advised that it does not maintain a register of all work placements lost with the exception of those lost as a direct result of an employer's economic situation, such as a specific piece or period of sustained work coming to an end. Other reasons for loss of placement would include non-attendance by the participant or motivational or attitudinal issues.

Of the 685 PLA participants currently at the South Eastern Regional College, ten have lost their placement directly due to the employer's economic situation.

## Step Ahead Scheme

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how the new Step Ahead scheme is being run compared with the previous scheme; and what he plans to do when the funding runs out.

**(AQW 8069/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Step Ahead was introduced on 28 September 2009 and provided fixed term waged employment places within the voluntary/community sector for a maximum of 26 weeks. This was available to those on benefits for 30 months or more. Recruitment to Step Ahead ceased in November last year.

Additional in-year funding was made available enabling Step Ahead to be re-introduced within the Steps to Work programme on 13 January 2012. This second phase provides fixed term waged employment places offering participants up to 10 weeks employment in the voluntary/community sector. The eligibility criteria has also been widened to target all those in receipt Jobseeker's Allowance for a maximum of three months or more, or those on Income Support, Incapacity Benefit or Employment & Support Allowance with no qualifying period.

Subject to resource availability it is planned to reinstate a variant of the Step Ahead strand of Steps to Work in April 2012.

## Department Spend on Fuel

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much his Department, and its agencies, have spent on fuel in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8094/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department for Employment and Learning had no expenditure on fuel in each of the last five financial years (2006/7 - 2010/11).

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Strategic Energy Framework on Smart Energy Metering

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the implementation of the recommendation within the Strategic Energy Framework on Smart Energy Metering.

**(AQW 7065/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** The EU Third Internal Energy Package (IME 3) requires a cost benefit analysis on intelligent metering to be completed by September 2012.

The Utility Regulator has now completed the cost benefit analysis and it is currently being considered by my officials. I intend to announce my policy position on smart metering shortly.

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.

### Laying of Fibre Optic Cable Between Monaghan, Cavan and Enniskillen

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the study commissioned by her Department, and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, in 2009, which recommended the laying of fibre optic cable between Monaghan, Cavan and Enniskillen, to enhance the provision of high speed telecommunications infrastructure in the border region.

**(AQW 7624/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** While my Department supported the March 2009 study, lead responsibility for commissioning the report lay with the ROI's Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. My Department's telecoms priorities are set out in DETI's 'A Telecommunications Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2011-2015', which underwent a full public consultation. We have no plans to deliver projects beyond those set out in our Action Plan.

### Energy Provision

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 7009/11-15, to list the (i) dates; (ii) subject matter; (iii) level of contact; and (iv) means of communication for the period in question.

**(AQW 7661/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** During 2011, my Department engaged directly with the European Commission by way of e-mail and meeting with officials and indirectly through a number of Whitehall Departments, on topics including State Aid application, Climate Change Levy and the Third Package of Energy Legislation.

### Petroleum Licence Holders

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what rights petroleum licence holders have in relation to the selling, or transferring, of their licences to other companies.

**(AQW 7751/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The rights of petroleum licence holders in relation to selling or transferring their licences to other companies are governed by Clause 39 (Restrictions on Assignment) in Schedule 2 (Model Clauses) to the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 as amended by the Petroleum Production (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010).

Under that Clause, the holder of a Petroleum Licence which has been granted by DETI, is not permitted to assign any part of the Petroleum Licence without the consent of DETI in writing.

That legislation and the associated Model Clauses are specifically referenced in all Petroleum Production Licences granted by the Department since May 2010.

## Renewable Energy Targets

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assistance is available to help businesses meet renewable energy targets.

**(AQW 7770/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Individual businesses do not have renewable energy targets – however as set out in the Executive agreed Strategic Energy Framework, Northern Ireland as a whole has a target to generate 40% of its electricity consumption and 10% of its heat requirement from renewable sources by 2020.

There are no grants available from my Department to assist businesses meet renewable energy targets. Instead, renewable electricity generators are incentivised through the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation which provides a revenue stream once the generating plant is in operation. This provides the fiscal driver to meet the renewable energy targets.

DETI has recently consulted on proposals to provide financial support for a range of renewable heat installations. It has been proposed that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will first be available to non-domestic customers and later extended to the domestic sector. My Department is currently carrying out further analysis on the proposed scheme in advance of finalising levels of support. An announcement will be made in due course.

Invest NI provides a range of support for businesses to help reduce the cost of water, energy or materials consumption. This support includes the provision of free project management consultancy to identify, prioritise and take forward appropriate cost saving projects including renewable energy projects where appropriate. Invest NI also provides the funding for the Energy Efficiency Loan fund delivered by Carbon Trust which offers interest-free loans from £3,000 - £400,000 to Northern Ireland businesses to help them deploy more energy efficient and/or carbon reducing solutions. Many types of project will be considered for loans including renewable energy projects provided they meet the on-site carbon saving requirement.

Invest NI also assists companies with the necessary capabilities to enter renewable energy supply chains and these companies are invited to participate in various Trade and Technology transfer programmes and events that promote and develop their capability.

## Business Start-Up Programme

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to the bid for the Business Start-Up Programme, whether the Belfast office of KPMG is conjoined with the Glasgow based Go Group, which was barred from tendering for contracts in Scotland because of gross professional misconduct arising from a breach of confidentiality.

**(AQW 7789/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Belfast office of KPMG is associated with the Go Group bid for the tender in question. To the best of the Department's understanding the Go Group voluntarily withdrew from a number of procurement competitions due to allegations of breach of confidentiality by one person within that organisation. The matter is currently being considered in the course of ongoing litigation.

## Enterprise Development Programme

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether KPMG was appointed by InvestNI to undertake the monitoring agent role for the Enterprise Development Programme, which includes the auditing and vouching of work.

**(AQW 7790/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** KPMG were appointed in December 2008 after a tender process to undertake the Monitoring Agent role in the Enterprise Development Programme.

The terms of reference for this role included an ongoing quality assurance and an audit and activity verification role across all delivery agents, reporting to Invest NI on any non-compliance and identifying opportunities for continuous improvement.

The identification of need for the role was contained within the recommendations arising out of the Start a Business Programme (SABP) audit in 2007. This audit was carried out as a result of Invest NI identifying a number of potential irregularities in relation to the Enterprise Northern Ireland delivery of the programme. The report's recommendations reflected that significant programmes such as SABP and any new programmes are subject to appropriately robust programme management arrangements and these arrangements should include regular review of the programme to ensure all requirements are being complied with. It further recommended that there should be a comprehensive audit of activity and governance arrangements to provide assurance to Invest NI on the probity of the programme and the effectiveness of its delivery.

### **Enterprise Development Programme**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much KPMG was paid to perform the monitoring agent role for the Enterprise Development Programme for the duration of the programme.

**(AQW 7791/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** KPMG performed the role of Monitoring Agent on the Enterprise Development Programme between December 2008 and October 2011 and the cost to Invest NI was £699,074 Inc VAT.

The cost of the role should be viewed against overall programme delivery costs of £6,720,266 for the same period.

The identification of need for the role was contained within the recommendations arising out of the Start a Business Programme (SABP) audit in 2007. This audit was carried out as a result of Invest NI identifying a number of potential irregularities in relation to the Enterprise Northern Ireland delivery of the programme. The report's recommendations reflected that significant programmes such as SABP and any new programmes are subject to appropriately robust programme management arrangements and these arrangements should include regular review of the programme to ensure all requirements are being complied with. It further recommended that there should be a comprehensive audit of activity and governance arrangements to provide assurance to Invest NI on the probity of the programme and the effectiveness of its delivery.

### **Business Start-Up Programme**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether KPMG was separately commissioned by InvestNI to provide an additional 'Concept Paper' on the Business Start-Up Programme; and if so, how much KPMG was paid for providing this paper and from which budget was their fee for this service paid.

**(AQW 7792/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** KPMG were asked, as part of their monitoring agent role for the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) and their agreed January to June 2011 work plan for that period to produce a concept paper considering 2 principal subject areas: payment structure and targets.

The payment structure element considered any examples of output related funding in other business start/enterprise programmes. It also considered the feasibility of implementing an Output Related Payment (ORF) regime within the start-up element of the EDP.

This work was within the parameters of the terms of reference for the monitoring agent role which reflected ongoing reviews of programme concept and payment structures, identifications/recommendations to drive best practice and continuous improvement and annual review of targets.

The cost to Invest NI for this paper was £9,480 and was paid to KPMG as part of their Monitoring Agent fee.



## Titanic Signature Project

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what work is being carried out in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to promote the Titanic signature project as an international event.

**(AQW 7804/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with Visit Britain (the lead organisation working with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the promotion of Great Britain as a destination during The Olympic Games 2012) which enables the promotion of the Titanic signature project on Visit Britain websites. This includes links to a Northern Ireland database, a filmed Northern Ireland itinerary video on Visit Britain TV channel and on-going content on the Tourism 2012 Games Website including information on the Titanic Signature Project.

## Tourist Board's Our Time Our Place Showcase

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the inclusivity of the events advertised in the Tourist Board's Our Time Our Place showcase; and whether other events could have been included.

**(AQW 7808/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The "Our Time, Our Place" initiative is designed to change perceptions of Northern Ireland. Its focus is the new tourist investment and other one-off high profile events happening in 2012. Supporting these will be a range of other events although the programme for these is still being drawn up.

There are 8 high profile and motivational Tier 1 events which were selected on the basis of set criteria and approved by an independent steering group. Their objective is to create new images of Northern Ireland, generate additional business and inspire chat. These are supported by 52 Tier 2 events which have been awarded funding support under the widely publicised Tourism Events Fund. These are widely distributed throughout Northern Ireland and funding criteria were aligned to ni2012.

The programme continues to evolve and further events are being added to the listing as details are made available to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. All events listed are included on [discovernorthernireland.com](http://discovernorthernireland.com).

## Renewable Energy Grants

**Mr W Clarke** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list all the grants that are available in relation to renewable energy; and to detail how these grants can be obtained by individuals or organisations.

**(AQW 7831/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** There are no grants available from my department for the generation of renewable electricity. Instead, renewable electricity generators are incentivised through the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation which provides a revenue stream once the generating plant is in operation.

DETI has recently consulted on proposals to provide financial support for a range of renewable heat installations. It has been proposed that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will first be available to non-domestic customers and later extended to the domestic sector. My department is currently carrying out further analysis on the proposed scheme in advance of finalising levels of support. An announcement will be made in due course.

Invest NI provides a range of support for companies interested in investigating deployment of renewable energy technologies as well as other resource efficiency projects to help reduce operating costs. This support includes free resource efficiency audits, action plans and project management support to help businesses to implement the most cost effective cost saving opportunities including, where appropriate, renewable energy technologies.



Invest NI also provides funding for the Energy Efficiency Loan Fund which is managed and delivered by Carbon Trust. The Loan Fund offers interest-free loans from £3,000 - £400,000 to Northern Ireland businesses to help them install more energy efficient equipment. Each project will be assessed on its potential to deliver energy and carbon dioxide savings.

Invest NI can also provide support to businesses with the capability to enter renewable energy supply chains. Such companies are invited to participate in a range of Trade and Technology transfer programmes and events that promote and develop their capability.

### InvestNI Start-Up Scheme

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) if she is aware that InvestNI decided on 6 September 2011, to award the new Business Start-Up Programme to the GO Group which is based in Glasgow; (ii) whether this is the same organisation that was found guilty of misconduct in Scotland in respect of breaches of confidentiality, which resulted in an out-of-court settlement in favour of Innovation Centres Scotland; (iii) whether this conduct was deemed to have been sufficiently serious to result in the GO Group being barred from tendering for four contracts in Scotland, including contracts for Scottish Enterprise; (iv) whether InvestNI was aware, since 15 November 2011, of the out-of-court settlement and whether it has taken any action; (v) whether the GO Group declared the breach of confidentiality in its pre-tender questionnaire for the Business Start-Up Programme; and (vi) why, after four months, and mounting legal costs, InvestNI has not yet taken a decision on the possible disqualification of the GO Group.

**(AQW 7868/11-15)**

#### **Mrs Foster:**

(i) I am aware that Invest NI decided to award the contract for the new Business Start Programme to a consortium including the Go Group based in Glasgow.

(ii) to (vi)

To the best of the knowledge of the Department and Invest NI the Go Group voluntarily withdrew from a number of procurement competitions due to allegations of breach of confidentiality by one person within that organisation. This matter is currently being considered in the course of ongoing litigation.

### InvestNI: Available Land

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail how much available land InvestNI has in each district council area.

**(AQW 7900/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has c760 acres of land across Northern Ireland available to support economic development.

A table has been attached at Annex A providing the breakdown of this figure by district council area.

#### **TABLE SHOWING THE BREAKDOWN OF INVEST NI'S AVAILABLE LAND BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA.**

<b>District Council</b>	<b>Available land* (acres)</b>
Antrim	26.50
Ards	4.10
Armagh	7.00
Ballymena	31.60
Ballymoney	4.50
Banbridge	0.00

<b>District Council</b>	<b>Available land* (acres)</b>
Belfast	20.90
Carrickfergus	18.80
Castlereagh	0.00
Coleraine	48.80
Cookstown	5.14
Craigavon	177.70
Londonderry	104.47
Down	50.90
Dungannon	28.50
Fermanagh	36.60
Larne	4.70
Limavady	16.50
Lisburn	20.81
Magherafelt	27.10
Moyle	2.00
Newry & Mourne	0.00
Newtownabbey	98.00
North Down	20.10
Omagh	4.80
Strabane	0.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>760.15</b>

\* Figures are correct as at 31st December 2011

### **Creative Industries Products**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many companies which provide Creative Industries products and services have received funding from InvestNI in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) council area; and (ii) the total value of the funding allocated to each council area. **(AQW 7957/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Creative Industries are those activities which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property (Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)). The DCMS identifies the Creative Industries sector as consisting of 13 sectors and sub-sectors. The sectors can be grouped into three broad categories:

- 1 Design Related Studies: Architecture, Art and Antiques market, Crafts, Design and Designer Fashion;
- 2 Expression Industries: Music, Performing arts and Visual arts; and,
- 3 Media and Information Industries: Advertising, Film and Video, Interactive Leisure Software, Software and Computer Services, Television and Radio.

Invest NI's sectoral priorities in Creative Industries reflect those sub-sector areas that offer the greatest potential for growth and in driving a shift to higher added value and productivity levels, namely Software; and the Creative Content Production sectors of Film & Television; Digital Content/Media; and Music.

A breakdown of the number of companies and the level of support provided by Invest NI to clients operating in these sub-sectors of the Creative Industries (by District Council Area) is provided at Annex A. This table indicates that over the period in question Invest NI directly supported 396 businesses offering total assistance of £38.4m. Invest NI does not allocate funding by council area for the Creative Industries but will consider support to any business based in Northern Ireland in this sector that satisfies Invest NI's eligibility criteria for support.

The figures presented do not take into account External Delivery Organisations engaged in supporting the Creative Industries sector that are in receipt of support from Invest NI, including Northern Ireland Screen and Craft NI. These organisations receive funding from a combination of Government and Non-Government organisations. For example, over the period in question Invest NI has provided £19.4m to Northern Ireland Screen, however, this agency also receives funding from DCAL, the National Lottery, British Film Institute and the Department of Culture Media & Sport.

## ANNEX A

District Council Area	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		Total	
	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)
Antrim	3	113,192	5	90,141	3	9,165	11	212,498
Ardara	1	2,425	0	0	3	101,000	4	103,425
Armagh	2	62,200	2	26,576	2	34,500	6	123,276
Ballymena	1	1,600	1	6,000	0	0	2	7,600
Ballymoney	1	3,000	0	0	0	0	1	3,000
Banbridge	3	38,600	2	10,082	1	11,760	6	60,442
Belfast	48	2,882,637	55	13,916,601	50	4,737,445	153	21,536,683
Carrickfergus	1	1,000	0	0	0	0	1	1,000
Castlereagh	4	207,448	6	141,979	12	291,466	22	640,893
Coleraine	3	31,204	3	41,363	4	107,994	10	180,561
Cookstown	1	49,586	2	20,086	3	33,682	6	103,354
Craigavon	3	107,519	4	18,492	4	44,109	11	170,120
Londonderry	12	1,992,504	14	1,238,989	14	336,326	40	3,567,819
Down	2	34,728	4	59,500	2	30,352	8	124,580
Dungannon	2	196,083	5	129,864	1	1,000	8	326,947
Fermanagh	2	11,400	2	4,800	1	25,414	5	41,614
Lisburn	8	147,497	10	283,171	8	187,168	26	617,836
Magherafelt	2	55,850	5	31,651	3	26,424	10	113,925

District Council Area	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		Total	
	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)	Number of Companies	Assistance Offered (£)
Moyle	1	4,980	0	0	1	4,000	2	8,980
Newry & Mourne	9	3,481,636	7	1,764,966	5	4,401,700	21	9,648,302
Newtownabbey	6	69,935	5	60,730	1	0	12	130,665
North Down	7	248,008	4	108,704	6	71,638	17	428,350
Omagh	6	94,884	5	139,748	2	41,225	13	275,857
Strabane	0	0	0	0	1	12,286	1	12,286
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>9,837,916</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>18,093,443</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>10,508,654</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>38,440,013</b>

## Invest NI Land

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what processes are in place to make land, which is not in use by Invest NI clients, available to other businesses.

**(AQW 7967/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has interpreted this question as referring to those processes the agency has in place to enable land that has been leased to businesses, but which has not been developed by them, to be made available to other companies.

The continuing economic downturn has had a significant impact upon the Northern Ireland business base. Many companies that had bought land from Invest NI prior to the downturn have been forced to postpone or even abandon expansion projects.

It is recognised that this land, which was bought during better economic times, can now place an additional burden on a company's finances. For such businesses Invest NI can, upon request, negotiate the removal of restrictive lease covenants which relate to the future assignment of their site.

In addition, for those businesses that have developed their land but been unable to complete their expansion project thereon, Invest NI has temporarily relaxed its restriction on sub-letting within its lease.

The above two measures will enable an assignment or a sub-let to companies that otherwise might not meet Invest NI's intervention criteria but undertake activities of an industrial nature.

Finally, the introduction of a "land buy back" option has enabled Invest NI to re-purchase undeveloped land it had previously sold. It is available only to those companies assessed to be in acute hardship as a result of the economic downturn and is intended as a short term measure.

Companies seeking further information on these matters should, in the first instance, contact their Invest NI Client Executive.

## Department's Equality Unit

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the current (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in her Department's Equality Unit.

**(AQW 7990/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) There are 2 staff in the Department's Equality Unit.
- (ii) This is personal data.

## Domestic Use of Bioliquid Heating Oil

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she would consider increasing the current subsidies for domestic use of bioliquid heating oil, under the UK-wide renewable heat incentive scheme.

**(AQW 8004/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** In July 2011, my Department consulted on proposals to introduce a specific Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for Northern Ireland. Full details of the proposals are on the DETI website.

The consultation closed in October 2011 and in light of the responses received, my Department has been carrying out further analysis prior to developing a final policy position. I hope to make an announcement on the final design of the RHI shortly.

## Stationery Costs in Replying to Assembly Written Questions

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much her Department has spent on stationery costs in replying to Assembly Written Questions, including the price of the envelopes and paper used, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8015/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is not held centrally and therefore to provide an answer would incur disproportionate cost.

## Ferry Prices

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action is being taken to address the disparity in ferry prices between Northern Ireland and Great Britain; and the prices prevailing on Great Britain and European routes.

**(AQW 8024/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The development and operation of ferry links, and the fares the operators charge, are entirely matters for commercial decision by individual sea carriers and the Northern Ireland and Great Britain (GB) ports.

Northern Ireland's ferry links with GB are essential to the growth of the local economy and to tourism in particular. To this end Tourism Ireland works closely with all the major ferry operators to highlight value fares, inclusive packages and ease of access to Northern Ireland.

Tourism Ireland has increased the level of resource available for co-operative marketing with both sea and air carriers in major markets and is investing in co-operative marketing activity with ferry operators such as Stena Line and P&O Lines. For example, between April and August 2011, Tourism Ireland, in partnership with P&O promoted "the shortest, fastest crossings" and value fares from Troon and Cairnryan to Larne. Similar promotional activity will take place in 2012.

## Northern Ireland's Contribution to Tourism Ireland Limited

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) when she last reviewed Northern Ireland's contribution to Tourism Ireland Limited; (ii) what returns she has identified in each of the last three years; and (iii) whether she has any evidence of value for money.

**(AQW 8036/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) I am continuously reviewing Northern Ireland's contribution to Tourism Ireland.
- (ii) During the last 3 years Tourism Ireland's extensive and targeted marketing campaigns were successful in showcasing the many visitor attractions and events on offer in Northern Ireland including:
  - a major US promotional campaign, with a showcase exhibition in Grand Central Station, New York – "Experience Northern Ireland, Titanic and More";
  - a special campaign "Belfast – City of Music" showcasing Belfast's rich musical heritage in Great Britain;
  - support for the Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 bid;
  - targeting Ulster Scots tourism, in the US in particular;
  - the "Home of Champions" golf campaign, boosted by Major tournament wins by several Northern Ireland golfers; and
  - Belfast centre stage with the hosting of the MTV Europe Music Awards.
- (iii) I have ensured that the Tourism Ireland Corporate Plan 2011-13 contains specific and stretching targets for Northern Ireland and a continuing requirement to deliver annual efficiency savings of 3% cumulating to 9% over the period 2011 to 2013. A dedicated Great Britain Marketing Strategy



for Northern Ireland has also been agreed with Tourism Ireland and specific targets have been set to measure the impact of this Strategy. I am confident that with such measures in place, the Northern Ireland contribution to Tourism Ireland will provide value for money and ensure we take full advantage of the unprecedented opportunity of ni2012 to grow overseas tourism to Northern Ireland in 2012 and beyond.

### **Disqualification of the GO Group**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) whether InvestNI was directed at the court hearing held on 31 January 2012, to make a decision on the disqualification of the GO Group; and (ii) when this decision will be made.

**(AQW 8037/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) The court hearing on 31 January 2012 was adjourned by the judge to allow Invest NI to make a decision on whether to exclude Go Group from the procurement.
- (ii) Invest NI is currently considering this issue and a decision will be made in advance of the next court hearing later this month.

### **Foreign Direct Investment**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans she has to attract new Foreign Direct Investment, given that her Department has not utilised its budgetary allocation.

**(AQW 8039/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest Northern Ireland focuses its limited resources on creating economic wealth through the creation of jobs, through attracting high quality Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects. It has for some time, had a successful track record in this area, punching above its weight when compared to other UK regions.

However it is important to remember that Invest NI contributes to investment in the form of match funding, where it invests only a portion of the overall cost of an investment project. Due to the sustained economic downturn and continued credit restrictions, many businesses have delayed plans to expand, re-invest and pursue new investments. In such circumstances, Invest NI is restricted by the amount that it can invest.

Over the past three years, Invest NI has made 131 offers of employment related financial assistance in the promotion of over 7,500 new jobs. The amount of investment made by Invest NI through these offers, totalled just over £119million with total planned investment of over £1.1billion

Invest NI's network of overseas offices is focussed on attracting FDI covering the areas of North America, Europe and South East Asia. Recently a number of new staff have been added to the sales teams in N America and South East Asia, in a renewed effort to capitalise on available FDI opportunities. Invest NI has also relocated staff resources to the Chicago area to maximize investment opportunities after recent success in the area including Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

### **Introduction of Social Tariffs**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what consideration her Department has given to introducing social tariffs.

**(AQW 8042/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have no plans to introduce social tariffs.

## Impact of Energy Price Rises

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department intends to take to mitigate the impact of energy price rises on low income families.

**(AQW 8043/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** While my Department has no direct role in the setting of energy costs, it works with the Utility Regulator and other Departments on a range of energy matters including fuel poverty.

Low income families can mitigate against the disproportionate effect of energy price rises by ensuring that they seek the best deals available from energy suppliers, including availing of opportunities to switch suppliers, and by taking advantage of energy efficiency measures. A range of energy efficiency measures are available and targeted at low income consumers, including home insulation, energy saving light bulbs, and assistance to change from oil heating to natural gas. Such measures are provided through schemes such as the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme and by energy supply companies directly.

## Applications for Capital Grant Support for Hotel Projects

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list the 63 applications for capital grant support for hotel projects that InvestNI received between 1 April 2003 and 23 January 2012.

**(AQW 8077/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Applications received by Invest NI are deemed to be confidential. Until a project receives an offer of support Invest NI does not disclose details as to do so might compromise the commercial viability of the project.

Invest NI does publish details of assistance offered and the table below lists offers made to hotel projects in the period 1 April 2003 to 23 January 2012.

May '03	Dunsilly Hotel	South Antrim
Sep '03	Mahons Hotel (IFI)	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Mar '04	Old Inn, Crawfordsburn	North Down
May '04	Kilmorey Arms (IFI)	South Down
Oct '04	Hotel Carlton	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Aug '05	Clandeboyne Lodge	North Down
Jun '05	Drummond Hotel (IFI)	East Londonderry
Aug '05	Slieve Donard	South Down
Nov '05	Carrybridge Hotel (IFI)	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Nov '05	White Horse Hotel	Foyle
Dec '05	Magherabuoy House Hotel	East Londonderry
Apr '06	Galgorm Resort & Spa	North Antrim
Jun '06	Lough Erne Golf Resort	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
Jan '07	Holiday Inn Express, Craigavon	Upper Bann
Mar '08	Manor House Hotel	Fermanagh & South Tyrone
May '08	Fir Trees Hotel	West Tyrone
Jun '08	Bushmills Inn	North Antrim
Mar '11	Beech Hill Country House Hotel	Foyle
Aug '11	Adair Arms	North Antrim

It should be noted that for some cases the initial application for these projects may have been received prior to 1 April 2003.

For completeness of information offers made on behalf of the International Fund for Ireland have been included.

### **Tourism Location at Londonderry Quay**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she will investigate the possibility of establishing a more visible and relevant tourism location at Londonderry Quay, to mark the spot where tens of thousands of Ulster Scots, including some of the most famous luminaries in the founding of the American Nation, departed for the USA in the 18th century.

**(AQW 8129/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The emigration and diaspora story is significant in Londonderry and is one of the unique historic attractions identified by Londonderry City Council in their Tourism Development Strategy for 2009-2012. Within this Tourism Development Strategy are actions which explored options for the development of a major visitor attraction capitalising on Londonderry's history as an emigration port and "Gateway to the World", using the Quay's, river and Lough. This led to the completion of a feasibility study on the potential of a Maritime Museum. I am aware that Londonderry City Council has an application into NITB's Tourism Development Scheme seeking funding for the development of the Maritime Museum at Ebrington. This proposed museum will tell the story of Londonderry's wider Maritime Heritage, including the Diaspora and Emigration story, as well as showing Ebrington's role during World War Two and the Battle of the Atlantic.

The City Council in Londonderry has also identified other key maritime themed actions such as creating a maritime ambience on the tidal shoreline through creative public realm, public art and maritime events. There is also a proposal to design a themed tourism trail based on Social & Industrial History and Maritime.

Following the recent public realm work in Guildhall Square and Waterloo Place, the emigration statues that were in place there have now been installed along Londonderry Quay.

### **Tourism Industry in Fermanagh**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the amount spent by her Department and its arm's-lengths bodies on promoting tourism products and facilities in each of the last ten years; (ii) her Department's total spend on promoting tourism products and facilities in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years, and what this represents as a percentage of the total spend on promoting tourism products and facilities in each year; (iii) the number of visitors in each of the last ten years; (iv) the total number of visitors to Co Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; (v) the percentage of the total number of visitors that visited Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; (vi) the actual, or estimated, spend of visitors in each of the last ten years; (vii) the actual, or estimated, spend of visitors to Co Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; (viii) the percentage of the actual, or estimated spend, of visitors that was spent in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; (ix) the estimated economic value of the tourism sector for each of the last ten years; (x) the estimated economic value of the tourism sector in Fermanagh for each of the last ten years; (xi) the percentage of the total economic value that is derived from the tourism sector in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; (xii) the total number of people employed in the tourism industry in each of the last ten years; (xiii) the number of people employed in the tourism industry in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; (xiv) the percentage of the total number of people employed in the tourism industry that were employed in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years; and (xv) the position of Fermanagh in the league table for visitor numbers to each district council area in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 8146/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

## Department Spend on Fuel

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much her Department, and its agencies, have spent on fuel in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8236/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment has spent the following amounts on fuel for its road vehicles:

Financial Year	Amount
2006 - 2007	£12262
2007 – 2008	£13120
2008 - 2009	£11400
2009 – 2010	£14474
2010 – 2011	£12795

## Tourism Strategy

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQO 1232/11-15, when she will publish the Tourism Strategy.

**(AQW 8258/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Member is referred to the answer to AQO 1232/11-15 which was published in the Hansard Weekly Answers Booklet for 10 February 2012. Page WA 80 refers.

## Countries Whose Citizens Require a Visa

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list all the countries whose citizens would require a separate Visa should they wish to visit here after arriving in Dublin.

**(AQW 8291/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The list of countries whose citizens would require a visa to visit all parts of the UK is available on the UK Border Agency website at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendix1>

## HCL BPO Services NI

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions her Department has had with HCL BPO Services NI in relation to the reported relocation from Armagh.

**(AQW 8354/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have met with senior representatives from HCL BPO Services over recent months and throughout our discussions have sought to retain and sustain as many jobs as possible for Northern Ireland. My officials in Invest NI have already proactively engaged with both existing and prospective investors to encourage them to consider the Armagh site and the associated infrastructure and skilled workforce as an excellent investment opportunity in the short term. HCL's decision to close Armagh is extremely regrettable but is as a direct result of current global economic conditions. I am somewhat encouraged that the company plans are firmly focused on investing in Northern Ireland and that HCL expects to find alternative employment for around 40% of staff affected by the announcement during the course of the 90 day consultation period.

# Department of the Environment

## Planning Applications for Renewable Energy

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department intends to introduce a statutory response time for planning applications for renewable energy.

**(AQW 4653/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment):** The majority of renewable energy applications are classified as major applications. The PSA (Public Service Agreement) target for major applications is to process 60% of applications to decision or withdrawal within 23 weeks. In the 2010/11 business year 50% of renewable energy applications were processed within 23 weeks. Within the renewable energy category, 55% of single wind turbine applications were processed within 23 weeks. These are applications which are often contentious in nature attracting a large number of objections which invariably has a constraining effect on the speed at which these applications can be processed. I am reviewing targets and the Department has been actively working on how to best improve processing times through a number of existing and proposed initiatives.

A statutory time period for determining planning applications, including renewable energy applications, is technically in place. This is 2 months or 16 weeks if an Environmental Statement has been submitted. After this time period the applicant may lodge an appeal in default of the decision to the Planning Appeals Commission, although I recognise that the cost, complexity and demands of doing so mean that this is not so widely availed of. These time periods do not apply if an application is being determined under Article 31 of The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

I can confirm that I am actively looking at putting statutory timelimits in place in relation to the response times of statutory consultees. This would create a tighter planning environment and the better processing of applications, including for renewable, which may offer our single biggest economic opportunity. I intend to detail my ambitions in this regard in the near future.

## Introduction of Changes to the MOT Test

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) when the changes to the MOT test will come into effect; (ii) what changes and adaptations to test centres will be required; (iii) when the test centres will be ready; and (iv) how much it will cost to make the changes to the test centres.

**(AQW 6023/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Implementation of the changes to the MOT test as a result of Commission Directive 2010/48/EU will be introduced on a phased basis.

a Phase 1 - Customer Advisory Period

For a three-month period from 1 February 2012, a vehicle examiner who identifies a defect relating to the new standards will advise the customer and indicate that from 1 May 2012 it will be a reason for rejection.

b Phase 2 – Full Implementation

From 1 May 2012 any defect relating to the new standards will be treated in the same way as any other defect.

This is in line with the implementation process being adopted by the Vehicle and Operation Services Agency (VOSA) in Britain.

There were no physical changes or adaptations required to test centres. However, some changes to the vehicle testing software system were required, and a new trailer socket testing device was required at each centre.

DVA is currently in a position to implement the requirements of the Directive in accordance with the implementation timetable outlined above.

The total costs incurred by DVA have been around £7,000.

## PPS 18

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of the Environment, following his confirmation that PPS 21 will be given significant weight in a lignite area, whether PPS 18 will be interpreted in the same area.

**(AQW 6177/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** PPS18 is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for renewable energy. Policies contained in the Area Plans are also material considerations and the weight that is attributed to policies is a matter of judgement for the Department depending on the merits of the case.

I have not made any commitment that PPS18 will be given significant weight for renewable energy planning applications in the Ballymoney Lignite Resource Area.

## Fracking in Fermanagh

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, prior to fracking in Fermanagh in the early 2000s, whether any baseline samples were taken for water purity/contamination, and if so, (a) who tested the samples; (b) where the samples were taken; (c) whether the sampled water was surface or ground water; (d) when the samples were taken; (e) for what the water was tested; and (f) to provide details of the results.

**(AQW 6198/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Routine water quality monitoring of surface waters and groundwaters was undertaken during the period 2000-2005 by Northern Ireland Environment Agency's predecessor, the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS). Monitoring was carried out to meet a range of national and European classification schemes and Directives. These included the General Quality Assessment (GQA) Scheme for Chemistry and Biology, EC Directive 'On the Quality of Freshwaters to Support Fish Life' 78/659/EEC (known as the Freshwater Fish Directive); Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC,) Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC) and the Groundwater Directive (80/68/EC).

I have provided answers to your additional questions below, using the lettering sequence set out in your question:

(a) The majority of surface water samples were analysed by EHS Water Management Unit laboratories in Lisburn, although some specialist analyses were contracted out to Environment Agency (England & Wales) Laboratory Service. EHS Water Management Unit contracted White Young Green (WYG) to collect and analyse samples of groundwater in the period 2000 to 2006. The analysis was sub-contracted by WYG to Alcontrol laboratories in Yorkshire.

(b and c) In total over one hundred surface water sites were monitored in Fermanagh. Details and locations are provided ( Annex 1). There were five groundwater monitoring points at:

- Newtownbutler (244570E, 326010N)
- Ballinamallard (224050E, 351470N)
- Marble Arch (212210E, 335050N)
- Larganacarran (217320E, 329580N)

Derrylin (228100E, 321960N)

(d) Surface water sites were analysed for a range of physical, chemical and biological parameters (Annex 2).The groundwater samples were analysed for around 200 different parameters (Annex 3) consisting of:

- Major ions and nutrients sampled quarterly;
- Metals, pesticides and hydrocarbons sampled annually;
- Microbiological indicators sampled twice per year.

- (e) The combined monitoring programmes above represent an extensive data set of tens of thousands of data points which prohibits the inclusion of the results in this format. NIEA officials will be willing to provide the results of these programmes in entirety or on a selective basis as best meets your needs. If you wish to pursue this, please provide a further request detailing the locations, parameters, and time period for which you require the data.



## ANNEX 1 – LOCATION AND DETAILS OF SURFACE WATER MONITORING IN FERMANAGH 2000-2005

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Roogagh River At Garrison	G942518			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Lough Melvin At Muckenagh Bay	G917543			✓	monthly						
Lough Melvin From B53 Road South of Garrison	G938513			✓	monthly						
County River (Fermanagh) At County Bridge	G938508			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Blackslee Burn At Holme Bay	H109572							✓	spring	✓	2002
Hollow River At Lisnarrick	H198589							✓	spring	✓	2002
Erne River At Rosscor Viaduct	G987586	✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Garvary River At Larkhill	H009630			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Lower Lough Erne At Rossharbour (Tullyfad)	H031617			✓	monthly						

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Waterfoot River At Letter Bridge	H085652		✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Lower Lough Erne At Rossciare	H186544		✓	monthly						
Lower Lough Erne At Devenish	H226480		✓	monthly						
Lower Lough Erne At Portora	H223454		✓	monthly						
Erne River At Enniskillen	H231443		✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Upper Lough Erne At Killyhevin	H247421		✓	monthly						
Upper Lough Erne At Lady Craigavon Bridge	H330279		✓	monthly						
Lough-A-Hache River Below Moortlough	H374307		✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Upper Lough Erne At Killard	H354261		✓	monthly						

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Upper Lough Erne At Derryvore	H355238			✓	monthly						
Newtownbutler River At Newtownbutler	H418259			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Upper Lough Erne At Lady Brooke Bridge	H319273			✓	monthly						
Upper Lough Erne At Corraslee	H279314			✓	monthly						
Termon River At Tullyhommon	H110667			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Bannagh River (Rotten Mountain) At Derrynееve Bridge	H186678					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Bannagh River At Bannagh Bridge	H162654			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Drumnagresial Trib At Drumnagresial	H181682			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Mantlin River At Mantlin Bridge	H184635			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Lack River At Croneen	H256665					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Drumboarty River At Drumboarty	H233668							✓	spring	✓	2002
Coolaghty River At Coolaghty	H257673					✓	monthly	✓	spring	✓	2002
Kesh River At Kesh Bridge	H180639			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Glendurragh River At Edeirny Bridge	H222652							✓	spring & autumn		
Glendurragh River At Edenamohill	H244664			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Doora Tributary At Letterkeen	H182645			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Doora Tributary At Killygarry Bridge	H205663			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Edenclaw Tributary At Edenclaw	H232654			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Salry River At Salry	H256515							✓	spring		
Tullyrain River At Magheracross	H289541							✓	spring		
Trillick Tributary At Bohee	H333554			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Ballinamallard River At Ballinapaste Bridge	H307578			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Foxhill Burn At Drumcreen	H279529					✓	monthly	✓	spring		
Kiliskerry Burn At Kiliskerry	H296548					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Ballinamallard River At Ballycassidy Bridge	H228507			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Ballinamallard River At Magheracross Bridge	H281537			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Ballycassidy River At Tullyclea Bridge	H236530			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Ballycassidy River At Necarne	H230565			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Trillick Tributary At Carran Bridge	H310566			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Raw River At Raw Bridge	H424426					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Cooneen Water At Legatillida	H455396					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Cleen River At Kiltermon Bridge	H475482			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Ramult Burn At Ramult	H415464					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Coolcran Burn At Tattinweer	H363493					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Pubble Burn At Pubble Bridge	H342463			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Aghavea River At Boyhill	H355389					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Lisnabane Burn At Lisnabane Bridge	H379447					✓	monthly	✓	spring		

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Drumlught River At Drumlught	H346346							✓	spring		
Hollybrook River At Aghalurcher	H363311			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Colebrooke River At Ballindarragh Bridge	H331360			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Colebrooke River At Tullyreagh Bridge	H378441			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Colebrooke River At Pollboy Bridge	H445434			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Tempo River At A4 Road Bridge	H342392			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Tempo River At Tattinweer Bridge	H363492			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Many Burns River At Manyburns Bridge	H384474			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Cleen River At Corralongford	H428453			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		



Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Crockada River At Derryvolan	H545356							✓	spring	✓	2002
Lough Tawy River At Crinash	H531371							✓	spring	✓	2002
Killylacky River Above Rose Lough	H505305							✓	spring	✓	2002
Drumshancorick River At Deer Park	H543337					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Bunlougher Burn At Bruscaragh	H518364			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring	✓	2002
Finn (Erne) River At Wattle Bridge	H425203			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Finn (Erne) River At Ballyhoe Bridge	H464203			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Finn (Erne) River At Rosslea	H537325			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Lackey River At Carra Old Bridge	H485237			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Lackey River At Knockballymore	H482272							✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Woodford River At Aghalane	H342194			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Swanlinbar River At Thompsons Bridge	H253313			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Arney River At Drumane Bridge	H236367			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Arney River At Brockagh Bridge	H175375			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Lower Lough Macnean At Ulster Way Footbridge	H131376			✓	monthly						
Lower Lough Macnean At Cushrusheen	H128375			✓	monthly						
Belcoo River At Belcoo Bridge	H083384			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Upper Lough Macnean At Carrickduff	H040408			✓	monthly						
Black River At B52 Road Bridge	H019435			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Cladagh River At Gorteen	H132367			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Sillees River At Drumkeen New Bridge	H230413			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Sillees River At Thompsons Bridge	H181448			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Sillees River At Carr Bridge	H130471			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Sillees River At Derrygonnelly Bridge	H118521			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Boho Tributary At Boho	H134445			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Screenagh River At Aghakeeran	H108492			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Moher River At Cory Bridge	H234307							✓	spring	✓	2002
Owengarr River At Glasdrumman Bridge	H226287			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Drumsee Burn At Gortoral Bridge	H206276					✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Florencecourt River At A32 Road Bridge	H194355			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn	✓	2002
Lurgan River At Belcoo	H081392			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		
Lislake Burn At Brockagh	H169373					✓	monthly	✓	spring	✓	2002
Blunnick Burn At Blunnick	H152370							✓	spring	✓	2002
Drumharriff Burn At Knocknafadeela	H125385							✓	spring	✓	2002
Drumhack River At A509 Road Bridge	H235355							✓	spring	✓	2002
Killycat Burn At Killycat Bridge	H176448							✓	spring	✓	2002
Lattone Tributary At Lattone Bridge	H001457			✓	monthly	✓	monthly	✓	spring & autumn		

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Tamlaght Tributary At Bridge At Tamlaght	H271411			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Starragh Tributary At Starragh Bridge	H415226			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Derryhooly Tributary At Corry	H310212			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Sillees River At Dresternan Bridge	H086546			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Owenbrean River Above Monastir Gorge	H118329			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Pollasumera River At McNulty's Lane	H133332			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Lough-A-Hache River At Derryany Bridge	H370283			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Tempo River At Imeroo	H372505			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				

Location	IRISH GRID REF	DSD & OSPAR	DSD & OSPAR FREQ.	FFD	FFD FREQ	GQA CHEM	GQA CHEM FREQ.	GQA BIOL	GQA BIOL FREQ.	MACROPHYTES	MACROPHYTES SURVEY YEAR
Cooneen Water At Grogey Bridge	H449428			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Killylacky River At Lacky Bridge	H495288			✓	monthly	✓	monthly				
Castlehume Lough West From Road	H192501			✓	monthly						
Lough Scolban East Lough Jetties	H005612			✓	monthly						
Derryhooly Tributary At Derrylaney	H302224							✓	spring & autumn		

**ANNEX 2 SURFACE WATER MONITORING DETERMINANDS FOR THE FRESHWATER FISH DIRECTIVE AND GQA**

DETERMINAND	UNITS	FFD	GQA CHEM	GQA BIOL
Ammoniacal nitrogen	mg/L	✓	✓	
Biochemical oxygen demand	mg/L	✓	✓	
Conductivity	uS/cm	✓	✓	
Copper, dissolved	mg/L	✓		
Dissolved oxygen	mg/L	✓	✓	
Dissolved oxygen % saturation	%	✓	✓	
Nitrate	mg/L	✓	✓	
Nitrite	mg/L	✓	✓	
Non-ionised ammonia (calc by wqa from NH <sub>4</sub> )	mg/L	✓		
Petroleum hydrocarbons (field measurement)	n/a	✓	✓	
pH value	n/a	✓	✓	
Soluble reactive phosphorus	mg/L	✓	✓	
Suspended solids	mg/L	✓		
Temperature (field measurement)	toC	✓	✓	
Total hardness	mg/L	✓		
Total oxidised nitrogen	mg/L	✓	✓	
Water level (field measurement)	n/a	✓	✓	
Zinc, total	mg/L	✓		
Average Score per Taxa	n/a			✓
Biotic Score	n/a			✓
No. of Taxa	n/a			✓

**Note:** A wide range of organic and metals were also monitored under OSPAR and the Dangerous Substances Directive



**ANNEX 3 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PARAMETERS 2000 – 2006**

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
pH_field	pH units
Temperature	oC
DO1_field	%
DO2_field	ppm
Eh_field	mV
EC_field	µS/cm
Ammonia_field	mg/l NH <sub>3</sub> _N
Alkalinity_field	mg/l CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Nitrite_field	mg/l
Cyanide_field	mg/l
Total viable counts (22°C)	cfu / ml
Total viable counts (37°C)	cfu / ml
Total Coli	cfu / 100ml
Faecal Coli	cfu / 100ml
EC_lab	µS/cm
pH_lab	pH units
Hardness Total	mg/l Ca
Alkalinity Total	mg/l HCO <sub>3</sub>
Calcium	mg/l Ca
Magnesium	mg/l Mg
Sodium	mg/l Na
Potassium	mg/l K
Chloride	mg/l Cl
Sulphate	mg/l SO <sub>4</sub>
Nitrate	mg/l NO <sub>3</sub>
Nitrite	mg/l NO <sub>2</sub>
Iron	µg/l Fe
Manganese	µg/l Mn
Total Organic Carbon	mg/l C
Nitrogen Ammoniacal	mg/l NH <sub>4</sub>
Aluminium	µg/l Al
Antimony	µg/l Sb
Arsenic	µg/l As

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Barium	µg/l Ba
Beryllium	mg/l Be
Boron	µg/l B
Cadmium	µg/l Cd
Chromium	µg/l Cr
Cobalt	mg/l Co
Copper	µg/l Cu
Cyanide (total)	mg/l CN
Hydrocarbons	mg/l
Fluoride	µg/l F
Lead	µg/l Pb
Mercury	µg/l Hg
Molybdenum	mg/l Mo
Nickel	µg/l Ni
Phosphorus	µg/l P
Tellurium	µg/l
Thallium	µg/l Tl
Titanium	µg/l Ti
Selenium	µg/l Se
Silica	mg/l SiO <sub>2</sub>
Silver	µg/l Ag
Uranium	µg/l
Vanadium	µg/l
Zinc	µg/l Zn
Dichlorobromomethane	µg/l
Dibromochloromethane	µg/l
Tetrachloromethane	µg/l
Trichloroethene	µg/l
Tetrachloroethene	µg/l
1, 1, 1 Trichloroethane	µg/l
Trichloromethane	µg/l
Tribromomethane	µg/l
Trihalomethanes - total	µg/l
Benzene	µg/l

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Toluene	µg/l
m,p-Xylene	µg/l
O-Xylene	µg/l
Ethylbenzene	µg/l
Methyl-tert.butyl-ether	µg/l
Fluoranthene	ng/l
Benzo 1,12, perylene	ng/l
Benzo 11,12 fluoranthene	ng/l
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	ng/l
Benzo 3,4 fluoranthene	ng/l
Benzo 3,4 pyrene	ng/l
PAH	µg/l
Tributyl tin	µg/l
Triphenyl tin	µg/l
Pentachlorophenol	µg/l
Pentachlorophenol	µg/l
2-Chlorophenol	µg/l
4-Chlorophenol	µg/l
2,4-Dichlorophenol	µg/l
2,6-Dichlorophenol	µg/l
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol	µg/l
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	µg/l
o-Creosol	µg/l
m-Creosol	µg/l
p-Creosol	µg/l
Phenol	µg/l
Diquat	µg/l
Glyphosphate	µg/l
Flumethrin	µg/l
Triadimefon	µg/l
Fluazifop-p-butyl	µg/l
Pendimethalin	µg/l
Bromacil	µg/l
DDD (op)	µg/l

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
DDE (op)	µg/l
Quintozene	µg/l
Propham	µg/l
Azinphos-methyl	µg/l
Bifenox	µg/l
Carbophenothion	µg/l
Chlorfenvinphos	µg/l
Cyanazine	µg/l
Desmetryne	µg/l
Diazinon	µg/l
Dichlorvos	µg/l
Coumaphos	µg/l
Fenitrothion	µg/l
Fenchlorphos	µg/l
Fenpropidin	µg/l
Fenpropimorph	µg/l
Iprodione	µg/l
Malathion	µg/l
Oxadixyl	µg/l
Parathion	µg/l
Prometryne	µg/l
Propazine	µg/l
Propetamphos	µg/l
Propyzamide	µg/l
Terbutylazine	µg/l
Terbutryn	µg/l
Atrazine	µg/l
Chlorpyriphos	µg/l
Dichlorbenil	µg/l
EPTC	µg/l
Flutriafol	µg/l
Phosalone	µg/l
Propiconazole	µg/l
Simazine	µg/l

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Dimethoate	µg/l
Triallate	µg/l
Triazophos	µg/l
Trietazine	µg/l
2,4-DB	µg/l
2,4-D	µg/l
2,4,5-T (acid)	µg/l
Bentazone	µg/l
Bromoxynil	µg/l
Clopyralid	µg/l
Dicamba	µg/l
Dichloroprop	µg/l
2,4,5-TP	µg/l
Fluoxypyr	µg/l
Imazapyr	µg/l
Ioxynil	µg/l
MCPA	µg/l
MCPB	µg/l
MCPP	µg/l
Triclopyr	µg/l
Carbetamide	µg/l
Chlorpropham	µg/l
Chlorotoluron	µg/l
Diuron	µg/l
Isoproturon	µg/l
Linuron	µg/l
Monuron	µg/l
Aldrin	µg/l
Chlordane	µg/l
Chlorothalonil	µg/l
TDE (pp)	µg/l
DDE (pp)	µg/l
DDT (op)	µg/l
DDT (pp)	µg/l

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Dieldrin	µg/l
Endosulphan a	µg/l
Endosulphan b	µg/l
Endrin	µg/l
Hexachlorobenzene	µg/l
Hexachloro 1,3 butadiene	µg/l
HCH-alpha	µg/l
HCH-beta	µg/l
HCH-delta	µg/l
HCH-gamma	µg/l
Heptachlor	µg/l
Heptachlor epoxide	µg/l
Isodrin	µg/l
Methoxychlor	µg/l
Tecnazene	µg/l
Trifluralin	µg/l
Benzene (THM)	µg/l
1,2 Dichloroethane	µg/l
PCBs (7 Congeners)	µg/l
Cations (tot)	meq/l
Anions (tot)	meq/l
Ionic Balance	%
Cypermethrin	µg/l
PCB 28	
PCB 52	
PCB 101	
PCB 118	
PCB 138	
PCB153	
PCB180	
trans-Chlordane	
cis-Chlordane	
Heptachlor epoxide B	
Heptachlor epoxide A	

PARAMETER	UNITS
Cyanide (Total)	
Asulam	µg/l
E.Coli	cfu / 100ml

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR WIND TURBINES

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of planning applications for wind turbines over 24 metres in height (i) that have been (a) approved; (b) refused; and (c) withdrawn; and (ii) that are awaiting a decision, in each of the last three years, broken down by divisional planning office.

**(AQW 6309/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Due to the way information is recorded on the Planning Portal it is not always possible to determine the height of a wind turbine without a manual search of all the files. This is not only disproportionate in terms of time and cost but would result in un-validated statistics being released.

It is possible to provide statistics for all wind turbines that have been approved, refused and withdrawn in each Planning Office over the last 3 years. This is as follows:

Area Office	2008/09			2009/10			2010/11		
	App	Ref	W/D	App	Ref	W/D	App	Ref	W/D
Ballymena	28	2	7	22	2	5	12	1	6
Belfast	13	0	2	9	0	0	8	0	0
Craigavon	75	6	4	16	4	1	16	6	4
Downpatrick	46	1	0	20	5	7	4	3	3
HQ	8	0	3	7	5	2	8	0	8
Londonderry	30	4	2	19	1	1	44	5	9
Omagh	34	4	2	23	8	6	37	9	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>

The Department is currently processing 781 planning applications for wind turbines. This is broken down by Planning Office as follows:

Planning Office	No of Wind Turbine Applications – Awaiting A Decision
Ballymena	92
Belfast	42
Craigavon	100
Downpatrick	48
HQ	146
Londonderry	165
Omagh	188
<b>Total</b>	<b>781</b>



Planning is currently engaged in an ongoing exercise to cleanse and quality assure the data it holds on renewable energy applications. As such figures may be subject to revision.

### **Transfer of Functions to Local Government**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last five years, to detail the functions that (i) have been transferred; and (ii) are planned to be transferred from his Department to local councils, and of these, to detail (a) the reason behind the transfer of each function; (b) whether additional funding was offered to local councils to assist them in carrying out the functions; and (c) the cost, to his Department, of the final year when each of the functions were the responsibility of his Department; and (iii) may be transferred from his Department to local councils at a future date,  
**(AQW 6320/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In respect of (i), there have been no departmental functions transferred to local councils in the last five years.

- (ii) The list of functions identified as being appropriate for transfer was agreed by the previous Executive and for DOE included aspects of local development planning, development control and enforcement, and some minor functions concerning the spot listing of buildings for protection purposes and the listing of buildings of architectural and historic interest.
- (iii) The future transfer of functions to local government goes back to the Executive objectives for the Review of Public Administration which sought to streamline public administration and delegate decision making powers to a local level.

However, I am considering further what functions may be transferred from DOE to local councils and I have been engaging with Executive colleagues to ensure we use this opportunity to place decision making powers where they are best discharged to ensure citizens receive the public services they deserve.

### **New Taxi Regulations**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment what percentage of private hire and public hire taxis (i) in Belfast; and (ii) outside Belfast will be fully wheelchair accessible under the new taxi regulations.  
**(AQW 6328/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The proposed new taxi regulations provide for single tier taxi licensing which removes the distinction between private and public hire taxis. This means that all taxis will be able to be prebooked or to be hailed but only wheelchair accessible taxis will be able to stand at taxi ranks.

It is intended that the proposed regulations will come into operation in autumn 2012. The requirement that only wheelchair accessible taxis stand at taxi ranks will have immediate effect in Belfast. Outside Belfast this requirement will not apply until 2016.

In Belfast there are currently 502 wheelchair accessible taxis licensed to stand at ranks. As these vehicles will be able to work as they currently do it is likely that there will be little or no change in the number of wheelchair accessible taxis in Belfast.

Outside Belfast, there is no information on the numbers of wheelchair accessible taxis providing taxi services as there is no legislative requirement for them to be provided. However, the Department considers that the new legislation will lead to the greater provision of wheelchair accessible taxis outside Belfast.

The Department will monitor the provision of wheelchair accessible taxis throughout Northern Ireland to ensure that there is an adequate supply and will take action to address any shortfall that is identified. When taxi operator licensing is introduced the department will have the powers to require licensed operators to have a percentage of their fleet as wheelchair accessible.

## Private Hire Taxis at Central Station, Belfast

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment what action he is taking to ensure that private hire taxis at Central Station, Belfast, are operating within the law.

**(AQW 6329/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Driver & Vehicle Agency regularly monitors the operation of private and public hire taxis operating from Central Station, utilising both plain clothed and uniformed enforcement officers.

During the period 1 September to 31 December 2011 one private hire taxi was detected collecting passengers without a pre booking from Central Station, and that resulted in the offending driver being issued with a fixed penalty notice. Details of the licensing infringement were drawn to the attention of Translink, who raised the matter with their contracted taxi provider.

DVA and DRD officials also meet with Translink representatives from time to time to discuss the regulation of taxis at Central Station. Currently being considered is the possibility of introducing a fixed camera system to assist with the enforcement of bus lane restrictions on East Bridge Street. Such a system would not only enhance road safety but also deter Belfast public hire taxi operators from parking taxis illegally in the bus lane in order to tout for business.

## Hydraulic Fracturing

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing on the pollution of the waterways in Fermanagh.

**(AQW 6346/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) seeks to safeguard the quality of the environment as a whole through effective regulation of activities that have the potential to impact on the environment. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is considered by the Agency to be such an activity.

NIEA is continuing to supplement its knowledge of the process through reviewing emerging research, studying case studies from other parts of the world and liaising with counterparts in other Environment Agencies in Britain and Ireland, and other countries where fracking is currently proposed or taking place. It is intended that research may be taken forward and funded on a North/South basis.

I am currently assessing what environmental assessments are or are not required at each stage going forward, including pre-exploratory drilling. However, I repeat that any planning or environmental requirements at any and all stages will be faithfully fulfilled.

## Taxi Licence

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment how many people in the North Down area currently hold a taxi licence.

**(AQW 6354/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** At 17 January 2012 there were 1,086 licensed taxi drivers in the North Down area.

## Existing Council Debt

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 5494/11-15, whether existing council debt will be taken on by super-councils when councils are amalgamated under the Review of Public Administration; and (ii) whether there is a statutory obligation on rate payers to discharge the debts accumulated in another council area when amalgamation takes place.

**(AQW 6369/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In preparation for the reform of local government, work had been undertaken to develop a statutory transfer scheme to allow for the transfer of the assets and liabilities (including debt) of each of the 26 councils into the new 11 council structure.

There is no statutory obligation on individual rate payers to discharge the debts of the council area in which they live. Debts are a liability of councils as corporate entities.

However if a council was to increase its rates to meet the servicing costs of its debt, or was to divert rates income from other services for the same purpose, then individual rate payers may be affected indirectly by the debt holdings of a council.

## 15 Council Model

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he intends to carry out an economic appraisal of the 15 council model.

**(AQW 6382/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In November 2011, the Executive decided that the reform of local government would be delivered under an 11 council model. I will be working to refresh the existing 2009 economic appraisal on the costs and benefits of local government reform.

Unless the Executive is willing to reconsider its decision based on the strength of argument, specifically in relation to my own alternative proposal for a 15 council structure, there appears little value in the Department interrogating the economics behind the 15 model, whatever its strength, quality and attractions. I will look at the issue further.

## Moyle Area Draft Northern Area Plan

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment why the Planning Service made a statement for Objection 4827 1.30 Moyle Area Draft Northern Area Plan to the Planning Appeals Commission on 14 November 2011, stating that the garden of a dwelling at 22 Drumavoley Road, Ballycastle, was a field, when the Planning Service already had information, including a Certificate of Lawfulness, stating that it is not a field.

**(AQW 6391/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Planning Appeals Commission at the request of the Department is holding an Independent Examination to hear objections to the Draft Northern Area Plan 2016. There is an objection to the inclusion of lands at the rear of 16 - 22 Drumavoley Road (including 22) within a local landscape policy area and exclusion from the settlement limit, and that this is a matter to be addressed at the Independent Examination.

In the question it is suggested that the Department has referred to land to the rear of 22 Drumavoley Road as a field rather than a garden. I have looked carefully at the submission. The land is not described as a field, but rather, as highlighted below, reference is made to field boundaries (Department's Statement Topic M14, paragraph 1.30): -

Issue xv - Objection to the inclusion of lands to the rear of 16-22 Dumavoley Road including No.22 to within LLPA BEL 02 (NAP/4827/4) (word count 118)

1.30 This objection refers to lands identified by omission site NAP/4827/4. The omission site lies on the lower valley slope of the Glenshesk River which is included in LLPA BEL02 in recognition of the contribution the landform makes to the views and setting of this important environmental asset and the settlement contained on the ridgeline above the flood plain. The field boundaries are well vegetated adding to the overall treed character of the area. Development would extend built form down the hill into the distinctive river valley landscape to the south-east of the town and impact on the setting of the town and the river corridor. The omission lands should remain part of the LLPA designation, outside the SDL.

I understand that in making this statement the Department has used the term field boundaries to describe the delineation of the landform and associated features. Whilst I fully accept that the land is a garden as detailed in AQ and the importance the owner attaches to this, it should be remembered that these boundaries also neighbour three agricultural fields. I am also aware that the Area Planning Office has apologised for use of the term "field boundaries" and will ensure that the Planning Appeals Commission will be made fully aware of the Certificate of Lawfulness for the use of the land as a

garden. This to my mind is an appropriate remedy, bearing in mind of course that the land owner retains the right to present their views at the Independent Examination. In my view, this is an entirely appropriate response from the Planning Service and I support their actions.

### **Genmar Companion**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment why it took so long to remove oil from the Genmar Companion.

**(AQW 6400/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The process of removing the cargo (vacuum gas oil) of the Genmar Companion was managed by the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP). I am satisfied that SOSREP managed the operation to ensure that the cargo was removed at the earliest possible opportunity. I was kept informed throughout the incident and understand that the limiting factors were

- Identifying a suitable contractor, receiving vessel and equipment to complete the ship to ship transfer and
- The extreme weather which hampered the both passage of the receiving vessel and then the start of operation itself.

I believe that all involved should be acknowledged and thanked. A difficult situation was managed without threat to people or animals or environment. No undue risks were taken and my Department were active in protecting the Northern Ireland interest.

### **Genmar Companion**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment why the Genmar Companion was allowed to shelter at the Copeland Islands rather than being brought into Belfast Harbour.

**(AQW 6401/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The decision to allow the Genmar Companion to shelter off Belfast Lough was taken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), an Executive Agency of the UK Department of Transport. The MCA is responsible for maritime safety, which is a reserved matter. The most appropriate anchorage was agreed between the master of the Genmar Companion, the MCA and Belfast Harbour Office. My understanding of the situation is that the Genmar Companion could not shelter within Belfast Harbour because the draft of the vessel was 12 metres when the ship was fully laden. The dredged depth of Belfast Harbour is 9.1 metres. Now that the cargo has been removed, I have been informed that the vessel has been moved to a safe anchorage within Belfast Harbour limits.

### **Moyle Area Draft Northern Area Plan**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will investigate the allegations of discrimination made by residents of Drumavoley Road, Ballycastle, since 2009, after Planning Service made a false statement to the Planning Appeals Commission on 14 November 2011 in relation to Objection 4827 1.30 Moyle Area Draft Northern Area Plan.

**(AQW 6440/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I have reviewed this matter. I am satisfied that the Department's staff have acted in a professional manner. I have found no evidence of discrimination to the residents of Drumavoley Road.

### **Planning Application E/2009/0303/0**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the Planning Appeals Commission decision of March 2011, relating to Application E/2009/0303/0, how many times the Planning Service has (i) verbally; and (ii) in documentation referred to the land as a 'field' instead of a 'domestic garden', as it is referred to in the Lawful Development Certificate.

**(AQW 6443/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department has no records, nor would it be appropriate to keep records, of the number of times a specific word is spoken or written in the context of your query.

As outlined in the response to AQW 6444/11-15, your constituent has in his possession a Lawful Development Certificate issued by the Department confirming that the subject land is a garden. The Department does not retain records of the number of times the Planning Service has 'verbally' used the words referred to and I will not be asking the Service to do so. In addition, I consider that it would be an unreasonable drain on resources for the service to go through correspondence to identify the use of the words referred to. I confirm that I will not be asking that the Service does so.

### Complaints About Noise

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment how many complaints about noise each council area received in 2011.

**(AQW 6447/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department of the Environment collates statistics and publishes an annual report on the numbers and types of noise complaints received by each district council. Councils record noise complaints on a financial year basis (1 April to 31 March) and as such, figures are not available for any individual calendar year.

Detailed information on all complaints received by the district councils for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 can be found in the Department's Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2010 – 2011 report which is available at:

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/noise\\_complaint\\_statistics\\_for\\_northern\\_ireland\\_2010-11.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/noise_complaint_statistics_for_northern_ireland_2010-11.pdf)

Statistics for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 should be published by the Department in autumn 2012.

### Fines for Littering

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment how many fines for littering were imposed in each council area in 2011.

**(AQW 6449/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department gathers information from councils, on the numbers of fixed penalty notices imposed for littering offences, on a financial rather than a calendar year. The figures for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 will not, therefore, be available until the verified figures are produced in August 2012.

Information on the number of fixed penalty notices imposed by councils in the 2010/11 financial year is set out in the table below.

#### STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR LITTER 2010/2011

District Council	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued
Antrim Borough Council	23
Ards Borough Council	7
Armagh City & District Council	34
Ballymena Borough Council	73
Ballymoney Borough Council	6
Banbridge District Council	11
Belfast City Council	1995

<b>District Council</b>	<b>Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued</b>
Carrickfergus Borough Council	16
Castlereagh Borough Council	38
Coleraine Borough Council	53
Cookstown District Council	13
Craigavon Borough Council	1038
Derry City Council	56
Down District Council	51
Dungannon & South Tyrone	14
Fermanagh District Council	16
Larne Borough Council	73
Limavady Borough Council	6
Lisburn City Council	80
Magherafelt District Council	39
Moyle District Council	7
Newry & Mourne District Council	167
Newtownabbey Borough Council	48
North Down Borough Council	8
Omagh District Council	35
Strabane District Council	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>3930</b>

### **Mobile Driver and Vehicle Agency Units**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment how many mobile Driver and Vehicle Agency units were operating on 26 December 2011, to detect car tax default.

**(AQW 6451/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Vehicle licensing is an excepted matter for which responsibility rests with the Secretary of State for Transport. It is administered here by the Driver & Vehicle Agency under the terms of a formal agreement between my Department and the Department for Transport.

On 26 December 2011 the Driver and Vehicle Agency had 3 mobile units in operation to detect unlicensed vehicles.

### **Funding for Trade Unions**

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the level of funding his Department allocated to each trade union in the (i) 2000/01; (ii) 2005/06; and (iii) 2010/11 financial years.

**(AQW 6466/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department does not allocate funding to trade union organisations. However, it does pay the salary costs of employees who are released on fulltime secondment to a recognised trade union.



For 2010/11 two employees were released to undertake trade union work at a total cost of £57,833. During 2000/01 and 2005/06 DOE did not second any staff to trade unions. However, for these two years the Department for Regional Development seconded staff to a recognised trade union who in turn provided a trade union service to that Department, the Department of the Environment and the Department for Culture Arts and Leisure under a agreed shared service arrangement for the provision of personnel services. However, it is not possible to apportion these costs between the three departments for the two years 2000/01 and 2005/06.

### **Civil Servants from the Foyle Constituency who Work in Greater Belfast**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the total number of civil servants in his Department, who live in the Foyle constituency and travel to work in the Greater Belfast area; and the total cost to his Department for subsidising the travel.

**(AQW 6471/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** At 1 January 2011, 15 DOE staff were making the journey from the Foyle constituency to work in the Greater Belfast area. Of these staff, 3 have claimed excess fares at a total cost of £5,893.50 over the period 1 January to 31 December 2011.

### **Planning Applications for Commercial Wind Farms**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of planning applications for commercial wind farms that are awaiting approval; and (ii) the number of planning applications that have been approved but the wind farms have not yet been built.

**(AQW 6478/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- (i) There are currently 46 planning applications for wind farms awaiting decisions.
- (ii) There are 28 planning approvals for wind farms which have not yet been built.

### **Planning Applications G/2011/0041/F and G/2011/0162/F**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to planning applications G/2011/0041/F and G/2011/0162/F, how many times the applicants have resubmitted or amended their applications; and what mechanisms are in place to curb repeat attempts to circumvent objections.

**(AQW 6479/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Planning application G/2011/0041/F (Elginny Hill) was preceded by planning application G/2006/0754/F. Planning application G/2006/0754/F was withdrawn by the applicant following one amendment to the original proposal.

Planning application G/2011/0162/F (Rathsherry) was preceded by planning application G/2006/0840/F. Planning application G/2006/0840/F was withdrawn by the applicant following one amendment to the original proposal.

Wind farm planning applications are accompanied by environmental statements. Consequently the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 1999 (as amended) apply. The Regulations provide a formal mechanism through which the Department is able to put in place deadlines for the submission of further environmental information/amendments/responses to objections. It also provides the mechanism by which the Department is able to determine when it has in its possession sufficient information to allow the application to be determined.

### **Brown Bins**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the district councils which distribute brown bins for the collection of organic waste; and, the methods used by each council to dispose of such waste.

**(AQW 6485/11-15)**



**Mr Attwood:** 22 Councils distribute brown bins for the collection of organic waste. Coleraine, Derry, Strabane and Fermanagh do not currently distribute brown bins. However, Coleraine Borough Council will commence a roll-out programme of brown bins to households in 2012/13, and Derry City Council is planning to commence a roll-out programme in 2013/14.

The majority of the organic waste collected by the councils is forwarded to Natural World Products for in-vessel composting. Household organic waste collected by Ballymoney, Limavady, and Moyle councils is treated by 'windrow' composting facilities operated by Coleraine Borough Council.

The attached table lists the councils, the number of households within each council area, the number of households with a brown bin, and the onward methods employed by each to dispose of organic waste. It also details whether food waste is permitted for inclusion within the brown bin and also if food caddies are supplied in lieu of a brown bin.

List of Councils which distribute brown bins for the collection of organic waste and the methods used to dispose of such waste.

(The information has been supplied by arc21, NWRWVG and SWaMP 2008 waste management groups)

<b>Council</b>	<b>Total No. of Households in Council area</b>	<b>Number of Households with an organics "brown bin" collection service for organic waste. [ 'Combined' refers to brown bin collections that accept garden and food waste ]</b>	<b>Onward methods of treatment/disposal</b>
<b>arc21</b>			
Antrim	20811	17594 combined (plus 3115 food caddies)	In vessel-composting - NWP
Ards	33733	26464 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Ballymena	25399	20000 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Belfast	126872	59000 combined (plus 9000 food caddies)	In vessel-composting - NWP
Carrickfergus	16265	16249 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Castlereagh	28812	23414 combination (plus 1100 food caddies)	In vessel-composting - NWP
Down	27900	16800 garden waste only	In vessel-composting - NWP
Larne	14196	13783 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Lisburn	47920	46220 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Newtownabbey	35401	33300 combination (plus 1750 food caddies)	In vessel-composting - NWP
North Down	34616	26000 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
<b>Total</b>	<b>411925</b>	<b>16800 garden waste only 282024 combined 51765 food caddies</b>	

<b>Council</b>	<b>Total No. of Households in Council area</b>	<b>Number of Households with an organics “brown bin” collection service for organic waste. [‘Combined’ refers to brown bin collections that accept garden and food waste]</b>	<b>Onward methods of treatment/disposal</b>
<b>NWRWMG</b>			
Ballymoney	12149	7112 garden waste only	Windrow composting - Coleraine Borough Council
Coleraine	27220	Nil	N/A
Derry	40114	Nil	N/A
Limavady	12728	8957 garden waste only	Windrow composting - Coleraine Borough Council
Magherafelt	16074	16074 combined	In vessel - Composting , NWP
Moyle	7747	5000 garden waste only	Windrow composting - Coleraine Borough Council
Strabane	15411	Nil	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>131443</b>	<b>21069 garden waste only 16074 combined</b>	
<b>SWaMP 2008</b>			
Armagh	22134	15520 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Banbridge	19165	18644 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Cookstown	13472	6250 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Craigavon	37779	19300 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Dungannon	20862	12422 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Fermanagh	26315	Nil	N/A
Newry	35032	10300 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
Omagh	19863	7100 combined	In vessel-composting - NWP
<b>Total</b>	<b>194,622</b>	<b>89,536 combined</b>	

## Reform of Local Government

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what action is being taken to ensure that the work already undertaken by (i) the Strategic Leadership Board; and (ii) policy development panels will be utilised in the Reform of Local Government.

**(AQW 6492/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The work of the Strategic Leadership Board, and the three Policy Development Panels which supported it, was of key importance in developing policy and implementation proposals on a wide range of local government reform issues.

This is valuable work which continues to be utilised. Indeed, the proposals contained in the Local Government Reform Policy Proposals Consultation Document, published on 30th November 2010,

reflected significantly the work of the Board and its Panels. The drafting of the proposed Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill will be based on these proposals, taking account of my consideration of issues raised in the consultation.

Therefore, in moving forward, the Department will continue to utilise the work of the previous Board, and its Panels, in the reform of local government.

### **Protection of Shoreline**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment how he ensures that areas of the shoreline, which are not currently under the direct remit of an Executive Department, are adequately protected.

**(AQW 6552/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Northern Ireland coastline stretches for over 650 kilometres and there are 10730 hectares of shore lying between the High and Low water marks.

In relation to nature conservation, 9769 hectares or over 91% is designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). The designations cover a number of habitats such as, mudflats, sand dunes or geological features etc.

The Department's ASSI designation programme is ongoing so there is potential for further stretches of the shoreline to be protected, depending on features present. In addition, I intend to take forward a specific marine nature conservation powers under the proposed Marine Bill. This new designation process also has the potential to include additional areas of shoreline. I would also wish to see the establishment of a Marine Management organisation as the best model to protect and proactively develop the marine environment.

### **Belfast City Council's Dangerous Structures and Places Policy**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for his assessment of Belfast City Council's Dangerous Structures and Places Policy; and what legislation is in place to enable other local councils to renovate or redevelop dangerous commercial properties to prevent potential health and safety risks.

**(AQW 6632/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Belfast City Council's Dangerous Structures and Places Policy describes clearly and concisely how the Council will discharge its duty to protect members of the public from buildings, parts of buildings or other structures within the Council area which pose a structural threat.

The policy document lists the legislative powers available, the council's objectives and principles for enforcement and sets out the process the Council will follow to require an owner to complete necessary remedial work. The Council can carry out these works itself if the owner is unknown.

Belfast City Council can call on a number of powers that are unique to its council area under the Belfast Improvement Act 1878 and the Belfast Corporation Act 1911, but other powers are also available to all councils that allow them to deal with dangerous or ruinous structures.

These are primarily articles 65 and 66 of the Pollution Control and Local Government Order 1978, section 75 of the Town Improvements (Ireland) Act 1854, sections 107 – 127 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 and section 1 of the Public Health and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 which applies section 30 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.

I have been impressed by the BCC publication and its application. I am considering how councils – in areas like Portstewart and Portrush – could fully utilise these powers and held a Blight Summit on this issue in the early Autumn 2011. This work is important, not least the need to grow tourism generally and the Irish Open in particular.

## Planning Enforcement Actions

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail; (i) the current number of planning enforcement actions that are being administered within the Lisburn City area; and (ii) the number of staff tasked to deal with these actions.

**(AQW 6633/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- i Cases involving enforcement action within the Lisburn City Council area are dealt with by the Downpatrick Office which currently has 1350 cases, 350 of which are in Lisburn.
- ii. The Downpatrick Office has an enforcement team of 5 professional staff with administrative support. They work across all 4 districts covered by Downpatrick.

## Enforcement Cases

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of enforcement cases that are being dealt with in the Downpatrick Area Planning Office; and (ii) what action he is taking to ensure that enforcement actions are carried out within a reasonable time period.

**(AQW 6634/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- (i) What steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of enforcement cases that are being dealt with in the Downpatrick Area Planning Office;

Since 2009, there has been an ongoing review of enforcement processes and procedures in Downpatrick as indeed there has been throughout the Department and this has resulted in significant changes and improvements to work practices. The review focused on a 'Strategy' of specific measures aimed at reducing the large number of current enforcement files. The measures involve amongst other things, the increased use of improved IT management systems, the grouping of current cases by age to identify priority cases, the use of weekly management lists by officers to ensure the monitoring of individual case loads and the delivery of associated staff training.

Case officers use the weekly caseload management lists to prioritise, for action, those complaints 3 years and over that may be in danger of becoming immune from enforcement action. In addition, enforcement cases are discussed and reviewed for action at monthly internal enforcement group meetings to ensure that timely action is taken.

The Downpatrick office currently has 1,350 enforcement cases in Ards, Down, Lisburn and North Down. Over the last two years, 2010 – 2011, the Downpatrick office has closed 1440 cases. As an immediate step to assist with the reduction in caseloads, two additional case officers and two casual administrative staff were transferred to the Downpatrick office in January and an additional two officers will be transferred to Downpatrick during February.

- (ii) What action he is taking to ensure that enforcement actions are carried out within a reasonable time period.

I believe that enforcement – particularly for serious environmental and planning issues including crimes – needs to be to be escalated. I am assessing how to do this and have sent out a strong message to my staff that more robust enforcement is an essential element of a balanced planning system.

In December 2011 I introduced new time limits for enforcement with the aim of simplifying the process. I have also instructed my officials to consider what other sections of the Planning Act 2011 can be brought forward to strengthen the enforcement process.

I have requested that regular updates on performance across planning offices are prepared for my consideration, to bear down enforcement in terms of performance and good planning.

## Driver and Vehicle Agency

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact of the changes to the Driver and Vehicle Agency.

**(AQW 6644/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Driver and Vehicle Agency is part of the Department of the Environment and fulfils a vital role in the licensing, testing and enforcement of legislation concerning drivers, vehicles and operators. It also completes work with regard to the excepted matter of vehicle licensing under an agreement between the Secretary of State for Transport and the Department.

A range of changes to relevant policy and legislation are currently being made. These include the implementation of the Goods Vehicles Act 2010, the Taxis Act 2008 and changes to the MOT test in line with changes to European legislation.

The Agency is proceeding with careful planning for the implementation of all of these changes, to ensure continuing high levels of customer service and operational efficiency in this developing environment.

## Vehicles Purchased and Converted in the Republic of Ireland

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the process under which a vehicle, purchased and converted in the Republic of Ireland, may be registered in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 6655/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Motor cars and light goods vehicles under 10 years old that have been imported into Northern Ireland must provide evidence that they have been either certified in compliance with European Whole Vehicle Type Approval requirements, or have passed a national Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) test before they can be registered and licensed by DVA.

Imported vehicles that have been originally constructed as motor cars, but subsequently converted to light goods vehicles, are generally required to undergo an IVA test, before registration and licensing can be completed. The test provides assurance that the converted vehicle has been appropriately constructed to European road safety and environmental standards.

The IVA test involves a physical examination of the vehicle and an assessment of a range of formal Type Approval documents. The approval documents relate to a number of specified vehicle systems and components that cannot be appropriately assessed in a vehicle testing environment. The mandatory type approval documents may be obtained by contacting the original vehicle manufacturer, or an authorised Test Laboratory.

The Driver & Vehicle Agency is responsible for conducting IVA tests.

## Planning Legislation

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 6093/11-15, whether he would support a change to planning legislation which would ban the development of fast food restaurants beside schools.

**(AQW 6656/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Development proposals for fast food restaurants generally require planning permission irrespective of the proposed location. In addition to planning permission, other approvals may be necessary from the local Council such as building regulation approval and compliance with environmental health regulations.

A proposal to bring about a change in the regulation of fast food restaurants beside schools requires the involvement of a range of stakeholders and Government Departments. I understand that the Minister of Health agrees with my view that further regulation may be desirable and I have received advice on practice in other jurisdictions. I am now looking at what steps might now be taken.

## National Park in the Mournes

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the plans to create a national park in the Mournes.

**(AQW 6715/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In parallel with the recent consultation exercise on enabling legislation for national parks, I brought together a panel of experts to consider which areas of Northern Ireland might be suitable for designation. I am currently considering the panel's report and shall comment on this again in the near future.

## Convictions for Environmental Offences

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of convictions for environmental offences in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 6716/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The table below sets out the number of prosecutions for environmental offending secured by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in the last five years. It does not include convictions obtained by other regulatory agencies, e.g. the PSNI for wildlife crime.

The convictions below were taken for waste, water, damage to ASSIs and breaches of The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland).

Year	No. of convictions
2011	90
2010	82
2009	93
2008	108
2007	115

## Planning Approvals Granted for Replacement Homes

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of (i) planning approvals granted for replacement homes in each of the last five years; and (ii) in how many cases the demolition of the existing house was stipulated as a condition, broken down by the (a) Ballymena; (b) Carrickfergus; and (c) Larne Borough Council areas.

**(AQW 6717/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

### (I) REPLACEMENT HOMES

**TABLE 1: NUMBER OF APPROVALS FOR SINGLE REPLACEMENT DWELLING, 2006/07 TO 2010/11**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Ballymena	86	108	74	92	46	406
Carrickfergus	11	13	13	14	11	62
Larne	23	37	43	39	19	161
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>629</b>

**Source:** Planning

**(II) REPLACEMENT HOMES WITH DEMOLITION CONDITION****TABLE 2: NUMBER OF APPROVALS FOR SINGLE REPLACEMENT DWELLING WITH DEMOLITION CONDITION, 2006/07 TO 2010/11**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Ballymena	55	64	45	73	33	270
Carrickfergus	2	1	9	8	7	27
Larne	15	31	37	30	12	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>422</b>

**Source:** Planning

I have been advised by officials that this information was collated using the computer coding for demolition conditions as a search mechanism. There may have been a small number of approvals with non-standard conditions which would not be reflected in this search.

Given the large number of applications, the amount of work involved in researching each individual case to confirm whether any approvals with non standard conditions should be added to the above data would be disproportionate in terms of staff time and cost.

**Campaign Against Dog Fouling**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has any plans for a campaign against dog fouling.

**(AQW 6742/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Through the introduction of a new system of dog control orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, I am enabling district councils to take more robust action against those who do not clean up after their dogs. This will include increased maximum court fines and the ability for councils to increase the amount of a fixed penalty for dog fouling.

The Department intends to issue guidance on the new dog control order regime. In addition to providing assistance to councils on how to make use of the new powers available to them, the guidance will also emphasise to councils the importance of education and awareness in promoting responsible dog ownership.

When the Act comes into operation on 1 April 2012 it will be up to an individual council to decide what campaigns it deems necessary to carry out, based on its own particular circumstances and the action it decides to take in relation to dog fouling.

**Fines Issued for Dog Fouling**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of fines issued for dog fouling in each of the last two years, broken down by council area.

**(AQW 6743/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Under Article 4 of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 it is an offence to permit a dog to foul and the following table details the number of fines issued as a £50 fixed penalty notice for that offence in each in each of the last 2 years, broken down by council area.

**2009/2010**

<b>District Council</b>	<b>No. of fixed penalties issued</b>
Antrim Borough Council	1
Ards Borough Council	10
Armagh City & District Council	1
Ballymena Borough Council	6
Banbridge District Council	2
Belfast City Council	77
Coleraine Borough Council	40
Cookstown District Council	3
Craigavon Borough Council	78
Down District Council	12
Larne Borough Council	9
Moyle District Council	4
Newry & Mourne District Council	1
Newtownabbey Borough Council	19
North Down Borough Council	3
Omagh District Council	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>

**2010/2011**

<b>District Council</b>	<b>No. of fixed penalties issued</b>
Ards Borough Council	8
Armagh City & District Council	2
Ballymena Borough Council	2
Ballymoney Borough Council	1
Belfast City Council	160
Coleraine Borough Council	33
Cookstown District Council	1
Craigavon Borough Council	50
Derry City Council	1
Down District Council	10
Larne Borough Council	3
Limavady Borough Council	1
Lisburn City Council	2
Magherafelt District Council	1



<b>District Council</b>	<b>No. of fixed penalties issued</b>
Moyle District Council	2
Newry & Mourne District Council	5
Newtownabbey Borough Council	33
North Down Borough Council	6
Strabane District Council	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>

### **Titanic Signature Project**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of the Environment to provide details of the planning permission granted to the Titanic Signature Project, including the conditions attached; and whether he is aware of any of the conditions not being met.

**(AQW 6746/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** On 25 June 2008, the Department granted outline planning permission for phase 2 of the Titanic Quarter development. Phase 2 is a residential led mixed use proposal which incorporates within it the Titanic Signature Project. The outline permission is subject to 29 planning conditions, 8 of which have still to be met in relation to the Signature Project. A copy of the permission is attached at Annex A. I have been advised by my officials that the outstanding conditions will be complied with before the development opens.

### **Planning Applications for Hotels**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment to list all planning applications for hotels that have been approved, but which are not yet built or completed, broken down by council area.

**(AQW 6797/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department has approved 77 applications for hotels in the years 2008/2009 - 2011/2012. Data for 2011/12 is only available up to 30 September 2011. Quarter 3 data will be available in March 2012. The Department does not hold records of development which has not been commenced or is not completed.

The details of the 77 applications are attached at Annex 1.

**ANNEX 1****DETAILS OF HOTELS APPROVED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT (LGD), 2008/09 TO 2011/12**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
A/2008/0395/LB	DERRY	Refurbishment, part demolition to rear and extension to Listed buildings at 1-4 Shipquay Place and 7-17 Foyle street including yard adjacent to Historic City Walls to new 42 bedroom Boutique Hotel, Bar restaurants, retail unit and basement club with egress points	2009/10
A/2008/0396/F	DERRY	Refurbishment, part demolition and extension to listed buildings at 1-4 Shipquay Place and 7-17 Foyle Street including yard adjacent to City Walls to new 42 Bedroom boutique Hotel, Bar restaurants retail unit and basement club with egress points	2009/10
A/2008/0757/LB	DERRY	Part demolitions and extension to Grade B+ Listed Church building including Manse residence to street to create specialist 15 bedroom Boutique Hotel, Basement Gymnasium and double height Bar Restaurant, including restoration of Neo Classical Portico and Forecourt.	2009/10
A/2008/0762/F	DERRY	Part Demolition and extension to Grade B+ Listed Church Building including Manse residence to street to create specialist 15 bedroom "Boutique" Hotel, Basement Gymnasium and double height Bar Restaurant, including restoration of Neo Classical Portico and Forecourt.	2009/10
A/2008/0766/LB	DERRY	Part demolition and extension to Grade B+ Listed Church building including Manse residence to street to create specialist 15 Bedroom Boutique Hotel, Basement Gymnasium and double height Bar Restaurant, including restoration of Neo Classical Portico and Forecourt.	2009/10
C/2004/1149/F	COLERAINE	Demolition of existing disused dwelling and outhousing to provide 15 Bed hotel, restaurant and bar with new entrance and car parking facilities	2009/10
C/2006/0924/F	COLERAINE	164 bedroom hotel to include 320 seat function room, 9 No. business suites, restaurant, bar, lounge, leisure facility with swimming pool, spa and associated ancillary areas. 24 No. apartments with separate entrance on top floor, on site car park and land	2008/09

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
C/2007/0330/F	COLERAINE	Erection of 92 bedroom hotel with ancillary areas at Londonderry Hotel, including redevelopment of existing adjacent public house (at junction with No. 2 Atlantic Avenue) in order to also provide new public house/ lounge bar.	2008/09
C/2007/0407/RM	COLERAINE	Site for hotel accommodation with restaurant facilities.	2009/10
C/2008/0946/O	COLERAINE	Proposed 21 bed boutique hotel with associated facilities, car parking and landscape amenity.	2009/10
C/2009/0381/F	COLERAINE	A hotel comprising 46 guest rooms and 3 self catering, bar, restaurant/ bar, spa with swimming pool and treatment rooms and ancillary accommodation.	2010/11
C/2010/0271/F	COLERAINE	Amendment to previously approved scheme to provide 21 no. room hotel with associated car parking and landscaping	2010/11
E/2004/0433/F	MOYLE	Erection of hotel (comprising 15 No. bedrooms, restaurant, bar, function facilities and 23 No. two bedroom apartments); 24 No. holiday chalets with associated access roads, parking and landscaping (amendment to previous approval E/1999/0383/F)	2008/09
E/2007/0335/RM	MOYLE	Erection of 50 bedroom hotel, separate staff accommodation block, 24 holiday cottages and associated landscaping	2008/09
E/2008/0371/O	MOYLE	Proposed conference centre utilising previously approved access road for hotel, planning ref: E/2004/0433/F	2010/11
E/2009/0107/F	MOYLE	Erection of 100 bedroom hotel, separate staff accommodation blocks and holiday chalets, new access, ancilliary car parking and landscaping (permission already granted for 50 bed hotel, staff accommodation block, 24 holiday chalets E/2007/0335/RM)	2009/10

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
F/2006/0131/O	LARNE	Regeneration of former Magheramorne works and Quarry - Incorporating Mixed use Harbour Village, (consisting of 450 no. Dwellings, Tourist Information Centre, Public House, Restaurants, Retail Units, Community Centre, Hotel, Harbourside Tourist Point with Viewing Tower, Boating Facilities and Chandlery.) Heritage Railway and Visitor Centre, Events Area, Ecology/Art park, Bird Watching and Interpretation Centre, Film Studios and Back Lot, Cycling Centre, (consisting of an Arena, Holiday Cabins, Sports Hotel, Service Complex including Café and Restaurant) Diving Centre, Industrial Archaeology Park, Visitor Accommodation/Facilities and Associated Infrastructure.	2009/10
F/2007/0088/F	LARNE	Change of use of existing craft shop and extension to the east side to form hotel suite. New hotel suite to the east of similar size and character	2009/10
F/2007/0234/O	LARNE	Demolition of existing hotel and construction of 20 No. of 2 Bedroom apartments with amenity storage and associated car parking.	2008/09
H/2009/0138/F	MAGHERAFELT	Internal alterations and change of use to existing bed and breakfast and 2 no apartments to provide 18 bedroom hotel and associated facilities.	2009/10
J/2006/0616/O	STRABANE	Strategic mixed use development comprising an employment Park (Class B1 & B2 uses (Light Industrial) - 15,514 sqm), a leisure complex (4,645 sqm) and hotel (4,645 sqm), together with a comprehensive landscaping strategy incorporating flood protection work	2010/11
J/2009/0070/F	STRABANE	Demolition of existing buildings (30m frontage) and erection of five storeys over basement building. This will include a hotel (22 bedrooms), function room, bar, bistro, basement for ancillary accommodation and associated accommodation and a public house. A vehicular drop-off area is proposed in Abercorn square together with all ancillary site works.	2009/10
K/2006/1161/F	OMAGH	16 Bedroom Hotel with restaurant and 21 No self catering chalets	2008/09
K/2007/0446/O	OMAGH	Major mixed use urban development to include: business and industrial development, hotel, leisure and community uses.	2010/11

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
L/2006/1513/O	FERMANAGH	Proposed hotel with associated access, car parking, services, including waste water treatment plant and landscaping.	2010/11
N/2007/1052/F	CRAIGAVON	Change of use from existing hotel at 46 Market Street to 10 No. apartments and Change of use of existing HMO at 16-18 Windsor Avenue to provide 6 No. apartments with extensions to the side and rear to provide 7 No. apartments with basement parking (revise	2008/09
N/2009/0355/F	CRAIGAVON	Erection of proposed 52 bed budget hotel with ancillary accommodation and associated car parking and landscaping provision	2010/11
O/2008/0277/F	ARMAGH	Erection of 10 bedroom hotel, restaurant, conference centre with landscaped gardens and associated parking.	2009/10
P/2005/1083/F	NEWRY and MOURNE	Erection of 77 bedroom hotel with conference facilities and restaurant to incorporate ancillary accommodation, access and parking provision and associated site works with partial demolition of Nos. 3 and 4 Trevor Hill, Newry. (amended scheme)	2008/09
P/2005/2523/O	NEWRY and MOURNE	Site for hotel and self catering accommodation.	2008/09
P/2006/1187/O	NEWRY and MOURNE	Extension to shopping centre to include additional mall retail units, hotel, multi-storey car park with retail units at ground floor, new vehicular access to Drumalane Road and associated site works. (Amended Proposal)	2008/09
P/2006/1838/F	NEWRY and MOURNE	Erection of hotel, restaurant and off licence	2008/09
P/2006/2350/LB	NEWRY and MOURNE	Change of use from existing Nursing Home to a 18 bedroom Hotel including internal and external alterations and rear extension.	2008/09
P/2006/2359/F	NEWRY and MOURNE	Change of use from existing nursing home to a 18 Bedroom Hotel and rear extension.	2008/09
P/2009/0630/F	NEWRY and MOURNE	Erection of 61 Bedroom hotel with cafe/ Restaurant and conference facilities with associated car parking	2010/11
R/2005/0414/O	DOWN	Managers Dwelling and 9 Self-catering accommodation (amended scheme) serving hotel & previously approved Golf course R/1995/0383.	2009/10

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
R/2010/0862/F	DOWN	Full planning application for change of redundant hotel premises to residential care facility and full planning application for 10 short term occupation cottages for people with learning difficulties and respite care in substitution for managers dwelling	2010/11
S/2006/1418/O	LISBURN	Hotel & health spa with associated health facilities, car parking, walk/fitness trails and landscaping of former quarry.	2008/09
S/2007/0385/RM	LISBURN	Site for Hotel	2008/09
S/2007/0771/F	LISBURN	60 bedroom hotel including restaurant and bar facilities, car parking and associated development.	2008/09
S/2008/0052/F	LISBURN	Change of use from licensed restaurant and guest house to hotel with alterations and new bedroom extension.(amended design).	2009/10
S/2008/0304/F	LISBURN	Development of hotel and spa facility with associated car parking and landscaping.	2009/10
T/2004/1305/O	ANTRIM	Site of mixed use development to include residential use, leisure suite, alterations to existing hotel premises to include new craft shop, new dedicated access for hotel with associated reconfiguration of car park. (Amended concept parking and access deta	2008/09
V/2006/0124/F	CARRICKFERGUS	Construction of hotel with leisure facilities, function rooms, garden and associated car park	2008/09
V/2008/0196/O	CARRICKFERGUS	Demolition of the existing building and replace with a new all purpose tourist facility incorporating a hotel, restaurant, bar and golf facilities.	2010/11
X/2008/0783/F	ARDS	Conversion and extension of existing buildings for a proposed 50 bed hotel with supporting services.	2009/10
Y/2008/0495/F	CASTLEREAGH	Proposed 60 bed hotel, family restaurant, car parking and associated site and landscape works (amended drawings)	2010/11
Z/2005/0176/F	BELFAST	Erection of 10-storey hotel comprising 250no. bedrooms, meeting rooms with bar and restaurant on ground floor. Nine-storey open plan office building with ground floor retail unit and underground car parking.	2008/09
Z/2006/2314/LB	BELFAST	Existing building to be restored and retained, extension to south and west with change of use to extended stay hotel and ground floor Class A1 retail unit (Amended description).	2008/09

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
Z/2006/2325/F	BELFAST	Existing building to be restored and retained, extension to south and west with change of use to extended stay hotel and ground floor Class A1 retail unit (Amended description).	2008/09
Z/2007/1324/F	BELFAST	Mixed use development comprising 169 bedroom hotel, office units, 132 apartments, multi-storey carpark, retail units, cafe and restaurant units, public open space, landscaping and associated site works (Amendments to previous approval Z/2004/2961/F).	2008/09
Z/2007/1867/RM	BELFAST	Erection of hotel (123 no. bedrooms), including bar and restaurant facilities, car parking and associated site works. (Amended Plans).	2008/09
Z/2007/2297/F	BELFAST	Hotel development comprising 124 no. bedrooms plus ancillary uses - bar, dining, kitchen and storage.	2008/09
Z/2007/2674/F	BELFAST	Business centre development, consisting of 12No staff accommodation bedrooms, 10No. office units, 34No guest bedrooms and a link bridge to the existing hotel.	2008/09
Z/2008/0372/F	BELFAST	Demolition of existing building and construction of 11 No. storey commercial office and 145 bedroom hotel development with 2 storey basement parking and associated site works. (amended design)	2008/09
Z/2008/0518/F	BELFAST	Proposed 9-storey, 169-bed hotel incorporating restaurant, bar, dry fitness, small meeting rooms, access and servicing arrangements.	2010/11
Z/2008/0599/O	BELFAST	Proposed major mixed use regeneration project comprising residential development, own door offices, an hotel, restaurants, cafes, call centres/research & development uses, assembly and leisure uses, local retail & professional service uses, a supermarket	2010/11
Z/2008/1513/F	BELFAST	Change of use from bar/restaurant to hotel retaining ground floor bar and first floor restaurant, conversion of second floor restaurant lounge to 6 bedrooms and provision of an additional third floor for 6 bedrooms (12 bedrooms in total). (Amended proposal)	2009/10
Z/2008/1805/F	BELFAST	New hotel development comprising refurbishment of existing listed office building and construction of new bedroom wing to rear of site. (Amended Plans).	2009/10

<b>Reference</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>Description of Development</b>	<b>Decided</b>
Z/2008/1963/F	BELFAST	Construction of a 152 bed hotel with conference, leisure and restaurant facilities including associated car parking and general site works	2009/10
Z/2008/2396/F	BELFAST	Construction of basement car park, 250 bed hotel including bar, conference facilities and ancillary accommodation and demolition of 2 storey structure and multi-deck car park	2009/10
Z/2009/0121/F	BELFAST	Demolition of 11 Donegall Square South and 5 Linenhall Street and erection of 9 storey hotel (6 storeys to Donegall Square South and 9 storey to Linenhall Street). Includes refurbishment and connection through to 10 Donegall Square to accommodate 108 bed	2010/11
Z/2009/1061/LB	BELFAST	Refurbishment, part-restoration, change of use and extension of Listed Former Harland and Wolff Headquarters building for use as 111-bedroom boutique hotel, spa facilities, swimming pool, gymnasium and other ancillary uses together with associated access	2010/11
Z/2009/1091/F	BELFAST	Refurbishment, part-restoration change of use and extension of listed former Harland & Wolff Headquarters building for use a 111-bedroom boutique hotel, spa facilities, swimming pool, gymnasium and other ancillary uses together with associated access and	2010/11
Z/2009/1260/F	BELFAST	Erection of hotel comprising 244 bedrooms, ancillary restaurant and conference facilities, hotel offices, landscaped public realm, basement car park and associated site and road works	2010/11
Z/2009/1696/F	BELFAST	Change of use from hotel to two offices class B1(a) at ground floor.	2010/11
Z/2010/0680/F	BELFAST	Change of use from office space/part of hotel to gym.	2010/11
Z/2010/1206/F	BELFAST	Change of use of first floor office of No.11 Donegal Square South to provide extension to kitchen of 10 Square Hotel and conference facilities and link through to 10 Square Hotel.	2010/11
C/2010/0045/F	COLERAINE	Renovation & extension of existing buildings to create new boutique hotel accommodation & associated landscaped access & parking	2011/12
N/2010/0404/F	CRAIGAVON	Erection of Hotel complex	2011/12



Reference	LGD	Description of Development	Decided
W/2008/0456/F	NORTH DOWN	Demolition of existing Royal Hotel and Windsor Bar and erection of replacement 52 room hotel with bar / restaurant, roof top restaurant, 33 apartments, viewing terrace, car parking, amenity space and ancillary accommodation	2011/12
L/2011/0203/F	FERMANAGH	Erection of holiday home having a ridge height of under 5.0 metres with front porch, gable projection and basement for 2No bedrooms, en-suite and bathroom.	2011/12
L/2011/0473/F	FERMANAGH	Proposed 2 No cottages to be used as self contained holiday accommodation (one of which to be specially fully adapted for wheelchair accessible use)	2011/12
L/2011/0594/F	FERMANAGH	Erection of single storey replacement dwelling, providing self-catering tourist accommodation, including conversion of existing stone building to become part of proposed house.	2011/12
P/2007/1352/F	NEWRY and MOURNE	Extension and alterations to existing building to provide hotel facility with 21 bedrooms	2011/12
P/2009/0748/F	NEWRY and MOURNE	Erection of 64 no bedroom hotel with ancillary accommodation incorporating office space and associated site works with internal alteration of No's 3 and 4 Trevor Hill, Newry - Amendment to previous approval P/2005/1083/F	2011/12
X/2008/0920/F	ARDS	Development of three storey 50 bed hotel incorporating restaurant and bar, all associated car parking, landscaping, servicing and infrastructural arrangements, with access off the new Southern Relief Road.	2011/12

### Historical Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to outline the compensatory arrangements that are in place for a landowner, affected by the scheduling of a site under the Historical Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, in relation to the loss of use and/or any other diminution in their rights; and (ii) for his assessment of whether such arrangements are adequate.

**(AQW 6811/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In response to part 1 of your question,

- Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 (The Order) govern the circumstances under which compensation is payable and/or recoverable by the Department in respect of expenditure incurred or other loss or damage sustained in consequence of the refusal, or the granting subject to conditions, of a scheduled monument consent (SMC).
- Article 9 parts (1) and (2) state that if the owner of a scheduled monument sustains any loss or damage in consequence of a refusal of a SMC, or the granting subject to conditions, of a SMC, in relation to any works described below;

- a) works which are reasonably necessary for carrying out any development for which planning permission has been granted ( otherwise than by a general development order) before the time when the monument in question became a scheduled monument and was still effective at the date of the application for scheduled monument consent
- b) works which do not constitute a development, or constitute development such that planning permission is granted therefore by a general development order; and
- c) works which are reasonably necessary for the continuation of any use of the monument for any purpose for which it was in immediate use before the date of the application for scheduled monument consent

the Department shall pay to that person compensation in respect of that expenditure.

- 3 However, Article 9 (3) provides for the limiting of compensation to any expenditure incurred or other loss or damage sustained by a planning decision made by the Department if it could not be carried out without contravening Article 4(1) which requires scheduled monument consent for a range of damaging works.
- 4 Furthermore, Article 9 (4) removes entitlement to compensation under article 9 (2) a), b) and c) (above) if the works in question or any one of them would or might result in the total or partial demolition or destruction of the monument.
- 5 Article 9(5) excludes the payment of compensation unless compliance with the conditions of scheduled monument consent would make it impossible to use the monument for the purpose there mentioned.
- 6 Article 9 (7) refers to the applicability of Sections 32 and 33 of the Land Development Values (Compensation ) Act ( Northern Ireland) 1965, subject to any necessary modifications, to valuing any loss or depreciation in value payable under Articles 9 and 11 of the Order.
- 7 Under Article 10 it is possible for the Department to recover any compensation over £200 if the Department grants scheduled monument consent after compensation has already been paid for an earlier refusal of the same works. The same holds for a modification of conditions of a scheduled monument consent. A landowner may appeal this recovery process through the Lands Tribunal.
- 8 Under Article 11 of the Order if authorised works affecting a scheduled historic monument cease to be authorised, any person with an estate in the whole or part of the monument who has incurred expenditure on works considered abortive in removal of that authorisation is entitled to compensation from the Department. However, all such works, loss or damage occurring before the granting of SMC shall not be compensated.

In response to Part 2 of your question the statutory provisions are significant and I have not been convinced to move beyond the current position, but will keep it under review.

## **Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment to provide a timescale for the finalisation of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

**(AQW 6865/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Draft BMAP was published in November 2004, and it covers 6 District Council areas including Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and North Down. Nearly 4,000 objections were received in respect of the Draft Plan and a public inquiry was convened by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) to consider these objections. This inquiry commenced in April 2007 and finished in May 2008.

Since the conclusion of the public inquiry, the PAC has been considering all the information before it prior to completing its report and making its recommendations available to my Department.

To date, the PAC has delivered several sections of their report, including the part relating to Strategic Retail Issues (received in January 2009), the part relating to the Strategic Plan Framework (received in March 2011), the reports on Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh Districts (received in July 2011), and the reports on North Down District, and Lagan Valley Regional Park (received in September 2011). The reports on Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey Districts remain outstanding.

My Department is currently considering the PAC recommendations and preparing the Plan for adoption. The date that BMAP will be adopted will be dependent on when the PAC Report is received in its entirety. I am now assessing how best to manage the report, if parts can be taken forward ahead of full adoption in order to accelerate the issue and help create certainty in these difficult times.

At present it is anticipated that adoption will take place early in 2013.

## **Community Planning Functions to Councils**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what progress has been made on devolving community planning functions to councils.

**(AQW 6866/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Policy proposals in respect of community planning were subject to a public consultation that concluded in March 2011. In response to the proposals outlined within that consultation document;

- There was universal support for the principle that councils should lead and facilitate the community planning process.
- There was also clear support for the principle that an obligation should be placed on all relevant statutory agencies to engage proactively with councils in developing and implementing Community Plans.
- The importance of consultation and engagement with people and communities was also highlighted.
- On the question of central guidance to support community planning, there was broad support for this – but subject to a caveat that such guidance should not be overly prescriptive so as to provide sufficient flexibility at a local level.
- Finally, there was also support across a range of organisations for the creation of clear statutory links between community planning and land-use planning at the local level.

The current position on the reform of local government is reflected in the draft Programme for Government 2011-15, published for public consultation on 17th November 2011, which sets out the Executive's proposal to establish the 11 council model by 2015 and the related key milestones and outputs.

My Department is currently progressing the complex and various work streams around RPA, which include further consideration of Community Planning.

## **Genmar Companion Incident**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions his Department has had with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in relation to the Genmar Companion incident.

**(AQW 6867/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Genmar Companion incident started on 16 December and was managed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) initially. The incident was taken over by the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) on 18 December, as is normal practice in an incident of this nature. From 18 December there were daily discussions between SOSREP, NIEA, MCA and the other relevant parties. I was kept closely informed of the key developments. The MCA ran a full debrief of the incident in MCA Northern Ireland Headquarters, Bregenz House on 26 January, in which NIEA participated. The debrief was chaired by the deputy SOSREP.

## Article 31 Planning Decisions

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of the Environment how many Article 31 planning decisions have been (i) approved; and (ii) refused since he has come into office.

**(AQW 6944/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Since coming into office, I have put in place measures to actively manage Article 31 applications. I meet with my senior planning team monthly to interrogate applications, to create certainty, move cases to decision and to improve on the management of Article 31 cases. In January, five of the 55 applications as of 1/1/12 were concluded, with three approvals (cemetery at Moira, hotel at Lisburn and Ulster Rugby at Ravenhill). My ambition is to have eight determined in February 2012, meaning 25% of cases will have been concluded January – February 2012.

Arising from the new active management regime, there should be a positive flow of decisions from March to June 2012, with my ambition that up to 65% of cases live on 1/1/12 will be concluded by June 2012 (i.e. 40+ applications). Four applications were concluded prior to 1/1/12.

## Tamboran Resources

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether Tamboran Resources has sought an application for planning permission, and if so to provide details.

**(AQW 6968/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I confirm that no planning application has been received. I have invited the management in to meet. To create certainty, I confirm that any environmental requirements at all stages of this process will be fully and faithfully enforced.

## Oil Spills on Roads

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to large oil spills and the clean-up operations undertaken by the Environment Agency, to detail (i) the number of oil spills on roads in the last three years; and (ii) the steps that have been taken to reduce the number of such oil spills.

**(AQW 6987/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department for Regional Development Roads Service is the authority responsible for dealing with oil spills on roads. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) would be involved where spills are large enough to pose a significant water pollution risk or other environmental threat.

Roads Service usually leads on the clean up of roads following any oil spill and NIEA would only be called upon to assist where there is a significant risk of water pollution associated with the clean up operation. The Agency has no power to take steps to prevent the majority of such oil spills to roads. You may wish to take this matter forward with Roads Service to address.

The table below sets out the number of oil spills impacting on roads, for which NIEA holds records, in each of the past three years. This includes the severity of the incident in terms of water pollution caused as a result.

Year	High Severity Water Pollution Impact	Medium Severity Water Pollution Impact	Low Severity Water Pollution Impact	Total
2009	0	2	5	7
2010	0	0	9	9
2009	0	2	5	7

## Review of Public Administration

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact of the proposed Review of Public Administration on staff numbers in each council.

**(AQW 7015/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Clearly the Executive's decision to reduce the number of councils to eleven will, when implemented, impact on the number of staff employed by the twenty six councils that currently exist. Further work is required for this to be quantified but clearly there will be an impact on staff numbers, arguably more than with the fifteen model.

It is my intention to re-establish the eleven Transition Committees shortly and the assessment of the Human Resource implications of local government reform, including the impact on staff numbers, are key issues that they will be addressing. These issues will be carefully considered and negotiated with staff representative organisations and employing authorities through the Local Government Reform Joint Forum which was set up for this purpose.

These considerations will be underpinned by the commitment to act in the best interests of the affected staff enshrined in the Public Service Commission guiding principles for RPA which have been agreed with the Executive. Moreover, I believe we should assess how to protect the interests of councillors, who served in dark days, at some risk and with little financial recognition.

## Trade Union Duties

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of full-time equivalent staff, in his Department or its arm's-length bodies, who carried out trade union duties, during trade union facility time, in (i) 2000/01; (ii) 2005/06; and (iii) 2010/11, broken down by trade union.

**(AQW 7017/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The number of full-time equivalent staff in the Department of the Environment (DOE) who carried out trade union duties during trade union facility time in 2000/01, 2005/06 and 2010/11, broken down by trade union, is set out in the Table below.

The recording of this information prior to the introduction of HRConnect in 2008 was paper based and managed and maintained at line manager level. The information available for 2000/01 and 2005/06, as set out in the Table below, reflects that migrated to the HR Connect system in 2008, however given the nature of the recording process prior to 2008 the Department is unable to validate the information. This may indicate the apparent variation in the figures provided.

Department	Year	Number of Staff	Union
DOE	2000/2001	1	NIPSA
	2005/2006	22	NIPSA
	2010/2011	16	NIPSA

I wish to make it clear that I support the grant of facilities to the trade unions. They have been the central element in the promotion and protection of worker's rights and a key element in social contract politics going forward.

## Flooding in the Antrim and Randalstown Areas

**Ms Lewis** asked the Minister of the Environment how much was paid in compensation to victims affected by flooding in the Antrim and Randalstown areas in October 2011.

**(AQO 1157/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Antrim Borough Council made 11 payments of £1,000 each to householders in the Antrim/Randalstown area, specifically Castle Road, Edenduff Terrace and Milltown Road.

These payments were not compensation but were practical assistance for householders who suffered severe inconvenience due to flooding in October 2011 to ensure their homes were made habitable as quickly as possible.

### Councils: Written-off Debt

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the number of local councils which have written-off monies owed for payment of services; and (ii) the level of debt written-off by each council.

**(AQW 7180/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Based on information provided to the Department by Councils:

- (i) In 2008/2009, 18 councils wrote off monies owed for payment of services.  
 In 2009/2010, 18 councils wrote off monies owed for payment of services.  
 In 2010/2011, 19 councils wrote off monies owed for payment of services.
- (ii) The level of debt from monies written off due to failure to pay for services provided is detailed within the enclosed table below.

Council	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Antrim	0	0	46,298
Ards	2,005	3,149	980
Armagh	0	7,883	4,452
Ballymena	11,714	12,345	2,200
Ballymoney	0	0	0
Banbridge	0	0	0
Belfast	1,877	26,466	132,972
Carrickfergus	128	18,961	3,126
Castlereagh	10,802	1,375	4,350
Coleraine	0	0	0
Cookstown	552	3,079	481
Craigavon	0	0	0
Derry	12,918	9,844	12,755
Down	26,523	28,991	12,682
Dungannon	4,806	704	6,550
Fermanagh	652	29,455	947
Larne	0	2,303	576
Limavady	14,705	0	0
Lisburn	469	2,122	353
Magherafelt	0	0	0
Moyle	675	374	10,166
Newry & Mourne	2,201	13,654	3,228

<b>Council</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
Newtownabbey	7,976	0	0
North Down	4,426	8,115	1,743
Omagh	2,985	2,984	4,610
Strabane	1,368	3,042	1,255
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,782</b>	<b>174,846</b>	<b>249,724</b>

## Remuneration of MLAs

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the timescale for a decision to be taken on the remuneration of MLAs who are also councillors; and whether this will be factored into the councils' rates estimates for 2012/13. [R]

**(AQW 7189/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department issued a consultation, which closed on 16 December 2011, seeking views on a possible two thirds reduction being applied to the basic allowance and special responsibility allowance payable to councillors who are also MLAs and/or MPs and/or Members of the House of Lords. None of the respondents opposed the proposal for reducing the allowances.

I intend to bring forward the necessary legislation to reduce the allowances of multiple mandate councillors before the summer.

## Capital Spending by Councils

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what steps he intends to take to control capital spending by councils, prior to the implementation of the Review of Public Administration.

**(AQW 7193/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Councils need to act responsibly and prudently in relation to capital expenditure, and I will be encouraging them strongly to liaise on this matter with the councils with which they will be forming new councils in 2015. I will be recommending that this liaison should be managed through the relevant Voluntary Transition Committee, which should promote a pragmatic and responsible approach to the future needs of the new enlarged council. In addition, I will issue guidance to ensure responsible borrowing and decision making.

I will also consider whether legislation will be required to introduce a statutory control on such council expenditure in the period leading to implementation of Reform. This control could be effected through Statutory Transition Committees when they are established.

However, as Belfast City Council has demonstrated, Councils can play a decisive role in releasing funds for civic projects and local jobs. There may be some, albeit limited, opportunity for this to be duplicated.

## Planning Application B/2100/0057/F

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) why the amended plan for planning application B/2100/0057/F is being advertised on 31 January and 1 February 2012, with a closing date of 1 February 2012 for public objection; and (ii) whether this creates a democratic deficit for all concerned to object.

**(AQW 7326/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department issued neighbour notification letters on 19 January 2012 which requested that written comments should be submitted by 2 February 2012. In addition to this, the amended plans and traffic figures will be advertised in the Northern Constitution, Londonderry Sentinel



and Derry Journal newspapers during the week ending 3 February 2012 and the advert will request written comments to be submitted within the next 14 days thereafter.

Through the issuing of neighbour notification letters and advertisement in the local press, the Department has informed the local community of the application and provided them with the opportunity to consider the proposal and to comment on it accordingly. It should be noted that whilst the neighbour notification letters and advertisement specify a date for written comments to be submitted, the Department will accept, and consider, written comments at all stages during the processing of a planning application up to the date when a decision issues. Consequently, the democratic and community interests, which I will robustly defend, are protected with reasonable opportunities for citizen input into this important matter.

### **Driver and Vehicle Agency**

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of the Environment whether the Driver and Vehicle Agency is authorised to release vehicle owner details to owners or operators of private car parks.

**(AQW 7430/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Vehicle licensing is an excepted matter which is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Transport. It is administered in Northern Ireland by the Driver & Vehicle Agency under a formal agreement between the Department of the Environment and the Department for Transport.

In relation to the release of information, DVA acts in accordance with the policy as set by DVLA. The relevant legislation permitting the release of information from the vehicles register is regulation 27 (1) (e) of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 which states “(1) The Secretary of State may make any particulars contained in the register available for use - ... (e) by any person who can show to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that he has reasonable cause for wanting the particulars to be made available to him”.

Under DVLA's policy on the operation of Regulation 27(e), DVA is authorised to release vehicle owner details to owners or operators of private car parks. The supply of information to private car parking companies is carefully controlled, within the parameters of the “reasonable cause” provision. Information is only released to reputable companies which are regulated by accredited trade bodies.

### **Mobile Phone Applications**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) any mobile phone applications that have been designed by his Department, and its arm's length bodies, for use by members of the public; and (ii) any that are currently being developed.

**(AQW 7456/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:**

- i An iPhone app was part of the interpretive solution at Dunluce Castle which in turn was part of the 50% funded (by DOE NIEA) Signature Project run by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board on the Causeway Coastal Route. The app is free to download from the iTunes store and features a short film, interactive map and audio-visual tours of the site.
- ii. An educational tool based at the Crawfordsburn Country Park is at the very early stages of development and has the potential to become an audio tour or mobile phone app.

Given the scale of our natural and built heritage and its importance in economic and tourist growth, the identification of how an “app” strategy could be developed would be of use and I have asked officials to bring forward information on this approach.

### **Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of the Environment when his Department will publish the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

**(AQW 7534/11-15)**



**Mr Attwood:** Following the completion of the BMAP Public Inquiry in May 2008, the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) indicated a preliminary timescale for the delivery of their report to Planning Service as early summer 2010.

There has been a significant delay in the receipt of these reports, with the final reports only being delivered to my Department on 31 January 2012.

The PAC recommendations are currently being considered, and the Plan is being prepared for adoption. At present it is anticipated that BMAP will be published in the early part of 2013. I fully acknowledge that the delay on BMAP is frustrating. Consequently, I am considering what I can do in relation to its contents in advance of full publication.

## Departmental Revenue Expenditure

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of the Environment whether his departmental revenue expenditure varies proportionately to his capital budget allocation.

**(AQW 7548/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department's main aims are to protect and improve the environment; support a sustainable economy; promote well being; and to promote a strong and effective local government. These responsibilities are discharged mainly by Departmental staff with the associated administrative costs forming a significant proportion of the Department's current expenditure (revenue) budget.

The Department's capital investment plans comprise mainly of a number of small capital projects and capital grant schemes.

The table below details the Departments current expenditure and capital investment budgets covering the period 2012-15, as approved by the Executive. The table also provides the capital investment budget expressed as a percentage of the current expenditure budget.

	£ million		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Current Expenditure Budget	123.9	120.7	120.2
Capital Investment Budget	5.9	4.0	7.6
Capital Investment Budget as a % of Current Expenditure Budget	4.8%	3.3%	6.3%

The Budget (2012-15) figures show that although the current expenditure budget decreases by £3.7 million (2.9%) between 2012-13 and 2014-15, the capital budget increases by £1.7 million (28.8%). There is no correlation between movements in the Department's current and capital expenditure.

## Hydraulic Fracturing

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment which of his Executive colleagues have met the Environment Agency to discuss hydraulic fracturing; and (ii) to provide details of any reports and briefings that the Environment Agency has produced on hydraulic fracturing.

**(AQW 7606/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** A DETI led officials group has met to consider the issue of fracking. In this forum, all issues related to fracking are or will be assessed. I confirm that all appropriate environmental assessments will be upheld and fulfilled.

My Department is in the process of drafting a Position Statement on the issue of hydraulic fracturing which will be published on my Department's website when complete. In addition, NIEA have met with the EPA in the Republic of Ireland and there is ongoing assessment of how across the island and within NI departments, these issues can be properly managed.

## PPS 18

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment why reference to community benefits was removed from the draft PPS 18; and whether he has any plans to address this matter.

**(AQW 7617/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The previous Minister of the Environment published PPS 18 in its current form. While I am aware that the draft PPS 18 contained information on community benefits, the provision of such benefits is voluntary and takes place outside of the planning system.

I support the principle and practice of community benefits. I have asked officials some weeks back to provide advice on community benefit practice elsewhere in order to identify how to build up best practice and receive improved community benefit arising from planning approval.

## High Hedges Act (NI) 2011

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment how many prosecutions have been brought, to date, under the High Hedges Act (NI) 2011.

**(AQW 7622/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Although the High Hedges Act (NI) 2011 received Royal Assent in May 2011 it is not possible for it to become operational until the detail provided for in subordinate legislation is also in place. All of the necessary legislation is scheduled to come into effect on 31 March 2012. Thus to date no prosecutions have been possible.

## Listed Buildings

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of listed buildings in the (a) Ballymoney; (b) Ballycastle; and (c) Ballymena areas.

**(AQW 7625/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Northern Ireland Environment Agency records listed buildings on a ward basis within District Council areas (1974 boundaries apply).

There are currently 86 listed buildings in the Ballymoney District Council area; 332 in the Ballycastle (Moyle District Council) area (there are 64 listed buildings in Ballycastle town itself); and 258 in the Ballymena Borough Council Area.

It should be noted that some of these entries may relate to multiple properties - such as terraces or large estates - which may feature on the list as a single record.

More detailed information on individual buildings/addresses may be found on the Northern Ireland Buildings Record which is published on NIEA's website.

You can access this information via the following link:

<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/other-index/content-databases/content-databases-build.htm>

## Water Pollution

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of (i) incidents of; and (ii) prosecutions for water pollution in the Down District Council area in (a) 2009; (b) 2010; and (c) 2011, broken down by the source of the pollution.

**(AQW 7669/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Table 1 below provides details of the confirmed water pollution incidents in the Down District Council area in each of the past three years, broken down against the main incident source classes.

**TABLE 1: SOURCE OF CONFIRMED WATER POLLUTION INCIDENTS IN DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA FOR EACH OF THE PAST THREE YEARS**

Year	Domestic	Farm	Industry	Transport	NIW	Other	Total
2009	0	4	6	1	26	9	46
2010	4	4	4	1	20	18	51
2011	6	8	2	1	14	19	50

NIEA's enforcement policy, as it relates to water pollution incidents, is that for all High and Medium Severity water pollution incidents, where the polluter can be identified, the Agency will normally pursue appropriate enforcement action against that polluter.

Enforcement action may include one or more of the following:-

- Prosecution;
- Issuing of a Legally Binding Notice;
- Issuing of a Warning Letter and/or, for agricultural incidents, 'Breaching' under Cross Compliance (where the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development may initiate a deduction from a farmer's Single Farm Payment).

The majority of the incidents in Table 1 above were of Low severity: i.e. they resulted in a minimal, short-lived or very localised environmental effect. Out of the confirmed pollution incidents in each year, 29 were of Low severity in 2009; 39 were of Low severity in 2012; and 36 were of Low severity in 2011.

There is a proportion of High and Medium severity water pollution incidents where, for a variety of reasons, prosecution (and in some cases other lesser enforcement action) is not appropriate. This includes; where despite a full investigation the polluter cannot be identified, or where there are significant mitigating factors.

Table 2 below, details the prosecutions, to date for confirmed water pollution incidents, which occurred in each of the past three years, in Down District Council area. This includes both prosecutions which have resulted in a conviction and those which are still at various stages in the legal process (it typically takes 12-18 months, and sometimes significantly more, for a prosecution to pass through the legal process and be heard in court).

**TABLE 2: PROSECUTIONS TO DATE FOR CONFIRMED WATER POLLUTION INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA IN EACH OF THE PAST THREE YEARS**

Year in which the incident occurred	Prosecutions	Source
2009	6	4 x NIW; 1 x Agriculture; 1 x Industry.
2010	3	All NIW.
2011	5	3 x NIW, 1 x Domestic, 1 x Agriculture.

### Studies on Endangered Wildlife Species

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has undertaken, or plans to undertake, studies on endangered wildlife species.

**(AQW 7686/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Natural Heritage Directorate of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has a long track record of undertaking studies or evidence gathering on endangered wildlife species.

NIEA routinely gathers data on a broad range of wildlife species. Such evidence can form part of one-off studies or be part of longer term monitoring activities, for example wildfowl or seal surveillance. In some cases information is gained from other science experts outside the Agency or from specially commissioned research.

NIEA and its predecessors have been involved in such studies since the mid 1980s and the focus has been on wildlife species that are considered a conservation priority. Such species include those protected under domestic legislation, for example the Wildlife Order, or for which we have an international responsibility; notably species listed in the annexes of the EC Habitats Directive. New studies are proposed on an ongoing basis and commissioned subject to priority and budget availability.

### **Single Use Carrier Bag Levy**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment if, and when, any further legislation will be introduced in relation to the single use carrier bag levy.

**(AQW 7696/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The enabling legislation to introduce a levy on single use carrier bags is provided by the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Single User Carrier Bags Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

This enabling legislation provides that detailed arrangements for a charging scheme for single use carrier bags are to be provided for in subordinate legislation. Officials are currently working on the required regulations and it is hoped that consultation should begin at the end of March 2012 with the subordinate legislation in place early in 2013. This would allow charging for single use bags to commence in April 2013.

I plan to extend the levy to lower cost reusable bags from April 2014; this will require further primary legislation.

The Executive has given approval in principle for the required Bill. Work on that Bill is at its early stages but will be progressed as soon as possible. Thereafter additional subordinate legislation will also be required.

### **Single Use Carrier Bag Levy**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the regulations that will be introduced prior to the introduction of the single use carrier bag levy; and (ii) the timescale for introducing the regulations.

**(AQW 7697/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The detailed provision for the introduction of the single use carrier bag levy will be contained in regulations made under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Single User Carrier Bags Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The regulations will specify the sellers and bags to be covered by the new arrangements, set the minimum charge and make provision for administration, collection and enforcement. I am committed to ensuring that the regulations are brought forward as soon as possible and I will therefore seek to commence public consultation at the end of March 2012.

I anticipate that the regulations will be in place early in 2013 to allow charging for single use bags to commence in April 2013.

### Single Use Carrier Bag Levy

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment what exemptions there will be for the single use carrier bag levy.

**(AQW 7698/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I have not yet taken a final decision on exemptions from the levy.

However the Department's 2011 policy consultation – and related engagement with key stakeholders – confirmed strong support for consistency with the Welsh approach to exemptions. This would mean specific exemptions on grounds such as patient confidentiality (items supplied on prescription), hygiene and food safety – and where a bag is necessary to protect both goods and consumers.

Thus, for example bags for unwrapped and partially wrapped food would be exempt from the charge. Exemptions would also apply in the case of very small bags, mail order/carrier packaging, previously used bags and reusable bags.

I see merit in legislating for similar exemptions here. This would ensure consistency of approach and clarity for retailers, particularly those operating in both countries. It would also help ensure that bags are only issued free in circumstances where the nature of the product requires that a bag should be supplied.

However, I want to ensure that the exemptions from the levy are entirely appropriate for local circumstances. Before making a final decision on exemptions, I will therefore consider the outcome of the Department's consultation on the draft carrier bag regulations. This is due to take place later this year.

### Single Use Carrier Bag Levy

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment how much revenue the single use carrier bag levy is projected to generate in each of the next four years.

**(AQW 7699/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Evidence from other countries demonstrates that a bag levy is a simple and effective means to reduce substantially the negative environmental impact of carrier bag consumption. A 10p levy on single use carrier bags and lower cost reusable carrier bags can therefore bring about significant environmental improvement.

In the first year I propose to discount the charge to 5p and limit the levy to single use carrier bags. This will provide consumers with time to adapt their shopping habits to the new levy.

The amount of revenue that will ultimately be raised will be dependent on consumer behaviour. In the event that the local experience is similar to that of other jurisdictions that have introduced bag charges, the single use carrier bag levy is anticipated to generate around £1.5m in net revenue in the first year.

In subsequent years, once the levy increases to 10p and is extended to lower cost reusable carrier bags, financial modelling suggests that the target net revenue of £4m per annum could be achieved. On this basis, the levy would raise £13.5m net of costs over the first 4 years of operation.

### Single Use Carrier Bag Levy

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail what potential savings businesses could make from the introduction of the single use carrier bag levy and a reduced demand for carrier bags.

**(AQW 7700/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The potential savings to businesses will ultimately be dependent on consumer behaviour. In the event that the local experience is similar to that of other jurisdictions that have introduced bag charges, the carrier bag levy is anticipated to reduce single use carrier bag consumption by more than 80%. Such a reduction would equate to around 200 million fewer single use carrier bags being consumed here every year.

While precise data is not available, the purchase and free distribution of such bags by retailers is currently estimated to cost over £3m per annum. It is anticipated that the potential savings to retailers from an 80% reduction in single use carrier bag consumption will more than outweigh any administrative costs for retailers.

### **Single Use Carrier Bag Levy**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment how the single use carrier bag levy will be administered to reduce costs to businesses.

**(AQW 7777/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** My intention is to deliver simple and cost effective carrier bag levy administration arrangements which ensure minimum bureaucracy and cost to both business and the Department.

Retailers existing administrative arrangements should be broadly consistent with any requirements of the carrier bag levy and an in-house online reporting and payment system is currently being developed so as to minimise any administrative burden.

In seeking to ensure that levy administration costs to business are kept to a minimum I have considered evidence from introduction of the levy in the Republic of Ireland which highlights how additional administration costs to retailers were seen as modest and generally less than the savings that retailers were enjoying from purchasing fewer bags.

## **Department of Finance and Personnel**

### **Retired Civil Servants**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many retired civil servants at grades 1, 2 or 3 (i) have been re-employed in any capacity by the Civil Service; or (ii) are now paid out of the public purse in other capacities, such as in consultancy work.

**(AQW 6147/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** During the period 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2012 there were 3 staff, all at Grade 3 level, who retired and were either re-employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service or were paid for carrying out work on behalf of the Civil Service. The Department of Finance and Personnel does not hold information on other public sector organisations.

### **Vacant Posts in the Civil Service**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) location; and (ii) number of vacant posts in the Civil Service at (a) Administrative Assistant; (b) Administrative Officer; (c) Executive Officer II; (d) Executive Officer I; and (e) Staff Officer; and (f) Deputy Principal grades, broken down by Department.

**(AQW 6295/11-15)**

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

## AQW 6295/11 - LOCATION &amp; NUMBER (FTE)(1) OF VACANT POSTS IN THE NICS AT AA AO, E02, E01, SO &amp; DP - 13/1/12

	AA	Location	AO	Location	E01I	Location	E01I	Location	E01	Location	SO	Location	DP	Location
DARD(2)	1	Stormont	1.8	Stormont	6.5	4 Londonderry	3	2 Stormont	3	2 Stormont	6	3 Stormont	4	Stormont
						2 Stormont		1 Coleraine				1 Belfast		
						0.5 Coleraine						1 Ballymena		
DCAL	0		0		0		0		0		3	Belfast	0	
DE	0		0		2	Bangor	1	Bangor	1	Bangor	2	Bangor	6	Bangor
DEL	2	Belfast	15	10 Belfast	21.67	8.67 Belfast	15.5	14.5 Belfast	9	14.5 Belfast	9	Belfast	1	Belfast
						2 Newry								
						2 Newtownabbey								
						2 Enniskillen								
						1 Banbridge								
						1 Strabane								
						1 Dungannon		1 Larne						
						1 Lisburn								
						1 Armagh								
						1 Portadown								
						1 Lurgan								
DETI	0		4	Belfast	0		1	Belfast	1	Belfast	2	Belfast	0	
DFP(3)	2	Belfast	10	Belfast	5	4 Belfast	2	Belfast	2	Belfast	1	Belfast	7	Belfast
						1 Bangor								
DHSSPS	0		0		0		0		0		0		0	

	AA	Location	AO	Location	EOII	Location	E01	Location	SO	Location	DP	Location
DOE	2	1 Belfast	11	7 Belfast 2 Coleraine 1.5 Enniskillen 0.5 Downpatrick	12	6 Belfast 4 Derry 2 Coleraine	7	3 Belfast 4 Coleraine	12	7 Belfast 5 Coleraine	2	1 Belfast 1 Coleraine
DOJ(4)	3	2 Maghaberry 1 Stormont	9.51	5.51 Belfast 2 Londonderry 1 Maghaberry 1 Newtownards	-	-	-	-	12	10 Stormont 2 Maghaberry	4	Stormont
DRD	0		5	Belfast	2	1 Belfast 1 Craigavon	2	1 Belfast 1 Londonderry	1	Belfast	1	Belfast
DSD	5	2 Londonderry 1 Belfast 1 Armagh 1 Banbridge	76	57 Belfast 11 Londonderry 3 Newry 1 Bangor 1 Kilkeel 1 Knockbreda 1 Newcastle 1 Lurgan	116	92 Belfast 20 Londonderry 1 Bangor 1 Cookstown 1 Ballynahinch 1 Downpatrick	11	8 Belfast 1 Portadown 1 Lurgan 1 Londonderry	10	9 Belfast 1 Londonderry	3	Belfast
OFMDFM	0		0		1	Stormont	0		3	Stormont	2	Stormont
PPS(5)	0		0		4	Belfast	0		1	Ballymena	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>132.31</b>		<b>170.17</b>		<b>42.5</b>		<b>62</b>		<b>30</b>	



**Notes**

- (1) FTE = Full-time Equivalent.
- (2) DARD SO Brussels is a secondment opportunity.
- (3) DFP Figures have been provided at 30 December 2011.
- (4) DOJ Grading Review to determine whether EO posts are EO2 or EO1 level. No information available on vacancies until this is complete.
- (5) PPS Grading Review to determine whether EO posts are EO2 or EO1 level; shown in Table as EO2.

**Trade Union Duties**

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of full-time equivalent staff, in his Department or its arm's-length bodies, who carried out trade union duties, during trade union facility time, in (i) 2000/01; (ii) 2005/06; and (iii) 2010/11, broken down by trade union.

**(AQW 7018/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** In 2000/01 there were 1.7 (FTE) staff carrying out trade union duties for NIPSA.

In 2005/06 there was 1 (FTE) staff carrying out trade union duties for NIPSA, with an additional 1 (FTE) staff providing administrative support.

In 2010/11 there were 3 (FTE) staff carrying out trade union duties for NIPSA, with 1 (FTE) staff providing administrative support. There was also 0.05 (FTE) staff carrying out trade union duties for the FDA.

There were no staff in the Department's arms length bodies who carried out trade union duties.

**Administrative Officer Posts within the Civil Service**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) number of applications; and (ii) number of appointments for administrative assistant and administrative officer posts within the Civil Service for people from a (a) Protestant; (b) Roman Catholic; and (c) other religious background in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7562/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on applications and appointments to permanent posts for Administrative Officer and Administrative Assistant is set out in the tables below.

**NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY FINANCIAL YEAR, BY GRADE AND COMMUNITY BACKGROUND**

Year	AA			AO			Total
	P	RC	Other	P	RC	Other	
2007/2008	0	0	0	3033	2765	120	<b>5918</b>
2008/2009	2240	2050	31	4667	4546	163	<b>13697</b>
2009/2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
2010/2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
2011/2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Year to date *							
<b>Total</b>	<b>2240</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7700</b>	<b>7311</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>19615</b>

**NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS BY FINANCIAL YEAR, BY GRADE AND COMMUNITY BACKGROUND**

Year	AA			AO			Total
	P	RC	Other	P	RC	Other	
2007/2008	114	78	3	159	156	7	<b>517</b>
2008/2009	168	120	4	518	486	15	<b>1311</b>
2009/2010	56	45	2	75	78	1	<b>257</b>
2010/2011	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
2011/2012	5	7	0	30	21	0	<b>63</b>
Year to Date *							
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2149</b>

\* Figures as at 7th February 2012

**Rates Bills**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) what is the average (a) domestic; and (b) non-domestic rates bill; and (ii) how these figures compare to those in (a) England; (b) Scotland; and (c) Wales.

**(AQW 7582/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The average domestic rates bill for Northern Ireland in 2011/12 is £778. This compares to average council tax bill in the rest of the UK for 2011/12 as follows:

Average council tax per chargeable dwelling 2011/12	
England	£1,196
Scotland	£984
Wales	£1,012

In addition, households in the rest of the UK pay separate water and sewerage charges. These were around £356 on average in England and Wales and £324 in Scotland in 2011/12. This means that average household charges in the rest of the UK range from £1,308 to £1,552. This means that local household taxes and charges in Northern Ireland are the lowest in the UK by some distance.

The average non-domestic rate bill in Northern Ireland for 2011/12 is £10,052. This compares to average non-domestic rate bills calculated for England and Scotland (Wales not available) as follows:

Average non-domestic rates bills	
England (estimate)	£14,190
Scotland (estimate)	£13,422

Official figures are not available from the other UK administrations. These figures are based on average rateable values in 2010, using poundages for 2011/12, and are comparative estimates calculated by my Department. The estimated figures are also before the application of any reliefs or exemptions.

It should be noted that such comparisons in the non-domestic sector are relatively meaningless as we do not have the same scale of big business here. For example high value undertakings such as the City of London, petro chemical plants and Heathrow, significantly affect the average in England.

## Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of non-domestic properties that benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme at January 2012; and (ii) to provide an estimate of the number of non-domestic properties that might benefit under the proposed enhanced Small Business Rate Relief Scheme, broken down by the (a) Carnlough; (b) Glenariffe; (c) Cushendall; and (d) Cushendun areas.

**(AQW 7793/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of non-domestic properties that might benefit from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme is collated at District Council and Ward level only. Information is therefore provided on the Glenaan and Glendun Wards instead of Cushendall and Cushendun.

The table below indicates the number of properties in the Carnlough, Glenaan, Glenariff and Glendun ward areas that are currently benefiting from the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme (as at 29th January 2012) and an estimate of the additional number which are likely to benefit under the enhanced Small Business Rate Relief Scheme (which will be introduced on 1st April 2012, subject to Assembly approval).

### NUMBER OF PROPERTIES CURRENTLY RECEIVING SMALL BUSINESS RATE RELIEF AND THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES LIKELY TO BE ENTITLED UNDER THE EXPANDED SMALL BUSINESS RATE RELIEF SCHEME

Ward	Properties Currently Entitled under Existing SBRR Scheme	Estimated Additional Properties under Expanded SBRR Scheme
Carnlough	52	*
Glenaan	52	7
Glenariff	26	7
Glendun	28	*

\* 5 properties or less

## Department's Human Resources Section

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many staff are employed in his Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7880/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** There are currently 34 staff employed in the Department's Human Resources section.

## Employment of External Consultants

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps he intends to take to ensure that Government Departments, and their arm's-length bodies, comply with the guidelines, rules and regulations on the employment of external consultants.

**(AQW 7904/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** My Department's current guidance provides a clear framework, covering all aspects of the employment of external consultants. It is the responsibility of Departmental Accounting Officers to ensure all relevant bodies comply with this guidance.

Compliance will be subject to scrutiny through the annual audit process and DFP's annual compliance report.

## Official Measure of Unemployment

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the percentage of adults who are currently unemployed in the (i) Belfast; (ii) Armagh; and (iii) Derry city areas.

**(AQW 7915/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The official measure of unemployment is sourced to the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the LFS is a sample survey and the percentage of adults who are currently unemployed in the aforementioned District Council Areas are not available from this source due to sample size constraints.

The following table is sourced to the claimant count measure of unemployment. This shows the number of persons claiming unemployment related benefits at January 2012 and this figure as a percentage of the resident working age population.

District Council Area	Claimants	
	Number	Rate
Armagh	1,973	5.3
Belfast	12,931	7.3
Derry	5,998	8.4

## Long-Term Unemployment

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the percentage of adults who are currently in long-term unemployment in the (i) Belfast; (ii) Armagh; and (iii) Derry city areas.

**(AQW 7917/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The official measure of unemployment is sourced to the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the LFS is a sample survey and the percentage of adults who are currently in long-term unemployment in the aforementioned District Council Areas are not available from it due to sample size constraints.

The following table is sourced to the claimant count measure of unemployment. This shows the number of persons claiming unemployment related benefits for over a year at January 2012 and this figure as a percentage of the resident working age population.

District Council Area	Claiming over 1 year	
	Number	Rate
Armagh	620	1.7
Belfast	3,190	1.8
Derry	1,725	2.4

## Elderly Population in the North Down Area

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the projected increase in the elderly population in the North Down area in each of the next three years.

**(AQW 7948/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The table below shows the mid-year population statistics for persons aged 65 or over resident in North Down Local Government District. The table below shows the estimate for 2010 and projections for 2011-15 with the percentage increase since 2010.

Year	Population aged 65 or over <sup>1</sup>	Projected increase since 2010
2010 (Estimated)	14,500	
2011 (Projected)	14,900	+2.3%
2012 (Projected)	15,300	+5.4%
2013 (Projected)	15,700	+8.2%
2014 (Projected)	16,200	+11.1%
2015 (Projected)	16,500	+13.5%

- 1 The mid-year population estimates and projections are generally quoted in rounded form as population counts from the Census and subsequent updates involving births, deaths and migration cannot be precise. Local area population projections are based on the 2008 population estimates baseline.

### Welfare Reform

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to on-going Welfare Reform.

**(AQW 7995/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** To date I have not had any discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to ongoing Welfare Reform.

Although DFP maintain a keen interest in Welfare Reform the Department for Social Development has lead responsibility for that policy.

### Empty Properties in the Foyle Constituency

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide a breakdown of the 1,500 empty properties identified within the Foyle constituency, broken down by (i) whether it is a (a) house; (b) flat; or (c) former small business premises; and (ii) whether it has (a) one; (b) two; or (c) three/four bedrooms.

**(AQW 8007/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Of the 1,500 vacant residential properties within the Derry City Council Area as at 22nd January, (a) 1,087 were houses, (b) 339 were flats and 74 were other types of property. Of the 1,500 properties, 28 were formerly non-domestic properties. It is not possible to identify whether any of these properties were former small business premises.

Of the 1,415 properties where the number of bedrooms was recorded, 153 had one bedroom, 338 had two bedrooms and 924 had three or more bedrooms.

### Central Procurement Directorate

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the guidance his Department received from the Central Procurement Directorate on the extension to the Account NI procurement contract; (ii) for his assessment of whether his Department breached any EU legislation; (iii) why the Account NI procurement contract required additional finance; (iv) why his Department disagrees with the conclusion of the Audit Office which stated that the project had overrun in terms of cost and time; (v) whether he can offer an assurance that any current and future procurement projects which exceed 50 percent of the original contract value, will adhere to Regulation 14 of the Public Procurement Regulations 2006 and be re-tendered.

**(AQW 8022/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Your question uses the term "Account NI procurement". This has been taken to mean the Account NI contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for consultancy support which was the subject of the recent PAC hearing. This is not to be confused with the contract for the delivery of the Account NI programme.

When the contract with PwC was extended, my Department sought advice and guidance from the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). The guidance provided assurance that appropriate steps were being taken to ensure that extensions were fully compliant with procurement legislation and demonstrated value for money.

I do not believe my Department has breached any EU Legislation. The NIAO report infers that compliance with procurement regulations, EU legislation and value for money could have been better demonstrated had separate procurement exercises been undertaken but does not assert that any EU Legislation was actually breached.

Additional finance was required to cover the increased consultancy costs to support the development of Account NI. While there was always an acceptance that this reform programme would be underpinned with strategic and specialist consultancy support, more was deployed than originally envisaged largely because the Department was unable to secure sufficiently skilled resources internally. The period over which consultancy support was needed was also longer than originally intended because of additional time needed to refine the technical specification during the procurement phase and to ensure that the optimal technical solution was developed prior to rolling out to Departments.

The Department does not dispute that significantly more consultancy was required than originally envisaged back in April 2002 but disagrees with use of the term 'overrun'. The NIAO definition states that "A contract is not considered to have encountered an overrun where the original contract made provision for an extension". The original consultancy contract clearly stated that it was to run for three years with options to extend at six monthly intervals until the Account NI project was completed. This was made clear to all potential bidders. Subsequent extensions were carefully managed in line with relevant procurement procedures and guidance with appropriate approvals having been sought and secured.

I can give an assurance that all current and future procurement projects will adhere to the Public Procurement Regulations (2006) as amended in all respects. The use of Regulation 14 will only be permitted if the prescribed conditions apply and the standard approach will be that contracts which have reached their published value or term will be retendered unless there are unforeseen circumstances that satisfy the Reg 14 conditions. Procurement and E-Procurement Systems

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether the current procurement system and e-procurement systems within the Civil Service allow Departments, and their arm's-length bodies, to purchase using the 'buy it now' feature on eBay marketplace, given that the products advertised on eBay are often less expensive than the same products from other suppliers.

**(AQW 8023/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The current procurement and eprocurement systems do not facilitate the use of the 'buy it now' feature on e-bay. This is because the feature requires payment to be made in advance and offers limited protection against supplier default or in the event of receipt of faulty goods. There is also insufficient assurance on the appropriate sourcing of goods and on the degree to which Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy objectives would be met.

## **Construction Jobs**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the number of construction jobs that have been lost as a result of the economic downturn to date.

**(AQW 8054/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** It is not possible to provide an estimate of the number of construction jobs that have been lost as a result of the economic downturn to date. However figures from the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey can be used to estimate the net change in employee jobs over the period.

The latest available figures indicate that at September 2011 there were 32,830 construction sector jobs in Northern Ireland, representing a fall of 13,990 jobs (30%) since the construction series peaked in December 2007.

## New Staff Recruited

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many new staff have been recruited by each Department in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8068/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on staff appointments to the Northern Ireland Civil Service has been published in annual reports on the website [www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk](http://www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk) for the financial years 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2010 and for the period 1 January 2010 to 1 May 2011 at the following link [http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/Analysis of NICS Recruitment Competitions 01Apr09 - 31Dec10.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/Analysis%20of%20NICS%20Recruitment%20Competitions%2001Apr09%20-%2031Dec10.pdf). The information includes occupational groups, gender, community background and declared disability however it is not disaggregated by Department as the data is not captured in that way.

## Stationery Costs in Replying to Assembly Written Questions

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department has spent on stationery costs in replying to Assembly Written Questions, including the price of the envelopes and paper used, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8117/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** My Department does not routinely estimate the cost of answering Assembly Questions. In addition, stationery costs specifically incurred to respond to Assembly Questions cannot readily be disaggregated from the overall stationery expenditure.

## Mortgage and Debt Arrears

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 7513/11-15, and in light of his recent letter to the Governor of the Bank of England requesting regional lending statistics, whether he has given any consideration to requesting information on mortgage and debt arrears.

**(AQW 8195/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** No, I have not given consideration to requesting information on mortgages and debt arrears. DFP has no role in relation to either mortgages or debt arrears.

My discussions with the Bank of England have focussed on issues affecting bank lending to SMEs in Northern Ireland, including future regulatory requirements on banks, the operation of current and forthcoming financial initiatives, and regional bank lending data for SMEs.

# Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

## Provision of Domiciliary Care

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to provide an estimate of the level of unmet need in relation to the provision of domiciliary care; and (ii) to detail how his Department arrived at this estimate.

**(AQW 7707/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** It is assumed that this question refers to the total number of people who are currently waiting in either a community or hospital setting for domiciliary care.

With regards to those waiting in a community setting, information is available on the number of persons for whom a care management assessment has been completed, but who are waiting on 31 December 2011 while a care package is being arranged by their Trust, due to no capacity in any of the appropriate domiciliary care providers. This information is detailed by HSC Trust in Table 1 below.



**TABLE 1**

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Number of persons waiting in community setting due to 'no capacity in any of the appropriate domiciliary providers' *</b>
Belfast	3
Northern	22
South Eastern	0
Southern	1
Western	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

**Source:** CC5b Community Information Return

\* Figures are provisional and may be subject to change.

On 31 December 2011, 27 persons were waiting at home or in another community setting while a care package was being arranged by their Trust because there was no capacity in any of the appropriate domiciliary providers.

With regards to those waiting in a hospital setting, information is not available on the current level of unmet need in relation to the provision of domiciliary care, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, information is available on the number of patients discharged from an acute hospital setting during January 2012, who waited longer than the agreed maximum waiting time for discharge due to no capacity in domiciliary care providers. This information is detailed by the patients HSC Trust of residence in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2**

<b>HSC Trust of Residence</b>	<b>Number of Delayed Discharges due to 'no capacity in domiciliary care providers'</b>
Belfast	9
Northern	18
South Eastern	2
Southern	1
Western	7
Other (Not recorded / Non NI resident)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

**Source:** Admissions & Discharges Universe

During January 2012, 37 (0.2% of all discharges from acute hospitals in January 2012) discharges waited longer than the agreed maximum waiting time for discharge because there was no capacity in domiciliary care providers.

### **Cardiac Ablation Procedures**

**Mr Sheehan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that cardiac ablation procedures are not carried out by the Health Service, despite the fact that a number of our surgeons



are qualified to do so (i) whether patients who need this procedure must travel to Britain; and (ii) how this represents value for money.

**(AQW 7753/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I assume this question relates to a specific type of cardiac ablation namely Pulmonary Venous Isolation (PVI). At present, all clinically supported referrals for this procedure are referred to NHS providers in Great Britain.

Discussions took place in 2007 regarding the potential to introduce a local PVI service. At that time there were issues regarding the volume of service required for a population of 1.8m and the need to adhere to national guidance in respect of numbers of procedures to support skills retention. It was therefore agreed that PVI would be commissioned on an extra contractual referral basis.

In November 2011, the Health and Social Care Board received an outline proposal from a number of cardiologists to provide the service in Northern Ireland and, I understand, the Belfast Trust is currently in the process of preparing a business case for this service, for submission to the Board for consideration.

### Civil Service Posts

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Civil Service posts existed in his Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv) Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by local Council area.

**(AQW 7802/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information is not available in precisely the form requested. The table below shows staff in post at May 2007 and January 2012.

Staff in Post	G6	G7	DP	SO	E01	E02	AO	AA	Total
May 2007	27	91	163	176	115	129	113	126	<b>940</b>
January 2012	16	84	148	144	60	74	59	46	<b>631</b>

The number of posts (as opposed to staff in post) at January 2012, by District Council area, is shown in the table below. The information includes analogous (i.e. professional and specialist) grades:

Council Area	G6	G7	DP	SO	E01	E02	AO	AA	Total
Castlereagh	16	91	148	144	60	73	58	48	638
Belfast	1					1	2		4
Derry			1	1					2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>644</b>

### Home Start Group

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of additional funding allocated to each Home Start group in this financial year.

**(AQW 7809/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- 1 The level of additional funding allocated to each Home Start Group in 2011-12 is detailed in the following table. These figures represent resources allocated in addition to the Service Level Funding Agreements that the Home Start Groups have with each Trust Area.

HSC Trust	Home Start Group	Additional Funding Allocated 2011-12*
NHSCT	Antrim	£2,730
SEHSCT	Downe	£17,136
SHSCT	Banbridge	£10,302.62
SHSCT	Armagh/Dungannon	£12,606
SHSCT	Newry/Mourne	£10,000
SHSCT	Craigavon/Banbridge	£8,500

\* As at 10 February 2012

### Spend on Fuel

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, spent on fuel in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7970/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Expenditure on fuel (petrol and diesel) for the Department and its arms-length bodies is provided in the following table:

Financial Year	Expenditure
2010-11	£5,063,841
2009-10	£4,342,470

Information for 2006/07 – 2008/09 can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Shared Services Proposals

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the amount spent on new computer services in each of the last three years, at each of the sites proposed for amalgamation under the Shared Services proposal.

**(AQW 7976/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Expenditure on new computer services in connection with the Shared Services sites amounts to approximately £47,000 over the past three years.

### Recruitment for the Post of Day Opportunities Manager in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the recruitment for the post of Day Opportunities Manager in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area, to provide details of the (i) advertisement for the post; (ii) the short-listing process; (iii) interview panel; (iv) number of applications received; and (v) selection criteria used to determine the successful candidate.

**(AQW 7983/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Trust recently recruited two posts for Day Opportunities Manager. The details of the 'Senior Day Opportunities Co-ordinator post', are outlined below.

(i) Advertisement for the post

The post was internally trawled to existing staff as part of vacancy controls.

(ii) Short-listing process

Each applicant was required to complete an application form and provided with a Job Description and Personnel Specification. The Personnel Specification contains details of the required Qualifications and Experience required for the post (as well as other areas such as Knowledge and Skills and Aptitudes to be assessed at interview). Those candidates who best demonstrated on their application form that they had the required Qualifications and Experience (see relevant Personnel Specification provided) were called for interview.

(iii) Interview Panel

The short-listing and interview was carried out by three panel members from the Mental Health Directorate. All panel members have been trained in Recruitment and Selection techniques. This Panel comprised of the Senior Manager responsible for the Day Opportunities Programme and two Locality Managers.

(iv) Number of applications

Nine

(v) Selection criteria

The areas detailed on the relevant Personnel Specification below were assessed at interview: qualifications and experience; knowledge, skills and aptitudes; special circumstances, that is, willing and able to work flexible hours as the service demands which will involve weekend work, night duty and work in other Units and; Health Requirements – an acceptable attendance record and general good health for the demands of the post.

Appointment was made in accordance with the merit principle i.e. best performance at interview.

## **Integrated Care Partnerships**

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the creation and operation of Integrated Care Partnerships.

**(AQW 7998/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Integrated Care Partnerships are an important component of the future model of health and social care set out in Transforming Your Care. The Partnerships would join together the full range of health and social care services in each area, including GPs, community health, and social care providers, hospital specialists and representatives from the independent and voluntary sector. They would have a role in determining the needs of local populations and planning and delivering local services. I expect the Partnerships to be developed and start operation during 2012/13.

## **Bronchial Challenge Test**

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which hospitals have suitably qualified personnel to carry out a bronchial challenge test.

**(AQW 8013/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** A bronchial challenge test is a medical test used to assist in the diagnosis of asthma.

I can advise that the following hospitals have suitably qualified personnel able to carry out a bronchial challenge test:

- Royal Victoria
- Belfast City
- Mater
- Craigavon Area
- Altnagelvin

## Northern Ireland Care Record Outline Business Case

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the outline requirements provided to the four relevant software companies listed in the August 2011 Northern Ireland Care Record Outline Business Case; (ii) the criteria under which the companies were selected; (iii) the selection process undertaken; (iv) the date the companies received the outline requirement; (v) the length of time the companies were given to submit estimates of the (a) electronic care record application software; (b) interface development; (c) implementation costs; and (d) support costs; and (vi) the names of the four software companies.

**(AQW 8018/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In February 2011, four companies were selected to provide indicative costs to inform the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (ECR) Outline Business Case. The outline requirements provided covered ECR functionality; Solution Architecture; Security, Confidentiality, Access and Audit; Data Quality; and Supplier Services.

The companies concerned had previously bid for the ECR Proof of Concept Project in June 2009 and were the top scoring bids received in the pre qualification process.

The high level scoping requirement for indicative costing was sent to suppliers on 17 January 2011 with a deadline of 21 February 2011 to submit their costs for the ECR application software, interface development, implementation and support.

The companies which completed the high level scoping requirement were Orion Health, CSAM, DbMotion and Intersystems.

## Software Companies Listed in the August 2011 Northern Ireland Care Record Outline Business Case

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the resources provided to the four software companies, listed in the August 2011 Northern Ireland Care Record Outline Business Case, by the (a) Health and Social Care Trusts; (b) his Department; and (c) NI Electronic Care Record Proof Of Concept Team to produce their estimates for Electronic Care Record application software, interface development, implementation costs and support costs; (ii) the contact that any of the four companies had with the Health and Social Care Trusts carrying this business case forward after the completion of the outline Business Case; (iii) whether the tender for the Electronic Care Records Programme will be restricted to one, some or all of the four software companies; and (iv) to detail the current stage of the tender process of the project.

**(AQW 8019/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The four companies selected to provide indicative costs to inform the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (ECR) Outline Business Case were provided with a high level scoping requirement and Electronic Care Record costs template. No other resources were provided.

The ECR system implemented during the Proof of Concept Project is still being utilised. The project team is therefore in contact with the provider to maintain the system. The Proof of Concept provider is one of the companies that were asked to provide indicative costs for the Outline Business Case. There was also limited market research contact with all of the companies, which ceased prior to the commencement of the procurement process.

The tender process for the ECR was not limited to any one company and is following a procurement process using the "HSCNI Technology Partner Agreement Framework Contract" with Hewlett Packard. The project is currently in dialogue with shortlisted bidders.

## Total Spend on Hospitality

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what has been the total spend on hospitality by his Department in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8074/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Hospitality costs for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety are shown below.

<b>2006/07</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2007/08</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2008/9</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2009/10</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2010/11</b> <b>£</b>
180,700	137,400	196,700	104,800	69,200

### **Publication of the ‘Standards for Kinship Foster Carers in Northern Ireland’ Document**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the publication of the ‘Standards for Kinship Foster Carers in Northern Ireland’ document, and the associated regional policies and procedures document.

**(AQW 8101/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Work is ongoing to finalise guidance and standards for kinship foster carers to take account of responses to consultation. My Department intends to publish the standards in April 2012. Work is also continuing on the development of regional kinship foster care policies and procedures. This work is being led by the Health and Social Care Board.

### **Child Dental Health**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 7525/11-15, to detail (i) the core services that will be available under his savings proposals; (ii) whether he can offer an assurance that, following the implementation of the core services, no child will be denied access to dental services; and (iii) for his assessment of whether the savings proposals will have a detrimental impact upon a child’s dental health.

**(AQW 8114/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Treatments available under the health service in Northern Ireland are outlined in the Statement of Dental Remuneration. All of the treatments would remain available, where clinically necessary. However the criteria for providing the treatments below would change:

- Endodontic treatments on molar teeth would require mandatory prior approval;
- Cobalt chrome dentures may only be provided with prior approval;
- Large bridges and/or those in the back of the mouth will require mandatory prior approval; and
- Veneers would require mandatory prior approval.

Dentists would still be able to commence endodontic treatments on molar teeth necessary for the immediate relief of pain without prior approval.

The current contractual arrangements between the HSC Board and General Dental Practitioners mean that neither my Department nor the HSC Board can compel dentists to register or treat patients unless they wish to do so. However, as noted in AQW 7525, there are more dentists than ever in Northern Ireland and we currently enjoy the highest ever rate for children registered with dental practitioners. I will continue to ensure that access to dental services for all patients is a priority.

I do not consider that these proposals would have a detrimental impact on the oral health of children or adults in Northern Ireland. Where clinically necessary, dental practitioners would still be able to provide all of the treatments currently available under the Statement of Dental Remuneration.

### **Human Papilloma Virus Mouth Cancer Vaccination**

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will consider providing the human papilloma virus mouth cancer vaccination for boys.

**(AQW 8123/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Vaccination policy in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK is guided by the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), an independent expert advisory committee that advises the four UK Health Ministers on matters relating to the provision of vaccination and immunisation services. JCVI consider all the available medical and scientific evidence before recommending which groups should be offered vaccination.

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine was introduced for girls in 2008. The vaccine protects against the two types of HPV which cause over 70% of cases of cervical cancer.

At that time, JCVI did not recommend vaccinating boys, as it was not cost-effective. JCVI stated that since vaccine efficacy is high, if there was a high uptake in girls then vaccinating boys would not provide any additional benefit to the prevention of cervical cancer.

At the time of recommendation, JCVI considered that there was insufficient evidence on the protective effects of the vaccine against cancers affecting males such as anal, and head and neck cancers.

I continue to be guided by the recommendations of JCVI.

### **Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been refused a referral for stereotactic ablative radiotherapy to another part of the UK in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 8143/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust have informed me that patients for whom stereotactic radiotherapy is clinically indicated are referred for this treatment via the Extra Contractual Referral mechanism to a Health Care provider in another part of the UK.

Information on the number of patients, who within this context have been declined a referral for stereotactic ablative radiotherapy to another part of the UK, in each of the last three years, is not collected centrally. The Belfast HSC Trust have also informed me that it is not possible to acquire this information from an assessment of patients case note files as there is no mechanism to identify the potential pool of patients for whom there may have been a discussion on stereotactic radiotherapy.

### **Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been referred for stereotactic ablative radiotherapy to another part of the UK in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 8144/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of patients transferred by the HSC in Northern Ireland for stereotactic ablative radiotherapy in another part of the UK, in each of the last three years, is outlined in the table below.

	Year		
	2009	2010	2011
Number of patients transferred to another part of the UK for stereotactic ablative radiotherapy	21	30	56

**Source:** Health and Social Care Board

### **New Hospital in Enniskillen**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the process that was followed to name the new hospital in Enniskillen; (ii) what level of public consultation took

place; (ii) the short-listed names that were submitted to his Department for approval by the Western Health and Social Care Trust; and (iv) the reasons for choosing the name agreed.

**(AQW 8165/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) A competition was launched which included seeking suggestions from Trust staff and established staff and community fora. Pre-set criteria and a selection panel were established. A total of 76 names were suggested, which when assessed against the pre-set criteria, resulted in a short-list of names being drawn up by the selection panel and provided to me for consideration in coming to a final decision.
- (ii) Consultation was undertaken by the Western Trust as part of the competition. As well as staff involved in the development of the new hospital, members of established forums, made up of staff and community representatives, were invited to submit entries for the new name
- (iii) The short-listed names provided by the Trust were:
- Beechview Hospital;
  - Greenlands Hospital;
  - Silveroak Hospital;
  - Silverwood Hospital
- (iv) I made the final decision taking into account a number of considerations around the suitability of a name, taking account of my desire to have some connection with the location. I considered the names in the short-list and subsequently all of the 76 names that had been submitted as part of the consultation process before making my final decision. The name South West Acute Hospital was one of the 76 suggested names.

**Muscular Dystrophy Duchene**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy Duchene in each Health and Social Care Trust area, in each of the last 12 years.

**(AQW 8170/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of people diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy Duchene in Northern Ireland is not available.

Information is available on the number of admissions to Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland with a diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy. The number of admissions to Health and Social Care Hospitals in Northern Ireland from 1999/00 to 2010/11 where a diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy was recorded in any diagnostic position is shown in the table below:

Year	HSC Trust					
	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Total
1999/00	36	*	*	15	12	74
2000/01	40	*	*	6	14	69
2001/02	37	9	7	11	10	74
2002/03	27	*	11	9	*	56
2003/04	19	*	19	*	17	66
2004/05	18	10	8	*	*	46
2005/06	22	*	11	*	10	51



Year	HSC Trust					
	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Total
2006/07	20	6	9	13	10	58
2007/08	22	*	*	13	11	52
2008/09	20	*	*	12	32	76
2009/10	24	*	*	11	32	76
2010/11	25	7	24	14	35	105

**Source:** Hospital Inpatient System

\* In line with branch policy, cell sizes less than 5 have been masked to protect patient confidentiality. Where it is possible to calculate the value from the total, the next smallest cell size has also been masked.

### Department Spend on Conferences, Away-days and Team Building Exercises

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on conferences, away-days and team building exercises in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 8187/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Departmental expenditure on conferences, away-days and team building exercises in each of the last 3 years is shown in the table below:

#### DHSSPS EXPENDITURE ON CONFERENCES, AWAY-DAYS AND TEAM BUILDING - }

**2008/09 – 2010/11**

Year	Expenditure
2008/09	£391,923
2009/10	£187,066
2010/11	£164,114

### Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Specialists

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) specialists are currently employed by the Health Service; (ii) which hospitals have an ME unit; and (iii) whether there is provision for people with ME to travel outside Northern Ireland to receive treatment.

**(AQW 8191/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In Northern Ireland Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)/ME patients have access to a wide range of treatment and support services in primary, secondary and community settings, including specialist medical, paediatric, neurology and mental health services, depending on their individual needs.

A Consultant Physician with a specialist interest in CFS/ME provides a Chronic Fatigue Clinic each Friday morning at the Belfast City Hospital and takes referrals from across Northern Ireland.

Where a clinical need has been identified for treatment which cannot be provided in Northern Ireland, subject to the HSC Board approval as an individual funding request, appropriate patients may receive treatment outside Northern Ireland



## Waiting Time for a Routine Dermatology Appointment

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) why the waiting time for a routine dermatology appointment is approximately 42 weeks in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area; (ii) what is being done to reduce this waiting time; and (iii) what are the current waiting times in other Trust areas.

**(AQW 8193/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The waiting times for a routine dermatology appointment at the Northern HSC Trust are due to the high level of demand for the service. 6714 appointments are required annually against the annual capacity available of 4312.

The Northern HSC Trust plans to continue the use of Independent Sector in the next financial to reduce this waiting time. The Trust is also discussing recurrent funding with the HSC Board to increase capacity at the dermatology service.

Waiting times for the dermatology specialty across all Trusts as at 31 December 2011 are given in the table below.

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for an Appointment at the Dermatology Specialty, by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-21	>21-26	>26	
Belfast	813	279	412	623	357	1,506	3,990
Northern	542	142	171	383	258	2,439	3,935
South Eastern	551	214	197	355	86	69	1,472
Southern	732	340	396	765	440	44	2,717
Western	474	74	3	0	0	0	551
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>4,058</b>	<b>12,665</b>

## Standards 31 and 32 of the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what data is being collected on the Health and Social Care Trusts compliance with Standards 31 and 32 of the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care, in relation to children's and young people's cancers.

**(AQW 8196/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care was launched for the purpose of implementation planning in February 2011. While it has not yet been possible to establish the current position for Standards 31 and 32, funding has been secured to enable the collection of baseline data. It is anticipated that this will be completed by December 2012.

## Standards 31 and 32 of the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to what extent the Health and Social Care Trusts are complying with Standards 31 and 32 of the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care, in relation to children's and young people's cancers.

**(AQW 8197/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** While it has not yet been possible to establish the current position for Standards 31 and 32, funding has been secured to enable the collection of baseline data. It is anticipated that this will be completed by December 2012.

### Coeliac Disease

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with coeliac disease in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8208/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of people diagnosed with coeliac disease in Northern Ireland is not available.

The only information held by the Department in relation to coeliac disease is the number of patients admitted to hospital for inpatient or day case care with a diagnosis of coeliac disease; these data have been tabled below.

Financial Year	No. of Admissions
2006/07	581
2007/08	636
2008/09	662
2009/10	729
2010/11	890

**Source:** Hospital Inpatients System.

### Coeliac Disease

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what support his Department offers to people with coeliac disease in relation to (i) diet management; and (ii) obtaining gluten-free food.

**(AQW 8210/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) All patients who are newly diagnosed with coeliac disease are referred to a dietitian who will provide them with diet management advice. Following this initial intervention the patient is offered a dietary review at 3 and 6 months as clinically required, and beyond this they are offered access to an annual review/group session depending on local commissioned services.
- (ii) Patients can obtain a range of gluten-free food products on prescription from their GP. To ensure efficient use of resources the HSC Board has issued guidance to prescribers recommending that only staple foods should be supplied to patients diagnosed with gluten-sensitive enteropathies on prescription. The guidance also recommended that items which are not staple foods, and which are not consistent with healthy eating advice, such as biscuits and cakes, should no longer be available on prescription.

### Data on People aged 16-24 with Cancer

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what data his Department collects on people, aged 16-24, with cancer.

**(AQW 8217/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department collects region wide information relating to the number of admissions to hospital where a diagnosis of cancer has been recorded (which is held within the Hospital Inpatient System (HIS)). The HIS is a patient level dataset that contains information relating to the patient's age and as such it is possible to identify the number of cancer related admissions for patients aged 16-24.

The Health Survey for Northern Ireland, which is an annual DHSSPS survey, collects limited information relating to cancer. It asks respondents if they have ever been told by a doctor that they had certain medical conditions, one of which is cancer. This information can be broken down by age, however should only be used within the context of the health survey.

Other cancer information that is collected by the Department such as the GP register of patients with a diagnosis of cancer (from the Quality Outcomes Framework) and waiting times for cancer treatment cannot be disaggregated by age therefore it is not possible to separately identify patients aged 16-24.

### Cost of Providing Care

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average weekly cost of providing care for a patient (i) in a hospital; (ii) in a state-run nursing home; (iii) in a privately run nursing home; and (iv) in their own home.

**(AQW 8225/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is not possible to compare accurately the average cost of a hospital or nursing home place with an average domiciliary care package. An average nursing home place, with care available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, is much more intensive than an average domiciliary care package. In addition, the needs of each patient vary extensively depending on their care requirements. Whilst it is often the case that supporting people at home is more cost effective, there is a point at which a person's needs can be so great that domiciliary care can be more expensive than nursing home care.

### Pseudomonas Bacteriain in Water Tanks

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 7270/11-15, to detail the results of the tests on the water tanks serving the (i) Royal Jubilee Maternity Unit; and (ii) neonatal unit at Altnagelvin Hospital.

**(AQW 8237/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The results of the tests are at the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital and the neonatal unit at Altnagelvin are as follows:

#### BELFAST TRUST – ROYAL JUBILEE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

	Pseudomonas Result (count /100ml)	TVC Result (count/100ml)	
		22o	37o
Water Storage Tank Supply	<1	<1	<1
Mains Supply to Tank	<1	<1	<1

#### WESTERN TRUST - ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL SOUTH WING (NEONATAL UNIT)

	Pseudomonas Result (count /100ml)	TVC Result (count/100ml)	
		22o	37o
Water Storage Tank 1	<1	<1	<1
Water Storage Tank 2	<1	<1	<1
Mains Supply to Tank 1	<1	<1	<1
Mains Supply to Tank 2	<1	<1	<1

## Service Framework for Cancer Prevention

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) when he will publish the implementation plan for the Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care; and (ii) whether there will be a public consultation on the plan.

**(AQW 8239/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The implementation plan has been developed jointly by the HSC Board and Public Health Agency, and will be considered by my Department's Service Framework Programme Board in March 2012. Thereafter, arrangements for publication will fall to the HSC Board and Public Health Agency.
- (ii) As The Service Framework for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Care was the subject of widespread formal consultation, across all aspects of the service including service users and carers as well as the voluntary sector, there will be no public consultation on the implementation plan.

## Late Payment of Invoices

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the number of invoices paid late by Health and Social Care Trusts (i) whether any Trust has incurred legal fees as a result of claims, under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, as extended by the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulations 2002; and if so, the level of legal fees incurred by each Trust; and (ii) whether further legal fees relating to on-going or future claims are expected.

**(AQW 8242/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The Southern HSC Trust is the only trust to have incurred legal fees as a result of claims under the late payment of commercial debts legislation. The level of fees incurred to date is £193.
- (ii) At present, none of the trusts is anticipating any further expenditure on legal fees.

## Compton Review

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his Department's assessment of the Compton Review.

**(AQW 8244/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Report of the Health and Social Care Services Review, Transforming Your Care, presents a compelling case for change. The Report provides a framework for a future model of integrated health and social care which should be safe, resilient and sustainable. The model rightly places the patient and not the institutions of health and social care at the centre, and supports individuals to care for themselves and make good health choices.

## Compton Review

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department intends to measure the goals set out in the Compton Review, particularly the (i) better prevention of ill health; and (ii) provision of patient-centred care.

**(AQW 8245/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I intend that progress across the various workstreams required to deliver the future model of health and social care will be overseen by a Strategic Programme Board chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Department and reporting to me. The need to be better at preventing ill-health and the importance of patient centred care are two of eleven reasons for change presented in Transforming Your Care. The implementation of the new model in response to the reasons for change and the oversight of progress towards successful delivery across the workstreams will be a role for the Programme Board. Better prevention of ill health and provision of patient-centred care will a focus for the work.

## Compton Review

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his Department's timescale for implementing the changes set out in the Compton Review.

**(AQW 8246/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** To reflect the magnitude and complexity of the changes proposed the Report on the Review of Health and Social Care, Transforming Your Care, recommended an implementation timescale of 5 years. I support this view of the timescale necessary for implementing all the changes required.

## Ballymena Health and Care Centre

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what services will be available at the new Ballymena Health and Care Centre.

**(AQW 8301/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The new health and care centre in Ballymena will provide a wide ranging mix of acute, primary and community care services to the local population. The locally accessible services will include GP Practices, diagnostic services, community services, speech and language services, physiotherapy services, challenging behaviour services and community addictions unit.

In addition to the above, other teams will provide clinics and services from the new health and care centre, for example ICATs clinics, the Eating Disorder Team and Physical Disability Team. An Out of Hours Service – Doctor Urgent Care will also be provided from the centre.

Discussions are ongoing about relocating the Citizens Advice Bureau to the new health and care centre.

## Shared Services

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the timescale for the implementation of the proposed Shared Services.

**(AQW 8335/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The current planning assumption is that implementation of Phase 1 of Shared Services will begin on a phased basis as soon as practicably possible in the latter half of 2012.

## Transfer of Patient Care

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to transfer some of the patient care available in hospitals to the community; and the timescale for any such changes.

**(AQW 8343/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Transforming Your Care presents a model for the future delivery of health and social care which recommends a shift of care from hospital settings into the community. Key changes which would be seen in the community would include more care delivered in the home; changing care packages for people in nursing homes; increased role of the GP; and increased use of community and social care services. There would be a shift in the share of resources from the hospital sector to the primary and community care sector. To reflect the magnitude and complexity of the changes proposed, Transforming Your Care recommends an implementation timescale of five years to deliver all the changes required.

## Ageing Population

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he intends to the address issue of an ageing population and a resulting over-reliance on hospital beds.

**(AQW 8344/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Our ageing population and the associated challenges it presents have been well documented. In response to this challenge my Department has been developing a wide range of

flexible, person-centred and responsive domiciliary care services. These services enable older people, who are assessed as needing social care, to have a say as to the type of service they receive and as far as practicable to choose the setting in which their care is delivered. Moreover, all Trusts have intermediate care and other step-up, step-down services which are community-based settings in which patients can be monitored, recuperate or be rehabilitated or reabled, so that their discharge from hospital can be as prompt as possible, or unnecessary admission avoided. The recommendations, made by 'Transforming Your Care', the recent report on the review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland, are fully consistent with my policy intentions in this area.

### **Location of Patient Treatment**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to what extent his Department currently offers patients the opportunity to receive treatment in a location of their choice, where possible; and whether such a provision is afforded within the Compton Review.

**(AQW 8349/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is essential to ensure patients receive the right care, at the right time in the right place, with the best outcome. This can be in a hospital setting, a local health centre, a local GP surgery or in their own home, including the use of assistive technology. There are many benefits associated with delivering care within people's homes and in their local communities. Providing patient choice about where people are cared for is one of the central themes of the Report on the Review of Health and Social Care, Transforming Your Care.

### **Location of Social Care for the Elderly**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to what extent his Department currently offers elderly and other vulnerable people the opportunity to receive social care in a location of their choice, where possible; and whether such a provision is afforded within the Compton Review.

**(AQW 8350/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The demographic changes relating to our ageing population have been well documented. In response my Department has been developing a wide range of flexible, person-centred and responsive domiciliary care services. These services enable those people, regardless of their age or disability, who are assessed as needing social care, to be consulted about and have a say as to the type of service they receive, and as far as practicable to choose the setting in which their care is delivered.

'Transforming Your Care' has recommended a diverse choice of provision to meet the needs of older people, with appropriate regulation and safeguards to ensure quality and protect the vulnerable. The recommendations also include that the home should be the hub of care for older people, with more control for the service users over budgets, continued promotion of Direct Payments and a common approach to personalized budgets, with advocacy and brokerage support where required. Clearly these are all measures intended to offer greater choice, and fully consistent with my policy intentions.

### **Booking Line at Tyrone County Hospital**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff are employed to operate the booking line at Tyrone County Hospital; and whether there has been a change in the number of staff or hours of employment in the last 12 months.

**(AQW 8370/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Number of staff employed to operate the booking line at Tyrone County Hospital

Date	Headcount	WTE
February 2011	5	4.5
February 2012	6	5.5

**Source:** Western Health and Social Care Trust

**Notes:**

1 WTE = Whole-time Equivalent.

### Multiple System Atrophy

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with multiple system atrophy in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8401/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of people diagnosed with multiple system atrophy is not available.

Information is available on the number of patients admitted to hospital for inpatient or day case care with a diagnosis of Multi-system degeneration. The number of admissions to Health and Social Care Hospitals in Northern Ireland from 2006/07 to 2010/11 where a diagnosis of Multi-system degeneration was recorded in any diagnostic position is shown in the table below:

Financial Year	No. of Admissions
2006/07	8
2007/08	9
2008/09	12
2009/10	11
2010/11	12

**Source:** Hospital Inpatient System.

### Multiple System Atrophy

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department has taken to address the increase in the number of people diagnosed with multiple system atrophy.

**(AQW 8402/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department is currently developing policies which will benefit those with MSA and their carers, including a Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan, and a Policy Framework "Living with Long Term Conditions". In addition, the Health and Social Care Board is currently evaluating the implementation of the 2002 Review of Adult Neurology Services.

Furthermore, a Neurological Conditions Network has been established by my Department to ensure, through a multi-disciplinary and coordinated approach, the best possible outcomes for people with long term neurological conditions, such as MSA. The first phase, an innovative and ambitious engagement exercise, has been successfully completed and a set of recommendations has been developed based on the shared priorities identified.

### Rare Diseases

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his Department's definition of rare diseases.

**(AQW 8404/11-15)**



**Mr Poots:** I can advise that my Department uses the definition of rare diseases agreed by the European Union (EU), namely that rare disease is one that affects no more than 5 people per 10,000 of the EU population. It can affect physical and/or mental health. This definition in the EU was adopted by the Community action programme on rare diseases 1999-2003. The same definition is set out in Regulation (EC) 141/2000 and is used by the European Commission for the designation of orphan drugs.

### Rare Diseases

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the work his Department has carried out on rare diseases.

**(AQW 8405/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can advise that my officials have been liaising with counterparts in England, Scotland and Wales on a revised draft of the UK Plan for Rare Diseases, in order to finalize the Plan. While no decision has been taken about when the Plan will be consulted on publicly, it is expected that this will be agreed shortly.

### Depression

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of incidents of depression per ward in the North Down area in each of the last 5 years.

**(AQW 8477/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is not available.

### Complaints Procedure

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the complaints procedure for patients dissatisfied with the Health Service.

**(AQW 8490/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Complaints in HSC: Standards and Guidelines for Resolution and Learning was published in April 2009. A copy is available on <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc-complaints-standards-guidelines-resolution-learning.pdf>

This complaints procedure is designed to provide ease of access and a supportive and open process. Our goal is to achieve local resolution of the vast majority of complaints, delivered both promptly and fairly. The process provides not only an opportunity to put things right for service users, but also an opportunity to improve services where weaknesses are discovered. There will be times when local resolution is not possible, and for those occasions the system also provides for a robust and fully independent review by the NI Commissioner of Complaints (the Ombudsman).

The operation of the complaints procedure is subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation. My assessment of the effectiveness of the arrangements will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the HSC Board's evaluation of complaints processes, which is due to be published shortly, and by my Department's subsequent evaluation of outcomes.

### Children with Autism

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many speech generated devices are available for children with autism.

**(AQW 8551/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is not available centrally within my Department, and could only be provided by Health and Social Care Trusts at disproportionate costs.

DHSSPS are leading in the development of a cross-departmental Autism Strategy which must be published by May 2013. All Departments and stakeholders are currently engaged in this process, the aim of which is to improve services and support for people with autism and their families and carers throughout their lives.



# Department of Justice

## Sexual Offender Treatment Programme

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last three years, how many people, who were serving a custodial sentence for rape or sexual assault and were classed as being in ‘complete denial’, refused to participate in a Sexual Offender Treatment Programme during their sentence; and whether their refusal to co-operate with a programme was taken into account by the Parole Commissioners when considering their release from custody.

**(AQW 7658/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** Table A, below, sets out the number of people serving a custodial sentence for rape or sexual assault in the last three years, who have been classed as being in denial, and have not participated in a Sexual Offender Treatment Programme.

**TABLE A**

Year	Number of sexual offenders in ‘complete denial’
2009	27
2010	30
2011	28

The figures, produced yearly, represent the total sexual offender population classed as being in denial during that calendar year, and are inclusive of people serving sentences from previous years.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is required to provide the Parole Commissioners with all current and relevant information on each case they consider. However, the manner in which this information is used to inform decisions about release dates and/or licence conditions is a matter entirely for the Parole Commissioners.

## Acting as a Courier for Drug Dealing

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether acting as a courier for drug dealing, by either carrying drugs or cash, is a criminal offence under aiding and abetting criminal activity; (ii) if so, what is the penalty; and (iii) how many people have been convicted of this offence in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 7685/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Drug couriers could be prosecuted for the offence of possessing a controlled drug (section 5(2) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) or of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply it (under section 5(3) of that Act). In certain circumstances, carrying cash, whilst not an offence in itself, could be indicative of criminal activity such as drug dealing.

The maximum penalties available on conviction of these drug possession offences are as follows:

**(i) Simple possession**

**(a) Summary**

Class A drug involved 6 months or £5000 or both.

Class B drug involved 3 months or £2,500, or both.

Class C drug involved 3 months or £1,000, or both.

**(b) On indictment**

Class A drug involved 7 years or a fine, or both.

Class B drug involved 5 years or a fine, or both.

Class C drug involved 2 years or a fine, or both.

**(ii) Possession with intent****(a) Summary**

Class A drug involved 6 months or £5000, or both.

Class B drug involved 6 months or £5000, or both.

Class C drug involved 3 months or £2,500, or both.

**(b) On indictment**

Class A drug involved Life or a fine, or both.

Class B drug involved 14 years or a fine, or both.

Class C drug involved 14 years or a fine, or both.

Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of an indictable offence is itself an offence under the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. It carries the same maximum penalties as are available upon conviction of the offence being aided, etc.

The table below gives the number of convictions for relevant drugs offences for the calendar years 1999 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

**NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS FOR POSSESSION AND INTENT TO SUPPLY, 1999-2008**

Year	Possession of a class A, B or C drug	Intent to supply a class A, B or C drug	Total
1999	428	81	509
2000	440	149	589
2001	304	128	432
2002	297	99	396
2003	377	90	467
2004	400	135	535
2005	457	114	571
2006	571	127	698
2007	699	135	834
2008	779	114	893

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Data for 1999-2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

## Amount Paid to Recruitment Agencies

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the amount paid to recruitment agencies for (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time posts in his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7756/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice (DOJ) came into existence on 12th April 2010 Therefore the amount paid to recruitment agencies for (i) full-time, and (ii) part-time posts in the Department can only be provided for 2010/11. Details of expenditure for the Department's arm's-length bodies (including Agencies) can be provided for each of the last three years because they were stand alone bodies before the date of devolution.

### RECRUITMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURE IS DETAILED IN THE TABLE BELOW.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
DOJ	Nil	Nil	£186,812
Arm's-length bodies (including Agencies)	£1,673,882	£2,264,269	£1,459,458

Recruitment agency expenditure by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has not been included. This may be obtained by contacting the PSNI directly.

It is not possible to show the split in full-time and part-time costs because of the way this expenditure is recorded on financial systems.

## Prison Service Staff: Suspended from Duty

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether the incident, in which two Prison Service staff were suspended from duty over the payment of a prisoner's drug debts, was reported to the PSNI or the Public Prosecution Service for the possible criminal offence of wilful misconduct in public office.

**(AQW 7767/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The incident was not reported to the PSNI or the Public Prosecution Service.

## Death of Colin Bell

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what undertakings were given by the Prison Officers Association and the Prison Service, in light of the report by Carol Ackah and Liam Deane into the death in custody of Colin Bell in 2008; and when these undertakings were implemented.

**(AQW 7773/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Ackah and Deane Report recommended that the Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline should be revised. This process was at an advanced stage when Dame Anne Owers recommended the development of a Code of Ethics and new disciplinary and appraisal system based on the Code. The Prison Service is currently drafting the Code of Ethics.

I have not been made aware of any undertakings given by the Prison Officers Association in respect of the Ackah and Deane Report.

## Management of Separated Prisoners

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the steps that have been taken to implement the agreement made by the Prison Service in August 2010 on the management of separated prisoners.

**(AQW 7796/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In line with the agreement of August 2010 NIPS has taken a number of steps which have led to significant improvements for separated republican prisoners in Roe House. These include:

- improved access to association in the recreation room, exercise yard and astro-turf pitch and the introduction of inter-cell association and communal dining for prisoners in Roe 3 and 4;
- a prisoner forum, established in August 2010;
- a review of search technology; and
- the introduction of significant changes to search arrangements which have eliminated the need for rub down searching on the landings (with the exception of Roe 4 where it has been necessary to reintroduce rubdown searching in response to the actions of protesting prisoners on that landing), and removed the requirement for separated prisoners to be routinely full body searched within the prison.
- The installation of a new search facility, located within the separated complex, which enables prisoners entering or leaving Roe House to be searched by means of a full rub down search combined with the use of electronic devices including an airport style scanner, hand held metal detector, and BOSS Chair.

A detailed breakdown of the elements of the agreement, and action taken in relation to each is attached.

Whilst the requirement for full body searching has been significantly reduced, prisoners are still required to undergo a full body search on entry to and exit from the prison. I am satisfied that this requirement is consistent with the agreement, and I consider those elements of the agreement relating to searching to be implemented in full.

Despite these efforts to implement the agreement, a significant number of separated republican prisoners have chosen to re-engage in protest action. Consequently, these prisoners are currently subject to a restricted regime and are unable to avail of the full regime. In addition, a number of prisoners who are not participating in the dirty protest have nonetheless chosen not to avail of all of the facilities available.

Under the agreement, those elements relating to the relaxation of controlled movement were to be implemented on a phased basis, contingent on the fundamental principles of the agreement being upheld by both parties. Whilst both NIPS and I remain committed to this aim, it is difficult to see how further progress can be made on these elements in the context of ongoing protest action in Roe House.

Nevertheless, I remain committed to the full implementation of the agreement and to making every possible effort to resolve the current protest as soon as possible.

In addition to the steps taken under the agreement, NIPS has completed a further review of search technology, in line with a recommendation made by the Prison Review Team. I am currently considering the findings of that review.

**ANNEX A**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Prisoner Forum</b>	
An effective Prisoner Forum will be established	Actioned: Prisoner Forum was established in August 2010 to meet regularly on a monthly basis.
<b>Searching</b>	
No random full body searching will take place on the way to domestic and legal visits and the videolink or from the SSU	Actioned: Procedures revised.
No “rub-down” searching internally within Roe 3 and 4	Actioned: Unfortunately, in response to the ongoing protest action by prisoners on Roe 4, rub down searching has had to be re introduced internally on that landing. In line with the August agreement and the actions of prisoners on Roe 3, rub down searches are not carried out on that landing.
NIPS will introduce a new search facility and revised search policy for separated prisoners... which will remove the requirement for routine full-body searching of separated prisoners within the prison	Actioned: New search facility has been put in place, with a BOSS Chair installed and is operational. This new facility has removed the requirement for routine full-body searching within the prison. For security reasons there is still a requirement for full-body searching where a prisoner enters or exits the prison.
Where full body search is required because of positive indication or intelligence / suspicion it must be authorised and observed by a supervisor and carried out in a manner which is both sensitive and dignified.  The process of searching will be audited and monitored to ensure it complies with human rights standards.	Actioned: Where searches are required they are authorised and observed by the Senior Officer.  Searching now subject to auditing and monitoring

Issues	Status
<p>Review of full body searching to report by the end of September and agreed recommendations implemented as soon as possible</p>	<p>Actioned:</p> <p>The report was produced by the end of September 2010. However the subsequent independent competitive analysis of the review was delayed considerably due to availability of the independent reviewers.</p> <p>The review was published in January and made no additional recommendations for revisions to search practices in the context of separated prisoners.</p> <p>Subsequent Judicial Review of full body searching, specifically on entry and exit to the prison has ruled that the requirement is lawful and not incompatible with ECHR.</p> <p>In addition, in light of the recommendation by the PRT in its final report (Oct 2011) NIPS has conducted a further review of available and anticipated search technology. This review is now complete and its recommendations are being considered. HMP Holme has submitted an application, under the under the Justification of Practices involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004, for use of full body imaging scanners in UK prisons. NIPS is keeping abreast of developments in this area.</p>
<p>Oral searching</p>	<p>Actioned:</p> <p>Although not in the original agreement, in response to concerns raised by prisoners in December 2010, NIPS revised its Security Manual to make the requirement for an oral search (during rub down searches) discretionary rather than mandatory.</p> <p>Oral searches are now only required when there is a suspicion that a prisoner may be concealing an illicit item in his mouth.</p>
<p><b>Movement / association</b></p>	
<p>Subject to the fundamental principles, NIPS's aim is to move from the existing arrangements towards a more progressive, supervised free-flow movement system within Roe House on a phased basis:</p>	<p>Ongoing:</p> <p>NIPS remains committed to this aim, and the full implementation of the agreement, subject to the fundamental principles being upheld.</p> <p>However progress towards this goal is – as the agreement makes clear – dependent on adherence to the fundamental principles.</p>

Issues	Status
<p>Phase 1 – commencing August 2010:</p> <p>Association within the recreation room, yard and – when it is completed – the astro-turf pitch from 0830 until fifteen minutes before lock-up</p> <p>Considering the wing – for the purposes of movement – as one unit, rather than two landings, to permit a maximum of six prisoners on the landing at any one time, while other prisoners can have access to the kitchen, laundry room, classrooms, showers, ironing and haircutting room.</p>	<p>Actioned:</p> <p>Prior to the resumption of the protest, prisoners were given enhanced association within the recreation room, yard and astro-turf from 0830 until 15 minutes before lock-up.</p> <p>Revised arrangements for moving prisoners were also introduced.</p> <p>Prisoners' access to these facilities has been affected by the ongoing dirty protest. Those prisoners who are not engaging in dirty protest are nonetheless choosing not to use the recreation room..</p>
<p>Phase 2 – commencing December 2010:</p> <p>In addition to implementing the recommendations of the Prisoner Ombudsman's report and this agreement, NIPS will take steps to implement agreed recommendations from the Independent Review as quickly as possible</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Prison Review Team's interim report did not contain any specific recommendations on this.</p> <p>Subject to the fundamental principles, NIPS remains committed to the full implementation of the agreement.</p> <p>Whilst NIPS remains committed to the full implementation of the Agreement, it is difficult to see how further progress can be made in relation to moving towards more free-flow movement arrangements in the context of the current ongoing protest action by prisoners in Roe 3 and 4 which is a clear breach of the fundamental principles under the agreement.</p>
<p>Phase 3</p> <p>NIPS will continue to review and assess ways to further progress supervised free flow movement of prisoners. This will include implementing agreed recommendations – if any – contained in the final independent Prison Review Report.</p>	<p>Ongoing:</p> <p>NIPS remains committed to the agreement. However the agreement set out that the ability to progress, implement and maintain phased changes to movement procedures will be determined by adherence to the fundamental principles.</p> <p>It is difficult to make further progress at this stage in the context of prisoner protests and behaviours which undermine the fundamental principles of the agreement.</p>
<p>Inter-cell association</p>	<p>Actioned:</p> <p>Although not included in the agreement, Inter-cell association was made available to prisoners from 11 March 2011.</p>
<b>Other issues</b>	
<p>Assessment Team appointed for continuous monitoring and evidencing of the agreement</p>	<p>Actioned:</p> <p>Assessment Team have conducted assessments and briefed the Minister on a number of occasions.</p>

## Part Time Reserve Gratuity Scheme

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Justice how many appeals in relation to the Part Time Reserve Gratuity Scheme were received; and how many were (i) successful; and (ii) unsuccessful.

**(AQW 7839/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** 42 appeals have been received against the decision to refuse a gratuity payment on the basis of eligibility, or against the banding of a payment. Of these, 31 have been successful and 11 unsuccessful. (A further appeal against banding has been considered since AQW 6919.)

In addition, 29 appeals were received in respect of late applications.

## Mileage Claims from Lawyers

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7070/11-15, in light of his statement that Antrim is considerably closer to Belfast than Magherafelt, whether this has been taken into consideration for those who would have attended Magherafelt Courthouse, but now have to attend Antrim Courthouse.

**(AQW 7876/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Among the factors considered when developing proposals to transfer court business from Magherafelt Courthouse to Antrim Courthouse were: courtroom utilisation, fitness for purpose of the courthouse accommodation, the ability to transfer business to a suitable alternative venue with minimal disruption, the availability of suitable public transport and the travel time between court venues.

No decision has been taken on the transfer of Court business from Magherafelt to Antrim.

## Speech and Language Therapists

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Justice how many speech and language therapists currently work within the criminal justice system; and for his assessment of the adequacy of this provision.

**(AQW 7909/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are no speech and language therapists directly employed within the criminal justice system. Where there is an assessed need, services are accessed through normal GP referral. This process can be slow and therapy may be provided after the person has moved on from the criminal justice system.

Due to the established links between communication difficulties and offending my Department works closely with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT). Last month I spoke at a RCSLT seminar to highlight the communication and support needs of young offenders in Northern Ireland, reflecting the increasing awareness of speech and language communication difficulties and the support needs of victims, witnesses and offenders within the justice sector.

The RCSLT has been developing a new free, interactive e-learning tool (The Box) and through the Youth Justice Agency, Northern Ireland will be one of the first sites in the United Kingdom to assist in the independent evaluation of the course. Following completion of the evaluation process, this tool will be available to all professionals in the justice sector.

## Drink-Driving Offences

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice how many people, who had a previous drink-driving conviction, have been convicted of a drink-driving offence in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7922/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information requested is not available.

Court conviction datasets are not collated in the format which would allow for identification of previous disposals in the manner requested.



## Driving Offences

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice how many people, in each of the last five years, have been convicted of (i) causing death or grievous bodily injury by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs; (ii) driving or attempting to drive while unfit through drink or drugs; (iii) driving or attempting to drive with excess alcohol in the blood, breath or urine; (iv) failing to provide a specimen; (v) in charge of a vehicle while over the legal limit or unfit through drink or drugs; and (vi) refusing to provide a specimen of breath, blood or urine for analysis.

**(AQW 7926/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The table below gives the number convicted for the calendar years 2004 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available). Number of people convicted for drink/drug driving offences

### 2004-2008

Offence Grouping	2004	2005	2006		2007	2008
(i) causing death or GBI by driving carelessly with excess alcohol/when unfit	4	6	9		5	7
(i) causing death or GBI by inconsiderate driving with excess alcohol/when unfit	1	0	1		1	3
(ii) aiding and abetting/attempting/driving when unfit through drink or drugs	472	471	550		543	398
(iii) aiding and abetting/attempting/driving with excess alcohol in breath/blood/urine	1848	1927	1888		2252	1844
(iv) fail/failing to provide specimen	246	272	221		235	196
(v) in charge when unfit through drink or drugs/excess alcohol in blood/breath/urine	196	230	227		341	330
<b>Total</b>	<b>2767</b>	<b>2906</b>	<b>2946</b>		<b>3377</b>	<b>2775</b>

There are no convictions relating to refusals to provide a specimen. It is likely they would be prosecuted under 'Fail/Failing to provide a specimen'.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Data for 2004 to 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

## Training for Night Custody Officers

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the suicide of Colin Bell in HMP Maghaberry on 31 August 2008, what training modules were delivered to night custody officers employed by the Prison Service; and what was the duration of these training programmes.

**(AQW 7932/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** All Night Custody Officers, on joining the Prison Service, completed a four week basic training programme at the Prison Service College. This was further enhanced with a one week induction and familiarisation programme on arrival at their new establishment. Details of the training modules and their duration are attached as a separate annex.

Following the death of Colin Bell NIPS introduced Supporting Prisoners At Risk (SPAR) training for Night Custody Officers.

The SPAR process involves care planning for vulnerable prisoners, conducting conversational checks, use of observation cells and is delivered over one half day for managers and one and a half days for officers. In addition, NCOs are required to attend a two day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training (ASIST) course. The suicide prevention delivery programme is prioritised to residential staff and is currently ongoing.

Mental Health Awareness training is available for Night Custody Officers at each prison establishment. In particular, Night Custody Officers detailed to the Donard landing also have responsibility for those prisoners who are particularly vulnerable. They have received a two day programme on engaging with and keeping safe those with mental health and challenging behavioural problems.

### **Annex A**

Night Custody Officer Induction Training Programme –

20 days at Prison Service College.

Training modules:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ■ Control and restraint (basic)                  | ■ Hospital escort (theory)                        |
| ■ Adjudication procedures – theory /practical    | ■ Human rights                                    |
| ■ Bedwatch (theory)                              | ■ Incident Management                             |
| ■ Code of Conduct and Discipline (COCD)          | ■ Introduction to assertiveness                   |
| ■ Use of handcuffs (COCD)                        | ■ Introduction to conditioning                    |
| ■ Handcuffs/escort – closeting chain             | ■ Introduction to Hostage                         |
| ■ Cultural diversity                             | ■ Introduction to Search                          |
| ■ Equal opportunities                            | ■ Prison Security                                 |
| ■ Equality                                       | ■ Radio procedures                                |
| ■ Escort (theory)                                | ■ Report Writing                                  |
| ■ Field trip to hospital (Belfast City Hospital) | ■ Security awareness                              |
| ■ First response                                 | ■ Suicide Awareness                               |
| ■ Grievance procedures                           | ■ Transport of prisoner by secure van (practical) |
| ■ Hospital escort (practical)                    | ■ Working with healthcare professionals           |

A further 5 days is delivered within their designated establishment prior to taking up post.

### **Prison Officers**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the specific training given to prison officers who are on suicide watch duty.

**(AQW 7934/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Any prisoner who is considered vulnerable or is at risk of self harm may be placed on the Supporting Prisoner at Risk process (SPAR) which involves setting up care plans and, if necessary, placing them in observation cells where they can be continuously observed or observed at agreed times.

All prison officers and managers who are involved in the management of the SPAR process have received specific training which includes care planning for vulnerable prisoners, conducting conversational checks and use of safer cells.

The duration of SPAR training is one day for managers and one and a half days for officers. In addition, all residential prison officers are required to attend the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) suicide prevention programme. The duration of the ASIST programme is two days.

### **Prisoner Ombudsman's Report on the Death of Colin Bell**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice what additional training was given to Prison Officers, following the Prisoner Ombudsman's report on the death of Colin Bell in HMP Maghaberry.

**(AQW 7935/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Following the death of Colin Bell and in line with the Prisoner Ombudsman's report the Northern Ireland Prison Service developed and implemented a number of training interventions for prison officers.

Training includes the Supporting Prisoners At Risk (SPAR) process which covered training for staff in areas such as:

- Care Planning
- Conducting conversational checks
- Managing prisoners respectfully when placed in observation cells

Staff working on the Donard Landing (including Night Custody Officers) have been trained in skills specific to supporting and encouraging prisoners with challenging behavioural problems and those with mental health issues.

In addition, courses in mental health first aid are currently being delivered to residential staff as a priority training course. The Prison Service is committed to providing the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) suicide awareness programme for all discipline staff.

### **Prisoners who have Died by Suicide**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice how many prisoners have died by suicide in each of the past five years.

**(AQW 7936/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In the five year period from January 2007- January 2012 there have been a total of ten prisoner deaths which the Northern Ireland Prison Service has recorded as suicide. One of these deaths occurred at home, and one whilst in police custody.

All of these deaths have yet to be determined by a Coroner's Inquest.

### **Department's Human Resources Section**

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister of Justice how many staff are employed in his Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7940/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice and its Agencies employ 156.54 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff members below SCS in its Human Resources sections. There are 97.4 FTE staff employed in mainstream HR, 17.5 FTE staff in payroll provision and 41.64 FTE staff in learning and development.

## Investigation into the Prisoner Assessment Unit's Failings

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7062/11-15 whether the report, when completed, will be (i) made available to the public; and (ii) brought before the Assembly in the interests of transparency.

**(AQW 7951/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The report of the Investigation into the Prisoner Assessment Unit (PAU) will be published in a redacted form. As stated in my answer to AQW 7062/11-15 no date has been fixed for that publication. The implementation of the report is an operational matter and I do not intend to bring it before the Assembly.

## Proposed Courthouse Closures

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the proposed court house closures (i) what measures will be put in place to assist defendants travelling on public transport who will have greater distances to travel and resulting increased costs, particularly in relation to youth offenders who will have at least one adult accompanying them; and (ii) whether defendants and those accompanying them will be provided with a travel allowance for public transport or taxis.

**(AQW 7952/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** People attending court hearings are responsible for their own travel arrangements. There are no plans to provide a travel allowance as part of these proposals.

## Prisoners Waiting to be Assessed by a Forensic Psychologist

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many prisoners in each prison are waiting to be assessed by a forensic psychologist.

**(AQW 7954/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Chartered/Registered Forensic Psychologists are qualified to assess a prisoner's suitability to undertake Offending Behaviour Programmes. Assessments can also be carried out by Trainee Psychologists under the supervision of a qualified Forensic Psychologist.

The number of prisoners currently waiting to be assessed by prison psychology in relation to sex offences are listed below:

Maghaberry	8
Magilligan	15
Hydebank Wood	1

## Prisoners' Suicides in Jail

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice how many coroner's verdicts are outstanding in relation to prisoners' suicides in jail in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7977/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There were nine prisoner deaths, which the prison service has recorded as suicides, in the last five years, which have yet to be determined by a Coroner's Inquest. There is also a coroner's verdict yet to be recorded in respect of a prisoner who died in police custody in 2009.

## Prisoner Ombudsman's Report on the Suicide of Colin Bell

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice how many of the 40 recommendations in the Prisoner Ombudsman's report on the suicide of Colin Bell have been implemented.

**(AQW 7978/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The report by the Prisoner Ombudsman following the death in custody of Colin Bell made 44 recommendations of which 43 were accepted by NIPS. To date 40 have been recorded as completed, the remaining three have been partially completed. Work on those recommendations recorded as partially completed is being taken forward in conjunction with the recommendations contained in the CJINI report into the Treatment of Vulnerable Prisoners by the NI Prison Service.

### **Prisoners who have Committed Suicide Whilst in Police Custody**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice how many prisoners have committed suicide whilst in police custody in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7979/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In the five year period from January 2007- January 2012 there has been one prisoner death recorded by the Northern Ireland Prison Service as being due to suicide whilst in police custody.

### **Prisoners' Suicides in Police Custody**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice how many coroner's verdicts are outstanding in relation to prisoners' suicides in police custody in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7980/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There is one outstanding coroner's verdict in relation to a prisoners suicide in police custody in the five year period from January 2007- January 2012.

### **Cases of Death in Custody**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Justice how many cases of death in custody are still being investigated by the Prisoner Ombudsman.

**(AQW 7981/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Prisoner Ombudsman is currently investigating eight cases of death in custody.

### **The Compensation Agency**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Justice (i) what steps the Compensation Agency intends to take to review its communications with the loss adjusters to ensure that residents are given the necessary information to be able to pursue a claim for personal damage or damage to property caused by bomb explosions; and (ii) the timescale for any such review.

**(AQW 8008/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Compensation Agency has undertaken a review of their procedures for multiple damage incidents, and new procedures will be implemented from 1 March 2012.

The Agency's loss adjusters, when visiting scenes after major incidents, will distribute guidance booklets and initial claim forms to residents whose properties have been damaged as a result of bomb explosions. In addition, all local council offices will be offered a major incident pack, containing claim forms, guidance leaflets and contact numbers for the Compensation Agency, which can be distributed to residents in their area.

The Compensation Agency will also continue to work closely with the PSNI, local councils and Departmental Community Safety Branch with a view to offering assistance in the aftermath of any future major incidents.

### **Computer Hacking**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Justice whether computer hacking is classified as anti-social behaviour rather than cyber-crime, and if so, the reasons for this.

**(AQW 8044/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Computer hacking is a criminal offence contrary to section 1 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and would therefore not be classified as anti-social behaviour.

### Detecting Drugs in Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last three years to detail how many searches of prisoners, prison cells and property in each prison resulted in a recovery of drugs; and of these, how many of the drugs were (i) illegal substances; and (ii) prescription drugs which were not prescribed for the prisoner who was in possession of these.

**(AQW 8058/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The number of drugs finds as a result of searches of prisoners, prison cells and property in each prison for each of the last three years is as follows:

YEAR	2009	2010	2011
Maghaberry	74	37	44
Magilligan	42	27	28
Hydebank Wood	37	15	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>90</b>

It is not possible to tell from the records held whether these drugs are illegal drugs or prescription medication in possession of a prisoner for whom they were not prescribed.

### Barry Johnston

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7237/11-15, what indicators and legislation are used to determine when it is necessary to inform the public; and whether he intends to review the legislation.

**(AQW 8059/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Disclosure of information about individual offenders whose risk is managed under the PPANI arrangements is carried out under section 6 of the Guidance to Agencies on Public Protection Arrangements and operational practice as detailed in section 20 of the PPANI Manual of Practice. Both documents are available on the PPANI website.

### Barry Johnston

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many of the recommendations, contained in the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland's Serious Case Review on Barry Johnston, have been implemented fully or in part.

**(AQW 8063/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As detailed in the executive summary of the serious case review, published by the PPANI agencies on 9 January 2012, all of the recommendations have been accepted by the agencies. Action has been taken and completed in respect of four of the recommendations. Action is ongoing in respect of implementing the remaining three recommendations.

### Offensive Weapons in Prisons

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many searches of cells, property and prisoners recovered offensive weapons in each of the last three years, broken down by prison facility.

**(AQW 8082/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** For the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011 the number of weapons recovered as a result of cell, property, and prisoner searches is as follows:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Maghaberry	9	11	13	33
Magilligan	5	7	10	22
Hydebank Wood	3	6	3	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>67</b>

### **Closed Courthouses**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the proposed closure of courthouses, what consideration has been given to the impact of the additional distances that defendants, who fall just outside the qualifying remit for legal aid, will have to travel, the additional expenses that they will incur, and the loss of income as a result of the longer periods of time that they will be absent from work when attending hearings.

**(AQW 8084/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** People attending court hearings are responsible for their own travel arrangements. There are no plans under these proposals to provide a travel allowance to defendants or to compensate them for their time spent at court.

### **Bench Warrants**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many Bench Warrants, including European Arrest Warrants, are outstanding for people wanted for attempted murder; and how many of these were issued (i) between one and five years ago; (ii) between five and ten years ago; (iii) between ten and fifteen years ago; (iv) between fifteen and twenty years ago; and (v) more than twenty years ago.

**(AQW 8086/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are currently no Bench Warrants or European Arrest Warrants outstanding for a defendant charged with attempted murder.

As of 6 February 2012, there are five outstanding Arrest Warrants (Magistrates' Court and Youth Court) relating to five defendants charged with attempted murder. These are set out in the table below:

<b>Warrant Issued</b>	<b>Number Outstanding</b>
1 to 5 years	2
5 to 10 years	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

### **Educational Programmes for Prisoners**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice what educational programmes are available for prisoners.  
**(AQW 8087/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The table below sets out the current educational and vocational programmes available to prisoners within the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS).

<b>Educational</b>	<b>Vocational Training</b>
Essential Skills: • Literacy • Numeracy • Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Plumbing
GCSE English	Joinery
GCSE Maths	Painting and decorating
ICT	Bricklaying
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	Plastering
Distance learning courses such as Open University	Furniture craft
Preparation for Employment, incl. money management	Braille
Creative writing	Metal Fabrication
Drama	Industrial cleaning
Art	Grounds – waste management, general maintenance
Craft	Horticulture
Ceramics/pottery	Laundry
Leathercraft	BSC Health and Safety Level 1
Music	Basic Hairdressing/barbering
Fly Tying	
Cookery	
Stress management	
Media Studies	

## **Recreational Programmes for Prisoners**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice what recreational programmes are available for prisoners **(AQW 8088/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Northern Ireland Prison Services (NIPS) recognises that promoting positive engagement in a range of educational, sport and recreational activities is a key factor in helping to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a contributing factor to the effective resettlement and rehabilitation of offenders.

The following list of recreational activities is indicative of those generally available to offenders in custody within Northern Ireland Prisons.

Educational and recreational activities provided by the Education departments within the prison include:

- Art
- Art and pottery
- Ceramic painting
- Cookery
- Craft
- Music



- Reading club
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Fly Tying Course

Sport and Recreational activities available include:

- Gymnasium
- Multi-activity fitness classes
- Badminton
- Bodypump
- Football (indoor and outdoor)
- Spinning
- Volleyball
- Weightlifting
- Indoor Bowls

### **Paid Jobs Available for Prisoners**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice what paid jobs are available for prisoners inside prison facilities. **(AQW 8089/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There are a range of opportunities for prisoners to attend work activities. These include prison orderly duties, workshop activity and attendance at vocational training courses. Prisoners are not paid, as such, but a monetary allowance is payable depending on the regime level attained under the Progressive Regimes and Earned Privileges Scheme (PREPS). Details of the range of activities available are attached as a separate annex.

### **Annex**

Work activities including orderly duties:

- Administration
- Education
- Gymnasium
- Healthcare
- Library
- Offender Management Unit
- Reception
- Residential – Ablutions and Landing, Laundry, Servery
- SSU
- Stores
- Tuck shop
- Visits

Other work activities:

- Education
- Card making
- Cottage Industries
- Dog carer
- In-house painter
- Local work party
- Recycling
- Window cleaning
- Visits shop
- Wheelchair workshop

Vocational Training – the following opportunities may be available as part of a prisoner's educational / Sentence Plan

- Bricklaying
- Grounds maintenance
- Horticulture
- Industrial cleaning
- Joinery
- Painting and decorating
- Plumbing
- Braille Unit – translation of literature and sheet music
- Print Shop – providing in prison services and services for local businesses
- Catering
- Plastering

- Furniture craft
- Metal fabrication
- Laundry
- Basic hairdressing/barbering
- Health and Safety

### Prisoners Privileges

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice to list the privileges to which prisoners are entitled. (AQW 8090/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** Prisoners are eligible to receive a range of privileges, however the level of entitlement is determined by their level of progress in and commitment to each regime level, including:

Regime Level	Basic	Standard	Enhanced
Prisoner Earnings Payments	Up To £4.00	Up To £11.00	Up To £20.00
Tuck-shop spend	£22.00 + wages	£33.00 + wages	£55.00 + wages
Phone credit spend	£20.00	£24.00	£30.00
Visits	1 – one hour visit (at managers discretion if family visit)	1 session weekly	1 session per week plus an extra enhanced session per month.
Gym Sessions	1 Session	Up to 3 Sessions	Up to 5 sessions (depending on waiting list)

Other incentives and privileges include: -

- Additional out of cell association
- Electrical equipment, including television, radio, personal CD / DVD, Playstation (TVs are rented from the prison.)
- **In cell hobby craft materials**
- **Allowed to keep budgies (life sentence prisoners only)**

### Prisoners Visiting Rights

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice to list the visiting rights to which prisoners are entitled. (AQW 8091/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** The Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (Northern Ireland) 1995 provides for the visiting rights to which prisoners are entitled.

Rule 68(3) provides for the entitlement of a sentenced prisoner to a visit once in a period of four weeks and for the Department of Justice, as a privilege, to allow additional visits to any class of prisoner.

At present, sentenced prisoners are permitted a weekly visit.

Rule 101(3) provides for the entitlement of an untried prisoner to receive as many visits as he wishes within such limits and subject to such conditions as the Department of Justice may direct, either generally or in a particular case.

At present the majority of remand prisoners receive two visits per week.

Prisoners may also receive visits from a wide range of professionals, including pastoral and legal visits, and visits from public representatives, including MPs and MLAs. Additional visits can be approved at the discretion of the Governor.

### Fuel Expenditure

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Justice how much his Department, and its agencies, have spent on fuel in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 8096/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice (DOJ) came into existence on 12th April 2010 therefore the amount spent on fuel can only be provided for 2010/11.

The total spent on fuel in 2010/11 for the Department and its agencies was £203,994. This covers vehicle fuel only and excludes any energy costs relating to buildings.

### Expenditure on Conferences, Away-days and Team Building Exercises

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice how much his Department has spent on conferences, away-days and team building exercises in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 8100/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice was established on 12th April 2010 therefore information on spend has been provided for the periods 12th April 2010 to 31st March 2011 and from 1st April 2011 to date.

2010/2011	Conferences	£18707
Business development days	£0	
Team building	£0	
2011/2012	Conferences	£21897
Business development days	£2160	
Team building	£0	

Officials in the Department attend business related conferences when attendance would contribute to the delivery of DOJ business. Costs relating to business development days are kept to a minimum and Government facilities are used wherever possible. The Department does not engage in team building activities where costs would be incurred. Instead, officials are enabled to undertake volunteering activities under our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.

### Use of Private Investigators

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice whether the use of private investigators to investigate employees of his Department and its arm's-length bodies is common practice; and if so, which arm's-length bodies operate this practice.

**(AQW 8124/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** It is not common practice to use private investigators in the DOJ. However, the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) will consider using private investigators in exceptional circumstances.

### Prison Service: Private Investigators

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7354/11-15, which organisations have provided private investigator services; and how they were selected.

**(AQW 8125/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Prison Service has used four companies, all of whom were selected on the basis of their holding appropriate qualifications and operating in the required geographical area. It would not be appropriate to name the companies involved.

### **Prison Service: Private Investigators**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7354/11-15, to detail the number and grade of Prison Service employees who have been investigated by private investigators.

**(AQW 8126/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Northern Ireland Prison Service has used private investigators to investigate seven employees. To provide a breakdown by grade is likely to lead to the identification of individuals and thereby breach the first principle of data protection.

### **Convictions for not Owning a Valid TV Licence**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice how many people, who were convicted for not owning a valid tv licence in the last five years, have subsequently been convicted of the same offence.

**(AQW 8128/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In the five year period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2011 there was a total of 17,088 people convicted of not having a valid TV licence. Of these, 1,932 people had two or more convictions for the same offence.

### **Public Order Offences Committed Over the Twelfth of July 2011 Period in Belfast**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, of the 30 men who are due to stand trial for public order offences committed over the Twelfth of July 2011 period in Belfast, how many are from Belfast.

**(AQW 8173/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Of the 30 defendants with outstanding Preliminary Inquiry proceedings in the Magistrates' Court relating to offences arising from disturbances over the Twelfth of July 2011 period in Belfast, 27 had a Belfast address when charged.

### **Performance of Summons Cases**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7375/11-15, when he first became aware of the deterioration of the performance of summons cases; and whether this date coincides with the ruling that postal summonses can only be accepted at courts if an acknowledgement of service was lodged.

**(AQW 8174/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My Department monitors performance against the standards set for the criminal justice system using data from completed cases provided by the Public Prosecution Service and the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. Performance reports received in June 2011 identified that summons performance for 2010/11 had deteriorated from levels achieved in 2009/10.

Where a defendant fails to appear in answer to a postal summons, the Magistrates' Courts Rules (Northern Ireland) 1984 provide that service may not be considered valid unless the defendant has acknowledged service. This requirement has been in operation since 1993.

### **Amnesty for Historic Crimes**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the suggestion by the Police Ombudsman of an amnesty for historic crimes.

**(AQW 8206/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There is an Article 2 duty on the Executive to ensure there are proper investigations in respect of cases where there has been a loss of life. The Police Ombudsman, the Historical Enquiries Team

and the Coroners Court will continue to investigate these cases unless and until an alternative is put in place. However, I recognise the difficulties that this creates for the Ombudsman's Office.

The absence of a political consensus about dealing with the past makes it hard to envisage the early creation of an alternative mechanism to address these cases. However, I would welcome a public debate on these issues and urge the Secretary of State, First Minister and deputy First Minister to consider how that debate can most effectively be taken forward.

## Unspent Convictions

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice how many people have convictions which are unspent under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.

**(AQW 8256/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Around 300,000 people in Northern Ireland have a conviction and a manual exercise would be required to check each record to determine how many of those people have convictions which are unspent under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1978. To carry out such an exercise would incur considerable expense and this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost to the public purse.

## Double Yellow Lines Outside Enniskillen Court House

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 6390/11-15 and AQW 7464/11-15, given that everyone who attended the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service meeting expressed opposition to the yellow lines, and that the traders, who were visited by officials, were informed by letter of the perceived need to introduce parking restrictions, to clarify his use of the phrase "consultation took place with local traders".

**(AQW 8268/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The phrase "consultation took place with local traders" refers to a NICTS official visiting business premises in East Bridge Street, Enniskillen and explaining the proposal to introduce parking restrictions and the proposed location of the double yellow lines.

Letters also issued to business premises explaining the proposal to introduce the parking restrictions with NICTS contact details. No objections were made at that time.

## Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents of Crime

Mrs Dobson asked Minister of Justice to outline the initiatives being undertaken by his Department to raise awareness amongst the public of crime prevention methods and reporting incidents of crime, broken down by Policing District.

**(AQW 8325/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I am currently developing a new Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland. The aim of the new Strategy is to build safer, shared and confident communities with lower levels of crime and where people feel able to report any incidents.

Currently at a regional level the Department of Justice supports the work of the independent charity Crimestoppers which is an anonymous route by which members of the public may pass on information about crime. Funding is provided to assist the charity in raising awareness, and encouraging the reporting, of crime.

In addition the Department of Justice, in partnership with others, contributes to the funding and development of Neighbourhood Watch schemes across all district Council areas of Northern Ireland. This partnership between local communities, Police, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) seeks to help people protect themselves and their property, and to reduce the fear of crime. There are currently 679 schemes in place involving over 41,000 households and the schemes continue to grow.

At a local level the Department of Justice supports the Community Safety Partnerships across Northern Ireland to deliver a range of initiatives that promote awareness among the general population of crime prevention methods and to encourage the reporting of crime. Initiatives are developed and delivered to meet locally identified needs. I have attached examples of such initiatives at Annex A broken down by Policing District.

#### ANNEX A

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
A & B	<p>Raising awareness through information campaigns and events such as 'Safety of Seniors', Bee Safe Roadshow, District Policing Partnership (DPP) Christmas Safety Event, DPP General Fora for discussion</p> <p>Wardens Services - wardens offer advice to householders whose properties may appear vulnerable and also provide information on how to report crimes and contact other service providers.</p> <p>Good Morning &amp; Befriending schemes - work daily with elderly and vulnerable people across the city and support individuals to remain safe and well in their homes. PSNI provide advice on crime prevention.</p> <p>3rd Party reporting - as part of its commitment to tackling Hate Crime Belfast Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has supported the development of a 3rd party reporting system which works with a number of communities where they may be higher levels of victimisation and a reluctance to report crime</p>

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
C	<p>Raising awareness through joint CSP, PSNI and DPP work to promote crime prevention and crime reporting at events such as:</p> <p>'Safety of Seniors' events</p> <p>Talks to local schools and groups</p> <p>The publication of information in local press which is distributed to every home in the Borough.</p> <p>Circulation of Crime Prevention messages via e mail and text alert to neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and some members of Community Police Liaison Committee's (CPLCs) and Partners And Community Together (PACTs).</p> <p>Bee – Safe - proactive multi-agency community safety initiative specifically aimed at approx 400 primary 7 pupils within the Castlereagh Borough. Participation at the event teaches pupils how to react in dangerous situations, make a contribution to crime prevention, avoid becoming the victim of crime, understand the role of emergency services, and also develop good relationships with various authorities.</p> <p>Midnight Street Soccer –includes an educational aspect on a range of community safety issues.</p> <p>Knife Crime -in an effort to highlight the dangers and consequences of knife crime/ culture, a drama company was employed who delivered strong messages through the medium of drama, 'Who do you say I am?'</p> <p>Trailer Marking - a free trailer marking &amp; registration scheme organised in the Carryduff area in Nov'11.</p> <p>Tackling Domestic Burglary and Door step crime and providing reassurance to victims - A project known as 'Secure-Ring' is offering the only door restrictor to be awarded the Secure By Design accreditation. The aim is to reduce the fear of crime of vulnerable people within local communities and increase the capacity of these people to use basic home security measures and improve their quality of life. CSP has funded Secure by Design door locks which are distributed by the CPO to the elderly and vulnerable.</p>

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
D	<p>Raising awareness - Bogus Callers and Domestic Burglary 'Willie Nickit' Public Information Campaign - How to Deter / Report Domestic Burglars</p> <p>'Beautiful Life' Awareness / Training DVD – Alerts Potential Victims and Challenges Perpetrators Behaviour</p> <p>Mobile and Fixed LCD Screen Messages - Targets Public with Advice in Selected City and Rural Areas</p> <p>PSNI D. District Community Safety Newsletter - Incorporates Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Advice for Recipients</p> <p>'You Can Change Their World' (Annual) Schools Awareness Campaign - Engages Secondary Level Schools on Personal Safety</p> <p>Schools Personal Safety &amp; Crime Prevention Awareness Education – Key Stages 3 and 4</p> <p>Seasonal Calendars - Targets Vulnerable People in the Community with Advice on Crime Prevention</p> <p>Crime Information Stands – Engages Customers / Clients in Shopping Malls and Public Places on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety</p> <p>Community Education – Interactive Presentations to Youth and Community Organisations</p> <p>Crime Prevention literature produced e.g. around reporting drug dealing includes all numbers for reporting crime i.e. PSNI 0845..... and the Crime Stoppers Number and billboard advertisements publicise these numbers.</p> <p>Crime prevention leaflet distributed to all rural properties within the borough which provides advice and promotes reporting of rural crime.</p> <p>'Lisburn Secured' Target Hardening Scheme - Equips Homes/Advises Vulnerable People on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety</p>



<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
D	<p>Domestic Abuse - Advisory Input to Domestic Abuse and Adults at Risk Forums to deliver Community Safety Advice, Information and Interventions and provide Community Safety advice and information to Referred Clients</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Campaigns – Provides Input to ‘You Your Child and Alcohol’ Campaign and Various Other Campaigns</p> <p>Training of Community Volunteers – Equips Locally Recruited People to Respond to Neighbourhood Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Issues</p> <p>Engagement with Hard to Reach Groups – Supports Interventions with Young People, Adults and Marginalised groups</p> <p>Antrim 4 Tier Scheme – provides a range of home/personal security equipment; advice is given on crime prevention</p>
E	<p>Raising awareness - Attendance at community and residents groups, open evenings, provision of newspaper with advice, contacts cards, public meetings, press releases issued every few weeks etc. to provide advice and guidance (over 20 crime prevention presentations are undertaken each year)</p> <p>Seasonal campaigns including Summer, Halloween and Christmas providing information on crime trends during this time</p> <p>Supporting and promoting Radiolink and CCTV in the Borough</p> <p>‘Craigavon Secured’ – Provision of free home security upgrades to a target referral group</p> <p>Over 1200 burglary packs providing home security equipment to vulnerable people and those who have been victims</p> <p>Over 4,000 personal alarms issued over last 4 years to communities</p> <p>Crimetext - widely used by scheme members and other members of the public.</p> <p>Community Crime Alert – equipment and advice given to a range of target groups. Central to this initiative is the outlining of various methods used to advice community on how to contact emergency services.</p>

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
E	<p>Community Safety Wardens - provide information and advice, encourage reporting of crime.</p> <p>Trailer marking scheme</p> <p>Community fora established – community safety and policing issues discussed, member encouraged to report crime, members updated on initiatives</p> <p>Domestic Violence Drop-in- a dedicated drop-in service for victims, together with outreach work is undertaken in relation to encouraging victims to report instances of domestic violence</p> <p>Good Morning Service - As well as providing a local call service, advice is routinely passed on to service users eg presence of bogus callers and various telephone scam schemes. Service users are encouraged to report all incidents to local police</p>
F	<p>Raising awareness – initiatives to raise awareness amongst the public of reporting incidents of crime have included:</p> <p>Circulation of publications in various languages to make members of the migrant community and ethnic minorities aware of the need to report crime and the process for doing so;</p> <p>Utilising the Dungannon DPP ‘Reporting crime’ initiatives and circulation of their Reporting Crime publication (approximately 2,500 leaflets distributed in Fermanagh)</p> <p>Promotion of initiatives such as the Quick Check Scheme.</p> <p>Helping Hands Project – involves Women’s Aid who work with young people giving advice on who they can and should speak to if they feel unsafe.</p> <p>Warden project – to encourage reporting of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Promotion of the Policing with the Community programme and Neighbourhood Policing at CSP and DPP engagement events.</p> <p>Various events and roadshows held throughout the year which highlight crime prevention awareness and initiatives and includes the distribution of equipment</p> <p>Specific crime prevention programmes by the Community Safety Partnership and District Policing partnership have included:</p>

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
F	<p>Domestic Burglary campaign - booklet issued with advice on how to reduce the opportunities for the burglar to target the home (circulated to every home in Fermanagh) and property marking pen.</p> <p>Tourist Hotspot programme - through a publicity campaign and the erection of signage alerting the public to remove valuables from their vehicles, allow sight of empty boots, front pockets, etc. and park in open areas within view of the public;</p> <p>Trailer marking - piloted in Fermanagh, and now widespread across NI, this programme has been highly successful in reducing the theft of trailers and other farm machinery.</p> <p>Vacant property DNA Marking kits - this programme is part of a Market Reduction Approach specifically addressing the theft of metal (hot-water tanks, copper piping) from vacant properties.</p> <p>Padlock alarms - this is an initiative specifically for victims of crime intended to reduce the level of repeat victimisation.</p> <p>Social alarms pendants for older and vulnerable people.</p> <p>Interventions training - directed at licensed premises staff and managers, this aims to raise awareness of issues around the abuse of alcohol and drugs</p> <p>Business Watch/Ringmaster – businesses are encouraged to sign up to this scheme which distributes timely crime related messages to them to tackle both raising awareness and reporting of crime. This programme has been extended to the Dungannon and South Tyrone and Cookstown Council areas. Omagh will join the scheme in April 2012.</p>

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
G	<p>Raising awareness – CSP, DPP and PSNI deliver a number of initiatives to raise public awareness about crime:</p> <p>School Screens – The CSP has placed 42” plasma screens in all eight post primary schools in the district. They broadcast a mix of messages on crime prevention, community safety and information on youth diversionary activities to the pupils during the year.</p> <p>SaferMagherafelt.com – The CSP created a website with crime prevention information for the residents of Magherafelt.</p> <p>Agewell –CSP holds information and training sessions for older people that includes crime prevention.</p> <p>Community Safety Wardens – three warden schemes working in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, the Educational Precinct and the Derry City Council rural region. The wardens provide home visits giving advice, security items such as door bars and taking details of incidents. The schemes deliver a high visible warden presence which acts both as a deterrent to criminal activity and reduces fear of crime in the community.</p> <p>School Watch/Church Watch –provides local community organisations with the tools to communicate and raise awareness about local crimes being committed and who to contact.</p> <p>Trailer Marking – The CSP has supported the Derry DPP and PSNI in rolling out a number of trailer marking events across the rural community to encourage farmers to protect their equipment against theft.</p>

<b>Policing District</b>	<b>Events to raise Awareness of Crime Prevention Methods and Reporting Incidents</b>
H	<p>Raising awareness - Ballymoney CSP ran a 'Racism ruins lives' awareness raising campaign and we also facilitated some work with older people at our Alive &amp; Well convention around crime prevention techniques.</p> <p>Larne CSP organises Locality Groups which are publically advertised and allows residents and Community Groups to attend and report incidents of crime and allows the PSNI to provide crime prevention advice.</p> <p>DPP and CSP work in partnership to promote the reporting of crime incidents by providing promotional booklets with crime prevention advice. CSP attend numerous events and provide relevant information.</p> <p>CSP also distribute a wide variety of promotional items which inform the public how to report crime and the telephone number in which to do so.</p> <p>The DPP &amp; CSP also issue several press releases throughout the year to inform the public how to report crime and to give crime advice.</p> <p>The Bann Maine West Community Cluster and CSP aim to hold an awareness raising session in late February which seeks to raise awareness of crime prevention. Around 150 people, elderly and vulnerable, are expected to attend.</p> <p>Communities Together Forum which is a partnership initiative involving PSNI, DPP and CSP provides a quarterly forum for separate urban and rural audiences to raise issues for police priority. The constant message is the importance of reporting crime.</p> <p>We trained 4 community stakeholders in the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) ambassador training which looks at keeping children and young people safe on line and how to report incidents online.</p>

### **Public Prosecution Service Summonses**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7375/11-15, to provide an estimate of the annual savings that might be made from (i) sending Public Prosecution Service summonses by recorded delivery, as opposed to personal service, where applicable, following no acknowledgement of the first summons sent by standard post; and (ii) cases proceeding through the court system in a timely manner without unnecessary delays such as strike-outs.

**(AQW 8357/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The cost associated with the serving of summonses by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is a matter for the PPS. You may therefore wish to direct this element of your question directly to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

There are a number of factors which contribute to the cost of criminal cases and, therefore, it is not possible to estimate savings to the system which might be made from cases proceeding through the court system in a timely manner without unnecessary delay such as strike-outs.

### **Sobriety Tags for Offenders**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice what liaison his Department intends to have with the Greater London Authority regarding its pilot scheme of sobriety tags for offenders.

**(AQW 8375/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** On 11 February the Greater London Authority announced that they propose to undertake a pilot initiative, utilising a sobriety bracelet, for criminals convicted of serious alcohol related offences. Alcohol intake will be monitored using the bracelet and anyone found to be drinking will be rearrested, with the Court having the option of sending the offender to prison.

It has been suggested that the pilot scheme will commence in Summer 2012 but this is dependant upon the necessary legislative changes being in place to provide the Courts with the authority to offer this type of disposal. I understand that legislative proposals are under consideration in Westminster. The DoJ will monitor the position and the subsequent pilot scheme.

### **Prison Service: Principal Officer**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice whether there are any plans to abolish the rank of Principal Officer in the Prison Service.

**(AQW 8413/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As part of the overall restructuring of the Northern Ireland Prison Service it is proposed to remove several layers of management. One such layer is the Principal Officer grade.

### **Prisoner Assessment Unit Staff**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 6083/11-15 (i) whether this matter was reported to the Chief Inspector of Prisons; (ii) if not, why it was not reported; and (iii) if it was reported, what was the outcome.

**(AQW 8494/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** This matter was not reported to the Chief Inspector of Prisons nor to the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice. The inspection of prisons is a matter for Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, which draws on the resources of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The internal investigation by the Northern Ireland Prison Service into the Prisoner Assessment Unit in Belfast was within the remit of NIPS to complete, particularly where the investigation included disciplinary concerns.

### **Contraband at Roe House, Maghaberry**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7592/11-15, to detail each incident when contraband was found in Roe House, including the dates and a description of the contraband.

**(AQW 8496/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Due to the security implications involved it would be inappropriate to set out the details of the contraband found in Roe House.

## **Movement of Marian Price from Maghaberry Prison**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice whether he had any discussions with the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, or the Secretary of State, in advance of the movement of Marian Price from Maghaberry Prison.

**(AQW 8498/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The decision to transfer Mrs McGlinchey to Hydebank Wood was an operational decision, based on clinical advice from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, which has responsibility for the healthcare of all prisoners across Northern Ireland. I had no discussions with the Minister of HSSPS, the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister or the Secretary of State in relation to that operational decision.

## **Marian Price/McGlinchey**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice, when the recent decision to move Marion Price/McGlinchey to Hydebank Wood was taken on medical advice, whose Ministerial authority was given to approve the move.

**(AQW 8521/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The decision to transfer Mrs McGlinchey to Hydebank Wood was an operational decision, based on clinical advice from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, which has responsibility for the healthcare of all prisoners across Northern Ireland. The Prison Service and the Trust have, on a number of occasions, discussed and reviewed Mrs McGlinchey's needs whilst in custody. The decision to relocate her to Hydebank Wood was part of that review process.

## **Criminal Record Regime**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the review of the Criminal Record Regime in Northern Ireland which was carried out by Sunita Mason; and what action he intends to take as a result of the findings.

**(AQW 8553/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The review looked at two areas. Part One covered the processes for the disclosure of criminal records and other information for pre-employment purposes and that report was published in August 2011. Part Two was a wider consideration of criminal records management. That report will be published in early March.

I welcome the approach taken by Mrs Mason in the review. She has made a number of important recommendations. These take account of the revised Vetting and Barring Scheme arrangements, which will apply in England and Wales and which the Assembly agreed should extend to Northern Ireland, but her review also recognises the particular issues concerning the systems and legislation in place here.

Consultation on the Part One report began on 14 December 2011 and will conclude on 6 March 2012. The consultation document highlights that I have already accepted the recommendations which Mrs Mason made in relation to portability and on-line checking and the switch from two to one certificate. I will publish the outcome of the consultation on Part One once I have had an opportunity to consider the views expressed.

Consideration is currently being given to the recommendations in the Part Two report and a consultation process will follow.

## **Case Number 12/20314**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether case number 12/20314, who appeared at Dungannon Magistrates' Court on 17 February 2012, committed the alleged offences whilst on day release from a custodial sentence.

**(AQW 8564/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As the Court has imposed reporting restrictions in the above matter it would be inappropriate for me to provide any information whilst the restrictions remain in force.

## Department for Regional Development

### Number of Civil Service Posts in Department

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many Civil Service posts existed in his Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv) Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by local Council area.

**(AQW 7694/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** The information in respect of my Department is as follows:

#### DRD POSTS AT 1 JANUARY 2007 BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

District Council	Analogous Grade Level						Total
	AA	AO	E01/ E02	SO	DP	Grade 6/7	
Antrim	5	3	10	3	2	0	23
Ards	4	2	3	1	1	0	11
Armagh	11	7	10	3	1	0	32
Ballymena	42	54	91	55	23	5	270
Ballymoney	7	1	4	1	1	0	14
Banbridge	4	1	5	1	1	0	12
Belfast	115	209	406	222	202	86	1240
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	35	25	70	41	19	8	198
Coleraine	29	15	51	23	13	5	136
Cookstown	7	1	4	1	1	0	14
Craigavon	33	19	75	42	23	5	197
Derry	14	31	56	20	12	1	134
Down	30	24	64	26	14	3	161
Dungannon	9	3	8	2	1	0	23
Fermanagh	14	12	28	9	4	1	68
Larne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limavady	5	1	3	1	1	0	11
Lisburn	13	5	10	3	2	0	33
Magherafelt	5	2	6	1	1	0	15
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



District Council	Analogous Grade Level						Total
	AA	A0	E01/ E02	S0	DP	Grade 6/7	
Newry & Mourne	13	11	16	4	2	0	46
Newtownabbey	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
North Down	9	1	5	2	1	0	18
Omagh	20	21	54	31	14	5	145
Strabane	9	2	6	1	1	0	19
Unidentified	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>2825</b>

\* In addition to these figures, there were a further 448 vacancies across all grades in DRD. This figure cannot be split by individual grade or by District Council area.

#### DRD POSTS AT 1 JANUARY 2012 BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

District Council	Analogous Grade Level								Total
	AA	A0	E02	E01	S0	DP	Grade 7	Grade 6	
Antrim	6	3	0	9	3	2	0	0	23
Ards	5	3	0	5	1	1	0	0	15
Armagh	8	7	0	13	3	2	0	0	33
Ballymena	22	23	7	42	30	13	5	2	144
Ballymoney	5	1	0	6	1	1	0	0	14
Banbridge	5	1	0	6	1	0	0	0	13
Belfast	60	61	29	66	71	46	26	2	361
Castlereagh	17	26	5	71	48	19	6	2	194
Coleraine	21	22	7	40	21	13	6	1	131
Cookstown	10	3	0	12	2	1	0	0	28
Craigavon	27	25	6	45	28	10	4	1	146
Derry	12	5	4	15	5	4	0	0	45
Down	23	29	8	44	23	14	3	1	145
Dungannon	10	5	0	8	3	1	0	0	27
Fermanagh	13	15	1	16	5	2	0	0	52
Limavady	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lisburn	15	2	0	8	2	1	0	0	28
Newry & Mourne	12	2	0	8	2	1	0	0	25

District Council	Analogous Grade Level								
	AA	AO	E02	E01	S0	DP	Grade 7	Grade 6	Total
Newtownabbey	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
North Down	7	2	0	4	1	1	0	0	15
Omagh	20	36	10	49	34	15	5	1	170
Strabane	7	2	0	6	1	1	0	0	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1630</b>

### Street Lighting Schemes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what new street lighting schemes are planned for the Silverstream area of Bangor, over the next three years.

**(AQW 7732/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils)

With regard to proposed schemes for the next financial year, Roads Service is currently finalising details of its proposed works programmes for 2012/13. The Spring Council Reports, which are to be presented to local Councils during April and May of this year, will contain details of the agreed work programmes. These reports will also be accessible from the above website after they have been presented to local Councils.

### Road and Footpath Schemes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what new (i) road; and (ii) footpath schemes are planned for the Groomsport village area over the next three years.

**(AQW 7733/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question, AQW 7732/11-15.

### Amount Paid to Recruitment Agencies

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the amount paid to recruitment agencies for (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time posts in his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7757/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The relevant amounts paid to recruitment agencies by my Department and its arm's-length bodies are set out below. Expenditure records do not differentiate between amounts incurred in respect of full-time and part-time posts.

	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £
Department for Regional Development	1,120,551	1,371,979	306,280
Northern Ireland Water	3,025,900	2,077,400	868,800
NI Transport Holding Company/Translink	324,320	266,311	335,303

## New Train Halt at George Best Belfast City Airport and Ikea

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Translink has any plans to create a new train halt at George Best Belfast City Airport and Ikea.

**(AQW 7769/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink do not have provision within its current capital Plan to create a new train halt at George Best Belfast City Airport and Ikea. There are no current plans for such halts to be developed within the existing budgets agreed at Executive level. Translink update capital plans on a regular basis and this is discussed with my Department.

## Salting of the Roads Network

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Roads Service is contractually required to purchase a minimum volume of rock salt per annum, for the salting of the roads network during periods of adverse weather.

**(AQW 7784/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that, in general, it is not contractually required to purchase a minimum volume of rock salt per annum.

However, as part of Roads Service's contingency planning, the supplier is required to hold an additional 10,000 tonnes of stock over and above the agreed delivery requirement. Roads Service undertakes to purchase this stock at the end of each season, if it has not already been called upon.

## Salt Storage

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the volume of salt kept in storage by Roads Service in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7785/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it started this season holding around 110,000 tonnes of salt compared to around 65,000 tonnes held in each of the previous years. The storage capacity was increased this year as a result of changes to Roads Service's Contingency planning, following the last two very severe winters.

In order to ensure that Roads Service maintains adequate levels of salt throughout the Winter Season, minimum 'reorder level' criteria of 90% of full capacity is applied from 1 October until 1 January each year. Roads Service currently holds approximately 92,000 tonnes of salt in stock, which includes any additional stocks sourced during the current winter season.

## Unmanned Level Crossing Gates

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of unmanned level crossing gates; (ii) the number of reported safety issues at each of these level crossings in each of the last five years; and (iii) the number of level crossings that rely on gates only as a safety precaution.

**(AQW 7817/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** (i) The number of unmanned level crossing gates is currently 136

(ii) The number of reported safety issues at each of these level crossings in the last five years is detailed in the Table below.

(iii) The total number of level crossings that rely on gates only as a safety precaution is 105.

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total	Comments
XL24 Skeganeagh	48	138	99	78	61	424	
XL108 Patsy Martin's	47	149	64	45	41	346	

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XL109 Patsy Martin's	20	124	41	44	3	232	
XL189 Allinson's	5	86	63	78	28	260	
XD263 Robinson's	62	10	51	70	53	246	
XL198 Dodd's	6	89	76	40	22	233	
XL91 Gault's	23	87	36	31	6	183	Closed April 2011
XL196 McConaghy's	16	112	42	4	1	175	
XL106 Tweed's	12	48	31	23	59	173	
XL202 Nutt's / Craig	11	28	37	30	32	138	
XD261 Teacher's/Broo	28	39	31	18	4	120	
XL197 Brolley's	5	35	32	19	5	96	
XL190 Allinson's No	1	34	38	13	4	90	
XL14 Muckamore View	2	32	23	14	14	85	
XL11 Unnamed	9	20	12	11	10	62	
XL205 Barr's	1	9	21	7	0	38	
XD260 Tate's No 1	8	9	5	7	8	37	
XL156 Grangemore	3	5	9	4	14	35	
XL213 Donnybrewer	17	11	1	2	0	31	Closed Oct 2008*
XL16 Sewage Works (I	10	7	2	6	3	28	
XR330 DOE	14	12	1	0	1	28	
XL195 Molly Orr's	0	16	4	2	2	24	
XL204 Ballykelly Air	0	0	8	3	9	20	
XD290 Henry's	4	3	3	7	1	18	
XL7 Unnamed	2	2	5	6	3	18	

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XL135 Hamill's	2	5	0	5	5	17	
XD283 Acton	3	2	3	5	3	16	
XL122 Sewage Works	7	1	1	4	3	16	
XL44 McWhirter's	7	9	0	0	0	16	Closed 2008
XL123 Sharpe's	3	5	2	2	3	15	
XL64 Crawford's	0	1	4	4	6	15	
XD280 Moneypenny's	1	1	1	4	7	14	
XL170 Woodtown	1	3	0	4	5	13	
XL86 Dowd's No.2	0	2	3	1	7	13	
XL96 McCracken's	1	0	6	3	3	13	
XL222 Foyle Bridge N	0	6	2	0	4	12	
XP245 Nobody's Inn	2	0	6	2	2	12	
XL126 Stephenson's N	0	3	2	1	5	11	
XL192 Allinson's No	0	7	2	2	0	11	
XL60 Roger's	0	3	1	1	6	11	
XL85 Dowd's No.1	0	3	1	4	3	11	
XR305 Barr's No 2	4	4	1	2	0	11	
XD259 McCullough's N	2	2	2	2	1	9	
XL155 Craig's	1	3	3	1	1	9	
XL185 McLoughan's	1	2	3	2	1	9	
XL199 Kilfillin No 1	2	1	5	1	0	9	Closed Feb 2011
XA340 Frazer's	3	3	0	1	1	8	

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XD278 Flavelle's	0	2	0	5	1	8	
XL181 Canning's	0	1	3	4	0	8	
XL76 Love's	3	2	0	1	2	8	
XL77 Adam's No 1	2	2	1	3	0	8	
XL209 Faughnvale	0	6	1	0	0	7	
XL35 Steele's	0	1	0	4	2	7	
XL25 Warwick's	1	3	2	0	0	6	
XR301 Wilson's	5	1	0	0	0	6	
XR304 Barr's No 1	1	2	0	2	1	6	
XD277 Dan's Rampart	0	0	1	4	0	5	
XL74 Wray's/ Pumphous	0	4	0	1	0	5	
XL112 Greta Moore's	0	0	1	3	0	4	Closed Jan 2011
XL125 Stephenson's N	0	0	0	0	4	4	
XL201 Kilfillin No 2	0	1	1	2	0	4	Closed Feb 2011
XL29 Reed's	0	0	2	1	1	4	
XP227 University No	0	0	3	1	0	4	
XR323 Bashford's No	1	2	1	0	0	4	Closed March 2011
XA346 Ross's	1	2	0	0	0	3	
XD266 McAreavy's	0	0	1	2	0	3	
XL105 Anthony Martin	0	2	0	1	0	3	
XL130 Henry's	2	1	0	0	0	3	
XL166 Tyler's	1	2	0	0	0	3	
XL168 Herd's	0	0	1	2	0	3	

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XL21 Sheridan House	0	2	0	1	0	3	
XL36 Tom Steele's	0	3	0	0	0	3	Closed Dec 2010
XL40 Cemetary	0	3	0	0	0	3	Closed Feb 2011
XL62 Bertie Paul's	0	2	0	1	0	3	Closed Aug 2010
XL71 Tin Hut, Glarry	0	1	0	0	2	3	
XL92 Molloy's	1	1	0	1	0	3	
XB253 Kinnegar - Eme	0	0	0	1	1	2	
XD258 McCullough's N	2	0	0	0	0	2	
XD273 McCann's	0	0	0	1	1	2	
XD282 Graham's	1	0	0	0	1	2	
XL115 George Peden's	0	1	1	0	0	2	Closed Aug 2010
XL129 Unnamed	0	1	0	0	1	2	
XL136 Kelly's	0	0	0	1	1	2	
XL169 Canning's	0	0	2	0	0	2	
XL175 McDevitt's	0	0	0	1	1	2	
XL177 Auld's	0	0	1	1	0	2	Closed Feb 2011
XL178 McDevitt's	0	0	0	1	1	2	
XL184 Hanna's	0	2	0	0	0	2	Closed March 2011
XL188 Quigley's	0	0	0	1	1	2	Closed March 2011
XL28 Hill's	0	0	0	2	0	2	
XL67 Frazer's	1	0	1	0	0	2	
XL69 Crawford's	0	2	0	0	0	2	

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XL78 Adam's No 2	1	1	0	0	0	2	
XL97 Stewart's & Moo	1	0	0	0	1	2	
XA333 Fleming's (Dis	0	1	0	0	0	1	
XA336 Boomer's	0	1	0	0	0	1	
XA337 Boomer's	0	1	0	0	0	1	
XA345 Fletcher's	0	0	0	0	1	1	
XD262 Tate's No 2	0	0	1	0	0	1	Closed Jan 2007**
XL131 Kearney's No 1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
XL163 Freehall	0	1	0	0	0	1	
XL182 Allen's	0	0	0	0	1	1	Closed March 2011
XL220 Lisahully 90.2	0	0	1	0	0	1	
XL42 Ballymena Acade	0	0	0	1	0	1	
XL45 Martin's	0	0	0	0	1	1	
XL66 Frazer's / Beat	1	0	0	0	0	1	
XL68 Mooney's	0	0	1	0	0	1	
XL79 Adam's No 3	0	1	0	0	0	1	Closed Feb 2011
XL84 Gillespie's	0	1	0	0	0	1	Closed March 2010
XL88 Robinson's	0	0	0	1	0	1	Closed March 2011
XR297 Martin's No 2	0	1	0	0	0	1	
XD279 Neill's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XD281 Carroll's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XD267 McLoran's	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed October 2009



<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XD268 McLorans	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed October 2009
XL8 Unnamed	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed April 2011
XL5 Land Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed
XL30 Kelly's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL34 Allens	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed March 2011
XL37 McCartney's	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed April 2011
XL50 Burnside's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL61 Tom Paul's	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed March 2011
XL63 Elder's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL65 Beattie's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL80 Miss Halls/Disp	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011
XL89 Elliot's	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed March 2011
XL99 Stewarts No. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011
XL100 Stewarts No. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed March 2011
XL120 Fairhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL133 Wilsons	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL137 Brown's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL139 The Float	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed March 2011
XL141 Windy Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed September 2010
XL145 DOE	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed July 2009
XL154 Hendersons	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XL157 Gray's/ National Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed May 2011
XL158 Conn's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL161 Golf Course	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL164 Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL172 Morrison's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL173 Begley's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL176 Brewster's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL183 Kelly's	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011
XL187	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL211 Emergency Gate D	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL212 Emergency Gate C	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL218 Power Station Jetty	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XL219 Culmore	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XP230 Houstons	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XP243 Craigstown/ Lynch's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XP244 Ballyreagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XR296 Martin's No. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XR309 Donnelly's (B' Before)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XR313 Quarry Cottages	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XR316 Land Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	

<b>Category</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
XR317 Unnamed	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed March 2011
XR318 Wildfowlers No. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011
XR319 Land Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011
XR320 Wildfowlers No. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed
XR321 Land Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	Closed February 2011
XA334 Simpsons	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA335 Hamilton's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA343 Sheftons	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA347 Wilsons	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA347A Unnamed	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA348 Mulhollands	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA351 Well's No. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA352 Well's No. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA353 Well's No. 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA354 Well's No. 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA355 Stitt's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA356 Larmour's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA357 McRoberts	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA358 McKillop's No. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total	Comments
XA363 McKillop's No. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA364 Molyneaux	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA366 Airport	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA368 McCabe's No. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA374 Park's	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA376 Land Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	
XA379 Sheep Pen	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>419</b>	<b>1232</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>3598</b>	

\* This crossing was closed by agreement in October 2008 but final works to close it off were not completed until 2010.

\*\* This crossing was closed in January 2007 but an incident of trespass was reported in 2009.

### Skeganeagh Level Crossing

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of recorded safety incidents as XL 24 Skeganeagh level crossing in each of the last five years; and how much it would cost to install automatic barriers at this crossing.

**(AQW 7818/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The number of recorded safety incidents at this crossing in the last five years are as detailed in the table below.

Crossing XL24	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Crossing Incident – Gates left open	46	135	92	57	10	0	340
Crossing Incident: Phones not used.	1	1	2	16	50	9	79
Near Miss	1	2	5	5	1	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>433</b>

Northern Ireland Railways has advised that an assessment would be needed to determine which type of barrier would be most appropriate for this location. It is unlikely, however, that an automatic half barrier crossing would be permitted at this location, given its proximity to the highway and the risk of blocking traffic. Installation of automatic half barriers would cost about £750,000. A full barrier crossing, supported by CCTV, would cost about £1.5m.

## Fixed Penalty Notices

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many fixed penalty notices were issued for parking in a bus lane in each of the last five financial years.

**(AQW 7841/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) issued to vehicles parked in a bus lane in each of the last five financial years are shown in the table below:

Year	PCN's Issued
2007/08	912
2008/09	1132
2009/10	1080
2010/11	1250
2011/12 (to end-Jan 2012)	871

## Traffic Calming Schemes

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what traffic calming schemes are planned for the North Down area in the next financial year.

**(AQW 7863/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is currently preparing a programme of traffic calming schemes in North Down, however, the detailed budget for next financial year has not yet been agreed.

When finalised, details of the works programme, including traffic calming schemes, will be presented to the Council in the Spring and Autumn Council Reports. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils)

## Traffic using the Rathgael Road, Bangor

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he would consider introducing a weight restriction on traffic using the Rathgael Road, Bangor.

**(AQW 7864/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has no plans to introduce a weight restriction on traffic using the Rathgael Road, Bangor.

## Fuel Hedging

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, are engaged in fuel hedging to manage fluctuations in fuel prices.

**(AQW 7899/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not engage in fuel hedging to manage fluctuations in fuel prices. Roads Service procures diesel fuel supplies, for use by its vehicles, via a UK-wide Central Government Framework contract and benefits from the aggregated buying power obtained by combining with public bodies across the UK.

Prices are set for the Framework contract and are adjusted weekly to reflect changes in factors such as the oil price and exchange rates.

NITHC/Translink does use fuel hedging, principally as a risk management tool to mitigate against variations in fuel costs and to provide greater certainty in financial planning. This practice is commonplace amongst transport companies.

Northern Ireland Water does not engage in fuel hedging.

### Department's Human Resources Section

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many staff are employed in his Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7941/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** There are currently 53 staff employed within my Department's Human Resources Branch.

### Fuel Expenditure

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, spent on fuel in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 7972/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Expenditure on fuel by my Department and its Arms Length Bodies for the last five financial years is laid out below.

Body	Cost (£000'S)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Roads Service	1,945	2,058	2,155	1,969	2,246
Northern Ireland Water (Water Service)	1,525	1,913	2,379	2,261	1,801
NITHC/ Translink	24,617	27,103	35,705	38,416	32,796
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,087</b>	<b>31,074</b>	<b>40,239</b>	<b>42,646</b>	<b>36,843</b>

### Belfast-Derry Railway Line

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Regional Development, as the number of passengers travelling on the Belfast-Derry railway line compares favourably to those travelling on the Belfast-Dublin railway line, whether he will seek to have the Belfast-Derry railway line pre-identified on the EU Connecting Europe Facility list, so that it may be considered for investment in the future, perhaps as part of a western arc from Belfast-Derry-Cork, to accompany the present Trans European Network on the eastern arc of the island from Belfast-Dublin-Cork.

**(AQW 8031/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Under the European Commission's proposals, Londonderry does not meet the criteria for inclusion on the TEN-T network as a Core Node. Unless Londonderry is included on the TEN-T core network, it will not be possible to avail of funding from the Connecting Europe Facility for the railway line from Belfast to Londonderry.

My officials have, however, been liaising with both the Department for Transport in London and the Department of Transport in Dublin in lobbying for the inclusion of Londonderry on the TEN-T core network. We have highlighted the need for the TEN-T criteria to recognise regional variance and circumstance and to avoid imposing standards with major cost implications.

I am not aware of plans at this time to extend the rail line from Londonderry to Cork. This is primarily an issue for the Republic of Ireland. I do, however, plan to take forward work to review the rail network

in Northern Ireland for the period beyond the current budget. If any long term proposals are put by authorities in the Republic of Ireland for connections to Londonderry these could be considered further in that context.

### Total Spend on Hospitality

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development what has been the total spend on hospitality by his Department in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8070/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The total spend on hospitality in each of the last five financial years is provided below.

Year	Total Cost
2006 / 07	£ 58,983
2007 / 08	£ 81,257
2008 / 09	£ 59,447
2009 / 10	£ 44,498
2010 / 11	£ 39,648

### Sewage Overflow and Flooding at the Homes in the Ballycolman Estate, Strabane

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether any underlying infrastructure problems contributed to the substantial sewage overflow and flooding at the homes in the Ballycolman Estate, Strabane, on 9 February 2012; and what steps will be taken to remedy these problems.

**(AQW 8152/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that there were no underlying infrastructure problems contributing to the out of sewer flooding which occurred at Ballycolman Estate, Strabane on 9 February 2012. The problem was caused by a combination of a sewer blockage and a mechanical failure at Ballycolman Wastewater Pumping Station. The mechanical failure was quickly rectified and measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of a recurrence.

### Speed Restrictions on the Larne to Belfast Railway Line

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the current extent and location of speed restrictions on the Larne to Belfast railway line; and when they will be removed.

**(AQW 8229/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink have reported the current Train Speed Restrictions as set out in the table below:

Location	Line	Mileposts		Speed (MPH)	Reason	Work required	Planned Date for removal
		From	To				
Glynn	Single	22.50	21.00	40	Track condition	Replace rails	December 2012
Cloghan Point	Single	13.50	13.25	30	Cutting slip	Works to stabilise cuttings	March 2013

There is also a 50 MPH speed restriction at Bleach Green between Jordanstown and Whiteabbey for Londonderry Line trains. However, this does not affect Larne Line trains because the permanent speed restriction is 50 MPH for Larne trains due to track curvature at the points where the lines split.

## Department for Social Development

### Derelict Land or Property

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the locations of any derelict land or property owned by his Department which is in the top 10 percent of the most deprived wards.

**(AQW 7222/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** The Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group holds a number of sites, which are in the top 10 percent of the most deprived wards. These sites are cleared, made safe, secured and maintained as part of the Group's portfolio of assets and are held for future regeneration or resale, if considered surplus to requirements. Whilst the Department does not consider these sites to be derelict, their locations are nevertheless detailed below.

Ward	Site Location
New Lodge, Belfast	Carrick Hill, Belfast
Shankill, Belfast	Corner of Samuel Street & Millfield, Belfast
Shankill, Belfast	Corner of North Street & Millfield, Belfast
Shankill, Belfast	Samuel Street, Belfast
Waterworks, Belfast	Girdwood Park, North Belfast
Shankill, Belfast	Land at Greenland Street
Shankill, Belfast	Car Park at Alessie Centre
Shankill, Belfast	Former Probation Board Site
Shankill, Belfast	141-145 Shankill Road
Shankill, Belfast	278-282 & 284-296 Shankill Road
Shankill, Belfast	Land at Lanark Way/Mayo Link
Shankill, Belfast	Land at Mayo Street/Mayo Link
Shankill, Belfast	Site G Merkland Place
Crumlin, Belfast	Former Savoy Cinema
Crumlin, Belfast	Land at Oldpark Road
Waterworks Belfast	118-120 Antrim Road
Duncairn Belfast	Land at Adam Street
Duncairn Belfast	28 Duncairn Gardens
Duncairn Belfast	184 North Queen Street
Duncairn Belfast	10-12 York Road
Duncairn Belfast	50-58 York Road
Shaftesbury Belfast	301-303 Donegall Road
Shaftesbury Belfast	Armagh House 11a Ormeau Ave.
Blackstaff Belfast	25 Rydalmere Street
Falls Belfast	Land at Willow Street/Grosvenor Road
Falls Belfast	Land adjacent to 87 Durham Court



<b>Ward</b>	<b>Site Location</b>
Upper Springfield Belfast	Springfield Road Sites (4)
Beechmount Belfast	Land at Westrock.Mica Drive
Clonard Belfast	Springfield Pond, Springfield Road
Woodstock Belfast	Land at Ravenhill Reach/Ormeau Embankment
The Mount Belfast	130-138 Castlereagh St & 60-64 Clondeboye St
The Mount Belfast	139-141 Albertbridge Road
The Mount Belfast	275-277 Albertbridge Road
The Mount Belfast	2-10 Castlereagh Street
The Mount Belfast	1a Stormount Lane
The Mount Belfast	16-24 Castlereagh Street
The Mount Belfast	183-191 Beersbridge Road
The Mount Belfast	211-217 Beersbridge Road
Ballymacarret Belfast	155-157 Newtownards Road
Ballymacarret Belfast	232 Newtownards Road
Ballymacarret Belfast	Land at 98/98A Templemore Avenue
Colin Glen Lisburn	Bogstown Glen, Poleglass
Colin Glen Lisburn	Laurel Glen, Poleglass
Colin Glen Lisburn	Stewartstown Glen, Poleglass
Colin Glen Lisburn	St Kierans Area, Poleglass
Colin Glen Lisburn	Land at Old Colin Road, Poleglass
Colin Glen Lisburn	Community Garden, Bellsteele Road, Poleglass
Brandywell Londonderry	Land at Jacqueline Way
The Diamond Londonderry	St Augustines Site
The Diamond Londonderry	Richmond Chambers
The Diamond Londonderry	City Hotel Site
The Diamond Londonderry	Newmarket Street
Shantallow West Londonderry	Galliagh Linear Park
Strand Londonderry	William St/ Chamberlain Street
Victoria Londonderry	Spencer Road Car Park
Victoria Londonderry	Spencer Road/ Lower Fountain Hill
Central Coleraine	Mall Carpark
Farranshane Antrim	Stiles Way
Farranshane Antrim	13 Birchill Road Stiles Way
Farranshane Antrim	11 Birchill Road Stiles Way

Ward	Site Location
Farranshane Antrim	18 Birchill Road Stiles Way
Ballee Ballymena	Antrim Road
Ballee Ballymena	Larne Road
Ballee Ballymena	Ballee Road East
Ballee Ballymena	18 Antrim Road
Drumgask Craigavon	8 Moyraverty Road
Drumgask Craigavon	Moyraferty Road
Drumgask Craigavon	20 Brownlow Road
Drumgask Craigavon	Rathmore
Drumgask Craigavon	Brownlow Road
Drumgask Craigavon	Drumellan Road

### Amount Paid to Recruitment Agencies

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the amount paid to recruitment agencies for (i) full-time; and (ii) part-time posts in his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 7651/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** It is not possible to provide separate details between full-time and part-time posts, therefore the total amount paid to recruitment agencies by this Department and its arm's-length bodies over the last 3 years is detailed in the table below:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
£1,405,091	£1,872,829	£1,315,599

### Crisis Loans

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development, for each district council area, to detail the number of Crisis Loan applications made during the timeframe attached to Annex 2 of 'Replacement of the Existing Discretionary Social Fund Scheme in Northern Ireland – Research Study Specification - A Draft Final Report to the Social Security Agency' which was tabled at the Social Development Committee on 26 January 2012; and of these (i) the total value of the applications made; (ii) the number of applications that were successful; (iii) the total value of the Crisis Loans awarded; (iv) the amount of money initially awarded to each recipient; (v) the number of appeals; and (vi) the amount awarded to each recipient on appeal.

**(AQW 7787/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The total number of Crisis Loan applications, for each district council area is detailed in Column 2 of the table overleaf.

- (i) The total value of applications made during the specified timeframe is £31,194,000. A breakdown for each district council area is detailed in Column 3 of the table overleaf.
- (ii) The number of applications that were successful in the specified timeframe is 120,608. A breakdown for each district council area is detailed in Column 4 of the table overleaf.
- (iii) The total value of Crisis Loans awarded is £16,173,000. A breakdown for each district council area is detailed in Column 5 of the table overleaf.

- (iv) The amount of money initially awarded to each recipient is not available as it would involve individually checking in excess of 120,000 applications.
- (v) There is no right of appeal against a Crisis Loan decision, therefore the number of appeals is nil.
- (vi) There is no right of appeal against a Crisis Loan decision, therefore no amounts were awarded on appeal.

**TABLE OF CRISIS LOAN APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS 2010/2011 YEAR BY COUNCIL AREA**

<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>No of Crisis Loans applications*</b>	<b>Total amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>No of Successful Crisis Loan Applicants*</b>	<b>Total Amount Awarded for successful applications (£)</b>
Unknown*	384	141,000	334	61,000
Antrim Borough Council	2,923	634,000	2,423	414,000
Ards Borough Council	4,474	881,000	3,810	537,000
Armagh City and District Council	3,083	534,000	1,799	194,000
Ballymena Borough Council	4,384	1,022,000	3,513	507,000
Ballymoney Borough Council	1,090	248,000	626	104,000
Banbridge District Council	3,019	658,000	1,795	267,000
Belfast City Council	45,793	9,603,000	34,809	4,570,000
Carrickfergus Borough Council	5,006	1,035,000	3,546	456,000
Castlereagh Borough Council	2,553	535,000	2,155	267,000
Coleraine Borough Council	3,292	782,000	2,147	346,000
Cookstown District Council	2,140	510,000	1,466	210,000
Craigavon Borough Council	8,283	1,501,000	5,917	901,000
Derry City Council	11,722	1,948,000	11,162	1,370,000
Down District Council	8,483	1,751,000	6,843	975,000
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	4,238	747,000	3,408	364,000
Fermanagh District Council	3,888	561,000	3,612	386,000
Larne Borough Council	3,082	648,000	2,139	296,000
Limavady Borough Council	2,244	489,000	1,972	334,000
Lisburn City Council	7,479	1,553,000	6,437	934,000
Magherafelt District Council	2,643	595,000	1,867	286,000
Moyle District Council	716	164,000	485	70,000

<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>No of Crisis Loans applications*</b>	<b>Total amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>No of Successful Crisis Loan Applicants*</b>	<b>Total Amount Awarded for successful applications (£)</b>
Newry and Mourne District Council	5,371	1,070,000	3,393	411,000
Newtownabbey Borough Council	6,048	1,379,000	4,485	688,000
North Down Borough Council	4,890	997,000	4,095	507,000
Omagh District Council	3,672	614,000	2,568	275,000
Strabane District Council	3,994	595,000	3,802	445,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,894</b>	<b>31,194,000**</b>	<b>120,608</b>	<b>16,173,000**</b>

\* People can make multiple applications throughout the year. This is particularly pertinent when divided by population estimations as you may be double counting. Estimates are provided for mid-2010.

\*\* All figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Individual figures will not sum to totals due to rounding.

The Information provided is an Official Statistic. The Production and dissemination of all such Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

### **Girdwood Barracks Site in Belfast**

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) for an update on the plans for the Girdwood Barracks site; and (ii) whether he will consider a proposal from three local schools for a shared sports facility on the site.

**(AQW 7813/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My department is currently reviewing the implementation of the draft masterplan for the Girdwood site and former Crumlin Road Gaol. Following consultation with OFMDFM and other stakeholders I aim to announce the way forward as soon as possible. As part of the implementation review my department is considering all of the uses for the site proposed in the draft masterplan which includes the provision of a sports facility.

### **ATOS Healthcare Induction Programme**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the differences in the study materials that are provided as part of the ATOS Healthcare Induction Programme for healthcare practitioners in Northern Ireland compared with other areas of the UK.

**(AQW 7852/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The study materials provided as part of the Atos Healthcare Induction programme for healthcare practitioners in Northern Ireland are identical to those provided to healthcare practitioners undertaking assessments in the rest of the United Kingdom.

### **Civil Service Posts in Council Areas**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Civil Service posts existed in his Department at (i) Administrative Assistant; (ii) Administrative Officer; (iii) Executive Officer 2; (iv)

Executive Officer 1; (v) Staff Officer; (vi) Deputy Principal; (vii) Grade 7; and (viii) Grade 6 levels, at the beginning of (a) 2007; and (b) 2012, broken down by local Council area.

**(AQW 7857/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested at January 2012 is provided in the following table:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Number Of Posts</b>
Grade 6	11.00
Grade 7	88.67
Deputy Principal	199.30
Staff Officer	402.21
Executive Officer 1	598.51
Executive Officer 2/Social Security Officer 1	1858.83
Administrative Officer/Social Security Officer 2	3229.42
Administrative Assistant	514.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>6902.71</b>

Data on the Department's funded posts at January 2007 cannot accurately be disaggregated to provide the information you have requested. However, at that date the Department had a full time equivalent staffing complement of 7418.84 permanent posts, the comparable figure for January 2012 was 7052.32.

The figure for January 2012 of 7052.32 differs from that shown in the table above as it includes a number of other grades not requested in the question.

Information on the Department's staffing position is not held by Council area.

### **Department's Human Resources Section**

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Social Development how many staff are employed in his Department's Human Resources section.

**(AQW 7882/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** 149 people (134 whole time equivalent) are currently employed in this Department's Human Resources Division. The Division has responsibility for the provision of Human Resource services to 7,474 staff within the Department and the Social Security Agency and for the management of a range of other corporate services including accommodation and Security and Emergency Planning.

### **Local Volunteer Centres**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many staff in local volunteer centres have been put on protective notice; and (ii) how he intends to ensure that the work of independent volunteer centres continues to make a return on investment for local economies.

**(AQW 7903/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

- (i) As Departmental funding arrangements are to provide support to the delivery of outputs/outcomes and not for staffing posts, the Department does not assume the rights and responsibilities of an employer and as such would not be in a position to advise on the number of staff in local volunteer centres that have been put on protective notice.
- (ii) My Department has developed Northern Ireland's first ever Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan. Implementation of the Action Plan envisages the contractual engagement of a strategic partner to

assist in delivering regional volunteering services and up to five local partnerships for delivering on local volunteering actions. This selection process is expected to be completed by the end of the summer 2012 and all existing volunteer centres will have the opportunity to consider applying to become a delivery partner under these new infrastructure arrangements. It is planned that existing arrangements will continue until the new volunteering infrastructure arrangements are in place.

## **Mould and Dampness in Housing Executive Properties**

**Mr A Maskey** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many Housing Executive properties in the (a) South Belfast; and (b) East Belfast areas have reported problems with mould and dampness in the last three years; and (ii) what measures the Housing Executive has taken to address this matter. **(AQW 7908/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Over the last three years the Housing Executive has received the following number of reports of problems with mould and dampness: -

- 542 from tenants in South Belfast District office area
- 582 from tenants in East Belfast District office area

Mould growth is the main symptom of condensation and may be confused for damp. It is best treated by regular ventilation of the property. Where the Housing Executive is aware of condensation in a property the tenant will be advised that it can be prevented by:-

- Allowing air to circulate throughout the property by opening doors occasionally
- Using extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms
- Opening windows when cooking
- Not blocking air vents
- Drying clothes outside if possible
- Ensuring there is ventilation in the property, especially bedrooms, during the night.

Reports of damp are assessed by the Housing Executive's maintenance staff and contractors on a case by case basis and the necessary remedial action is taken. Typical examples of work carried out would be:-

- Damp proof course
- Installation of extractor fans in kitchens
- Checking of water pipes in kitchens and bathrooms
- Cleaning of outside guttering to prevent water penetration
- Inspection of roofs and external doors

Every Housing Executive tenant is provided with a tenant's handbook at the start of their tenancy which includes advice on condensation. The Housing Executive also has a separate condensation advice leaflet which is available in all of their District offices and also online at [www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk).

## **Adults on Income Support**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the percentage of adults on Income Support in the (i) Belfast; (ii) Armagh; and (iii) Derry City areas. **(AQW 7912/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below shows the number of people aged 16 to 59 in receipt of Income Support compared to the total population aged 16 to 59 in the (i) Belfast City Council; (ii) Armagh City and District Council; and (iii) Derry City Council areas, expressed as a percentage:

Local Government District	Percentage of claimants
Belfast City Council	12.6%
Armagh City and District Council	5.6%
Derry City Council	12.6%

**Data Source:** Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary August 2011

The Information provided is an Official Statistic. The Production and dissemination of all such Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

### Housing Executive: Natural Gas

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many Housing Executive properties in the Comber area will have natural gas installed in this financial year, broken down by local areas; and (ii) the total associated costs.

**(AQW 7960/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The vast majority of Housing Executive properties in the Comber area already have oil-fired central heating. However, seven properties will receive gas heating at a cost of approximately £46,000. These properties are included in a scheme which went on-site in January 2012 and are in the Darragh Road and Graffon Gardens areas. There are currently no heating schemes programmed for 2012/13.

### Housing Executive: Kitchens

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many Housing Executive properties in the Comber area will have new kitchens installed in this financial year, broken down by local area; and (ii) the total associated costs.

**(AQW 7961/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There are no kitchen replacement schemes scheduled for Comber during the current financial year. However, in the next financial year, 2012/13, 137 dwellings in Comber are programmed for kitchen replacements at an estimated cost of £767,000. The locations of these properties are:-

Darragh Road	44 properties
De Wind	18 properties
The Royals	26 properties
Graffon, Laburnum & Park Crescent	49 properties

### New Windows for Housing Executive Properties: Newtownards and Comber

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many Housing Executive properties in the (a) Glen Estate in Newtownards; and (b) Comber area will have new windows installed in this financial year, broken down by the areas within the estate and the Comber area; and (ii) the total associated costs.

**(AQW 7962/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** New double glazing windows are being installed in 271 properties in the Glen Estate, Newtownards; and in 47 properties in the Comber area (Crescent Grove/Mews and at Laburnum and Lower Crescent). This work will be carried out in a scheme which is programmed for March 2012 at a total estimated cost of £731,000.

The Housing Executive is working to identify any properties which still require double glazing and once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

### Rural Dwellers Living in Poverty

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the (i) number; and (ii) percentage of rural dwellers that are deemed to be living in poverty.

**(AQW 7987/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** During the year 2008/09 the number and percentage of individuals living below the relative poverty line for rural areas is presented in Table 1. The results are produced using the Family Resources Survey datasets for Northern Ireland, and the Urban Rural Report for Northern Ireland.

Table 1:

2008/09	Before Housing Costs (BHC)		After Housing Costs (AHC)	
	Number of Individuals in relative low income	Percentage of Individuals in relative low income	Number of Individuals in relative low income	Percentage of Individuals in relative low income
Rural East	..	19	..	21
Rural West	130,400	27	123,800	26
All Rural	190,500	24	189,000	24
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>372,400</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>366,500</b>	<b>21</b>

The Information provided is an Official Statistic. The Production and dissemination of all such Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

### Young People Enrolling in Training Programmes

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he is aware of the problems that young people, aged or approaching the age of 18, who wish to enrol in training programmes face because they are deemed ineligible as they are not in receipt of JobSeekers Allowance since their parents are receiving Child Benefit, which cannot be terminated until it expires; and what plans he has to resolve this problem to ensure that young people are not prevented from entering these programmes.

**(AQW 8020/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I understand that the Department for Employment and Learning provides a guarantee of a training place through their Training for Success programme to those who are unemployed and in the 16 and 17 year old age group, with extended eligibility for those with a disability or from an in-care background.

A young person who reaches age 18 on or after 2nd July and before the second Monday in September, will be treated as a young person within the guarantee group provided that the young person starts training during the week commencing the first Monday of September. Receipt of Jobseekers Allowance is not a pre-requisite for entitlement to join the Training for Success programme.

Families of young people aged 16-19 who are participating in training through the Training for Success programme may be entitled to Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit up to their 20th birthday or until their training ceases.



The Steps to Work programme is also available to anyone seeking employment, who is aged 18 years old or over (lone parents aged 16 or over) and unemployed or economically inactive. Young people on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) join the programme once they are on JSA for six months but may seek to join earlier at their local Jobs & Benefits office / Jobcentre.

### Stationery Costs in Replying to Assembly Written Questions

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department has spent on stationery costs in replying to Assembly Written Questions, including the price of the envelopes and paper used, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8047/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department does not routinely calculate the costs of replying to Assembly Written Questions including identifying the price of envelopes and paper used.

### Work Capability Assessments

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) for his assessment of the statement made by the Minister for Employment, Chris Grayling MP, on 1 February 2012, on the recording of Work Capability Assessments: "On audio recording, we will offer everyone who wants it the opportunity to have their session recorded. We decided not to implement universal recording because, based on the trial experience, people did not want it. Few people wanted their sessions recorded, and some said that they definitely did not. We decided therefore to offer recording as an option to those who want it. That seems entirely sensible"; and (ii) whether the same arrangements will be put in place in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 8060/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Department of Work and Pensions recently trialled the audio recording of Work Capability Assessments as recommended by Professor Harrington in his Year 1 review. The Social Security Agency has reviewed the Department of Work and Pensions evaluation report and has now introduced audio recording for those customers who request it.

### Social Housing Units with Five or Six Bedrooms

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of social housing units with five or six bedrooms, broken down by council area.

**(AQW 8061/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested for Housing Executive properties as they do not routinely collate information by District Council area. However, Table 1 below gives details of the number of five and six bedroom Housing Executive properties by their district office area. Table 2 below gives details by Council area of the number of five and six bedroom Housing Association properties.

**TABLE 1 – HOUSING EXECUTIVE**

<b>NIHE District</b>	<b>5 Bedroom Properties</b>	<b>6 Bedroom Properties</b>
East Belfast	9	0
West Belfast	44	1
South Belfast	20	0
North Belfast	45	2
Shankill	3	0
<b>Belfast Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>NIHE District</b>	<b>5 Bedroom Properties</b>	<b>6 Bedroom Properties</b>
Antrim	3	1
Ballycastle	1	0
Ballymena	4	0
Ballymoney	1	0
Carrickfergus	2	0
Coleraine	2	0
Larne	0	0
Newtownabbey 1	2	0
Newtownabbey 2	5	3
North East Total	20	4
Bangor	4	0
Castlereagh	1	0
Downpatrick	6	1
Lisburn	14	1
Lisburn Dairyfarm	54	1
Newtownards	8	3
South East Total	87	6
Armagh	2	0
Dungannon	12	4
Fermanagh	13	0
Lurgan	24	0
Portadown	4	0
Newry	19	1
South Area Total	74	5
Waterloo Place	14	0
Waterside	4	0
Collon Terrace	25	1
Limavady	8	0
Magherafelt	4	0
Cookstown	4	0
Omagh	5	2
Strabane	7	0
West Area Total	71	3
<b>NI Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>21</b>

**TABLE 2 – HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS**

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>5 Bedroom Properties</b>	<b>6 Bedroom Properties</b>
Antrim Borough Council	1	1
Ards Borough Council	-	-
Armagh City & District Council	-	-
Ballymena Borough Council	1	-
Ballymoney Borough Council	-	-
Banbridge District Council	-	-
Belfast City Council	65	2
Carrickfergus Borough Council	2	-
Castlereagh Borough Council	-	-
Coleraine Borough Council	-	1
Cookstown District Council	2	-
Craigavon Borough Council	2	2
Derry City Council	9	1
Down District Council	1	1
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	2	-
Fermanagh District Council	1	1
Larne Borough Council	-	-
Limavady Borough Council	1	-
Lisburn City Council	22	-
Magherafelt District Council	3	-
Moyle District Council	-	-
Newry & Mourne District Council	3	-
Newtownabbey Borough Council		-
North Down Borough Council	1	-
Omagh District Council	1	-
Strabane District Council	3	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>9</b>

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## Royston House, Belfast

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people, in each of the last three years, who should have gone to Royston House, Belfast, for disability assessment, availed of an assessment elsewhere.

**(AQW 8064/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is not held by the Department.

## Disability Assessments

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what alternative arrangements are in place for people who are unable to travel to Royston House, Belfast, for a disability assessment.

**(AQW 8065/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In the event that a customer is unable to travel to Royston House Belfast for a disability assessment they will be offered an appointment at an alternative Medical Examination Centre. In the event that a customer is unable to attend a Medical Examination Centre due to their disability an assessment may be carried out in their home.

## Housing Executive Tenants: Evicted

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive tenants have been evicted from their properties as a result of criminal or anti-social behaviour in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8066/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The figures below show the number of Housing Executive repossessions in relation to criminal or anti-social behaviour in each of the last five years:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<b>Total repossessions</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>

## Laganside Events Grant

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) why he has closed the Laganside Events Grant; and (ii) why local organisations were not consulted before this decision was made.

**(AQW 8075/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I welcome the announcement from the Finance Minister that he is prepared to make £200,000 available to my Department to enable grant assistance to Laganside Events Grant scheme to continue for one additional year. In addition to this funding I have made £50,000 available, also for one year.

This scheme has always been regarded as discretionary expenditure by the Department and is reviewed annually to determine whether it continues to be affordable and necessary expenditure for the Department given our wide range of functions and other funding priorities. Grant recipient organisations are therefore aware that there has never been an open-ended commitment to provide this grant which has contributed to the overall mix of funding available for the Arts and Culture sectors from other statutory bodies such as the Arts Council NI and Belfast City Council.

## New Social Housing at West Green, Loughview Estate, Holywood

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the timescale for the delivery of new social housing at West Green, Loughview Estate, Holywood.

**(AQW 8103/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Clanmil Housing Association was nominated in November 2011 to deliver this scheme in West Green Holywood. Subject to receiving the necessary approvals, they expect to be on site during the 2012/13 year.

### **New Social Housing at West Green, Loughview Estate, Holywood**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the process by which the Housing Association responsible for the delivery of new social housing at West Green, Loughview Estate, Holywood was selected.

**(AQW 8104/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive, in conjunction with the Department and the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA), developed selection criteria to be applied for all Land Transfer General Needs New build Schemes to be included in the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP).

The criteria, which are evidence based, are used to determine which Registered Housing Association's (RHA's) can be nominated to deliver Transfer Schemes. Each housing association interested in being nominated for Land Transfer schemes is required to make application to the Housing Executive and each application is assessed by a panel against the agreed criteria. This process is usually carried out every 3 years and is due to be reviewed in 2013.

The allocation of land transfer schemes is carried out annually with all successful housing associations being allocated a proportionate number of land transfer units in line with their ranking against the criteria.

It should be noted the selection process is not applied in respect of individual land transfer schemes but instead it is an assessment of housing associations in terms of their capability to deliver land transfer schemes generally.

It was this process that was used to nominate Clanmil Housing Association for the Land Transfer scheme at West Green, Holywood as part of the 2012/13 land transfer programme.

### **New Social Housing at West Green, Loughview Estate, Holywood**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the level of funding allocated for new social housing at West Green, Loughview Estate, Holywood.

**(AQW 8105/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The final plans and therefore the cost for the proposed new build development at West Green will be dependent on the number of units that Planning Service ultimately permit to be built on the site.

Our initial assessment is that the site could potentially deliver up to 55 units that at today's costs could total up to £6 million. Clanmil are already working to bring forward a detailed planning application that when approved will allow me to give a more definitive outline of the scheme costs.

### **Master Plan: Holywood Town Centre**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development what consultation will be carried out in relation to the Masterplan for Holywood Town Centre and the associated streetscaping works.

**(AQW 8106/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department will establish an advisory group comprising representatives from organisations such as North Down Borough Council, DRD, DOE, Town Centre Management and the local residents groups to assist with the development of the Masterplan and the concept plans for the proposed public realm scheme. The Masterplan process will also allow for a 12 week public consultation process on all regeneration proposals for the town centre.

## Streetscaping Works in Hollywood

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the level of funding allocated for the streetscaping works for Hollywood town centre.

**(AQW 8107/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Plans for a public realm improvement scheme in Hollywood are still at an early stage of development and no funding has been committed to it at this stage. However, my Department has included £1 million in its forward work programme for a public realm scheme in Hollywood during 2014/15, subject to funding being available and all necessary approvals being in place.

## Hospitality: Spend

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 6359/11-15, whether the figures include his Department's arm's-length bodies; and if not, to provide this information for each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8119/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The figures in my response to AQW 6359/11-15 covered only the Department's hospitality costs as per the original Question. The hospitality costs for the Department's arm's-length bodies for the last 5 years are now included in the table below.

### DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HOSPITALITY COSTS INCLUDING EXPENDITURE BY ARM'S LENGTH BODIES £

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
97,905	94,039	154,274	105,684	49,695

## Changes to Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has any plans to minimise the impact of the coalition Government's changes to Disability Living Allowance which will affect people with mental, physical and learning disabilities.

**(AQW 8159/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The coalition Government's Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament includes plans to replace Disability Living Allowance with a new Personal Independence Payment which will assess a person's ability to perform a range of everyday tasks. Development work on the proposals for the assessment criteria has been undertaken in conjunction with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability, which includes disabled people. The criteria will take account of physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments.

The development of the proposals is an iterative process and changes have already been made to the assessment criteria as a result of consultation and testing against current DLA cases. So changes to the criteria are being built in as they are developed. My officials and I are in constant contact with the Department for Work and Pensions and ensured that Northern Ireland cases were included in testing. A revised draft of the assessment criteria including the proposed entitlement thresholds has been published for consultation and I would encourage people to take this opportunity to provide input to the development of the assessment criteria to ensure they reflect their individual circumstances.

Work is ongoing to fully assess the impact of the introduction of Personal Independence Payment. I am working with the Executive Sub-Committee on Welfare Reform to explore ways to mitigate any potential impact which may emerge from this work.

## Benefit Levels

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 7048/11-15, why he was unable to provide the exact number of households which received benefits in excess of £26,000; and (ii) when he will be able to do so.

**(AQW 8167/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In order to provide an exact number of households receiving benefits in excess of £26,000 per annum, my Department would be required to undertake a detailed analysis of the 550,000 people currently receiving social security benefits, Working Tax Credits, Child Benefit and Housing Benefit. Currently the data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is not available to the Department and officials are therefore unable to construct an appropriate longitudinal model. As an alternative my Department has used the Northern Ireland version of the Department for Work and Pensions Policy Simulation Model which estimates that approximately 99% of all households claiming Housing Benefit will not be affected by the proposed benefit cap of £26,000.

The Policy Simulation Model is based on data derived from the 2008/09 Family Resource Survey. The results of any analysis produced from survey data will always be subject to some degree of statistical error. In addition the statistical modelling that was conducted to assess the impact of the benefit cap produced very low numbers. For both reasons it was not possible to release a firm estimate as to the number of households affected at this stage.

In their most recent Impact Assessment, the Department for Work and Pensions estimated that 67,000 households will be affected by the benefit cap at the outset and this was accrued from analysis of administrative datasets covering Social Security Benefits, Tax Credits, Child Benefit and Housing Benefit claimants.

The Department for Social Development is currently awaiting Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (tax) data to enable replication of the Department for Work and Pensions figure. As soon as the data is available the Department will look to provide a firmer estimation of those affected by the proposed benefit cap. It is important to note that the administrative data will only provide the current position of the data and further analysis will be required to determine the situation in 2014/2015

## Housing Executive Houses in Millisle Village

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many houses in Millisle village are owned by the Housing Executive.

**(AQW 8171/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive currently owns 142 properties in Millisle.

## Work Capability Assessments

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister for Social Development when final approval will be given to those individuals whom ATOS Healthcare wishes to appoint to carry out Work Capability Assessments.

**(AQW 8241/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The final approval is given only when the required training has been successfully completed and the agreed audit standards have been met by the healthcare professionals.

## Department Spend on Fuel

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department, and its agencies, have spent on fuel in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 8248/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The amounts spent on fuel in the last five years are as set out in the following table. All figures are to the nearest £1 and those for the Department include costs incurred by the Social

Security Agency (SSA), whilst those for the NI Housing Executive (a non-departmental public body of this Department) are shown separately.

	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12 (year to date)</b>
Department (including SSA)	3,456	4,442	4,846	4,441	6,518
NI Housing Executive	155,916	236,252	164,756	199,103	143,314
<b>Totals</b>	<b>159,372</b>	<b>240,694</b>	<b>169,602</b>	<b>203,544</b>	<b>149,832</b>

### **Housing Executive: Vacant Houses**

**Mr F McCann** asked the Minister for Social Development how many of the 2,242 vacant Housing Executive properties are in the West Belfast constituency.

**(AQW 8275/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency. However, across the Housing Executive's District Offices in West Belfast, Shankill and Lisburn Dairy Farm, there were 303 vacant properties at 31 December 2011. Of these, 33 were categorised as awaiting relet, 218 pending sale/demolition, 49 undergoing repairs and 3 others which include SPED and squatters.

### **FirstBuy NI Scheme**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister for Social Development how many properties have been purchased through the FirstBuy NI scheme since it was introduced.

**(AQW 8306/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Disappointingly, no applications for assistance under the FirstBuy NI pilot scheme have been received. Given this, the funding has been re-allocated to support purchases under the main Co-Ownership Scheme. Any applications for assistance under FirstBuy NI that are received before 31 March 2012 and qualify for help will be accommodated from this funding within the main scheme.

### **First BuyNI Scheme**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he plans to provide further funding for the FirstBuy NI scheme.

**(AQW 8307/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department allocated £3.25m to pilot the FirstBuy NI scheme. Funding must be taken up before the 31 March 2012. Due to the lack of take up, which was not anticipated by the Department or the Sector, the FirstBuy NI funding has been reallocated to the Co-Ownership Scheme. As such, I have no plans to extend the pilot scheme. Any applications received for FirstBuy NI before the close of the year will be accommodated under the Co-ownership Scheme.

### **Co-ownership Scheme**

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he plans to increase funding for the Co-Ownership scheme.

**(AQW 8310/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In recognition of the difficult position faced by those seeking to gain, or re-establish, a foothold on the housing ladder I have already increased the funding available for affordable housing through schemes such as Co-Ownership. I have committed to investing at least £103.25 million in



affordable housing over the four years up to 2014/15. Investment in Co-Ownership Housing will total over £28 million this year enabling over 650 affordable homes to be purchased; this is £10m more than last year.

### **Warm Homes Scheme: Mahon Road Army Barracks**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) why Turkington Construction was able to acquire heating grants through the Warm Homes Scheme after purchasing houses in the Mahon Road Army Barracks, Portadown; and (ii) whether the value placed on the properties reflected that new heating systems were required.

**(AQW 8340/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** No heating grants have been paid to Turkington Construction. The Warm Homes Scheme is available to eligible, private sector households who are either owner occupiers or private sector tenants. Every property that has measures installed under the Warm Homes Scheme must be occupied by an eligible householder and lack one or more of the measures available under the scheme. These ex MOD properties had been bought by Turkington Construction and were then privately rented. The properties were identified through a marketing initiative carried out by the Warm Homes Scheme Manager for the Portadown area. The houses had been heated by LPG and the Warm Homes Scheme installed new oil heating systems for these eligible householders.

### **Boiler Replacement Scheme**

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the final date for people to submit applications for the Boiler Replacement scheme.

**(AQW 8390/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme ends on 31 March 2012. The pilot scheme has been very successful and is currently fully subscribed and the Housing Executive are not in a position to accept new applications. Installers engaged in carrying out boiler replacement for applications which have already been approved, should ensure works have been completed and electrical certificate and Building Control certificates are submitted to their local Grant Office before 31 March 2012.

### **Boiler Replacement Scheme**

**Mr T Clarke** asked the Minister for Social Development when the current Boiler Replacement Scheme ends.

**(AQW 8419/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I launched the pilot Boiler Scheme in June 2011 and I ring-fenced £2 million from the 2011/2012 Fuel Poverty Budget to deliver the pilot scheme. The target for the pilot scheme was to replace 1,330 inefficient boilers in low income households. The pilot scheme has been very successful, is currently fully subscribed and will end on 31 March 2012.

### **One-Off Fuel Allowance Payment**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the earliest and latest date on which people who qualify for the one-off fuel allowance payment by virtue of being in receipt of Pension Credit, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, and Job Seekers Allowance, can expect to receive payment.

**(AQW 8462/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The first tranche of Fuel Allowance Payments to over 253,000 people will be made between 22 February and the 27 February 2012. This will result in over 99% of all customers who will be eligible receiving the payment. After this initial phase there will be a small number of newly identified recipients that is, new benefit claims processed since the initial scan of the benefit systems and benefit entitlement has been backdated to the qualifying week. Arrangements have been put in

place to both identify and pay these customers. This will lead to further round of automatic payments to be issued in week commencing 20 March, any payments after that will be made clerically.

## Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

### Art and Antique Works

**Mr McKay** asked the Assembly Commission what is the total value of the art and antique works, which are owned by the Assembly, that are not currently on display; and whether any consideration has been given to the sale of some of these works.

**(AQW 7764/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** Following a valuation in December 2010, I can confirm that the total value of the art and antique works which are owned by the Assembly and which are not on display is as follows;

Description	Value for insurance purposes
Portrait of Rt. Hon JM Andrews by F McKelvey	£2,000
Portrait of Rt. Hon, Sir Basil Brooke Bart Prime Minister for N.I 1943-63	Unfortunately this painting could not be valued at the time of the visit
Portrait of Viscount Craigavon by N Becher	£3,000
Portrait of Sir Henry Wilson by HW Gates	£1,500
Portrait of Lord Armaghdale by Riviere	£2,000
Portrait of Frederick Temple by C Williams	£3,000
Oil painting, an Obelisk at the Boyne by J Tudor	£250,000
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>£ 261,500</b>
Print of Sydenham, Belmont & surrounding area	This item was not valued due to its low value.
Print showing service for Queen Victoria's Jubilee	This item was not valued due to its low value.
Photograph of Queen Victoria	This item was not valued due to its low value.
Large framed display of Historic Parliamentary Occasions 1945	This item was not valued due to its low value.
Framed sealed indenture of Stormont Estate	This item was not valued due to its low value.
Collection of miscellaneous photographs of Parliament Buildings and historic events therein	This item was not valued due to its low value.

The Northern Ireland Assembly Commission has not considered selling any of these works as they were gifted to the Assembly and the Commission would act merely as custodians for the people of Northern Ireland.

I do hope that the above information provides the detail that you sought, however should you require any supplementary information I would be very happy to assist with your enquiry.

## Gas or Oil for Heating and Electricity

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Assembly Commission to detail (i) how much (a) gas or oil for heating; and (b) electricity has been used in Parliament Buildings in each of the last three years; (ii) how much of this (a) gas or oil for heating; and (b) electricity has come from renewable sources.

**(AQW 8263/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** I can confirm the following;

(i)

<b>Financial Years</b>	<b>Total Electricity Consumption Kwh</b>	<b>Total gas Consumption</b>
April 2010 – March 2011	2,477,577 Kwh	2,933,487
April 2009 – March 2010	2,514,082 Kwh	2,960,379
April 2008 – March 2009	2,594,421 Kwh	3,060,699

(ii) Parliament Buildings is part of the wider Stormont Estate contract for electricity procured by the Department of Finance and Personnel, DFP Electricity is supplied to Parliament Buildings by Airtricity from 100% renewable sources such as offshore wind farms. Unfortunately the gas supplied to Parliament Buildings does not come from renewable sources at present.

I do hope that the above information provides the detail that you sought, however should you require any supplementary information I would be very happy to assist with your enquiry.

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# Revised Written Answers

Friday 24 February 2012

**(AQW 7632/11-15)**

I have been advised by the Health and Social Care Board that during the calendar year 2011, they received requests from consultants within the HSC in Northern Ireland for funding approval to send a total of 56 patients to a specialist provider of stereotactic radiotherapy in another part of the United Kingdom. Of these, one request related specifically to the CyberKnife method of stereotactic radiotherapy.

All 56 patients were transferred for treatment, but in the case of the request relating specifically to the CyberKnife method, the HSCB requires additional information for what would now be a retrospective funding. There were no instances where a referral was not approved.

**(AQW 5959/11-15)**

The information is not available in the format requested as Disability Living Allowance appeals are not recorded by the different category types but on an overall basis. Appeals are received both from applicants who were unsuccessful (nil award) and also from those awarded one of the eleven different rates of Disability Living Allowance but were not satisfied with the particular rate awarded. The table below details the total number of Disability Living Allowance appeals processed by the Appeals Service where the decision was more advantageous to appellant. The main reason for more advantageous decisions is the provision of additional information at the tribunal hearing.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Appeals received in the Appeals Service</b>	<b>Number of Appeal Determinations which were more advantageous to appellant.</b>
2008/09	7,016	1,942
2009/10	5,636	1,836
2010/11	5,580	1,651







Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Belfast: The Stationery Office

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ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

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ISBN 978-0-339-70240-0



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