

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 13 April 2012

Volume 74, No WA4

Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	WA 487
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	WA 500
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	WA 518
Department of Education	WA 526
Department for Employment and Learning.....	WA 554
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	WA 564
Department of the Environment.....	WA 580
Department of Finance and Personnel	WA 611
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.....	WA 628
Department of Justice	WA 659
Department for Regional Development.....	WA 680
Department for Social Development	WA 689
Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	WA 700

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

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

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

Assembly Members

Agnew, Steven (North Down)
Allister, Jim (North Antrim)
Anderson, Ms Martina (Foyle)
Anderson, Sydney (Upper Bann)
Attwood, Alex (West Belfast)
Beggs, Roy (East Antrim)
Bell, Jonathan (Strangford)
Boylan, Cathal (Newry and Armagh)
Boyle, Ms Michaela (West Tyrone)
Bradley, Dominic (Newry and Armagh)
Bradley, Ms Paula (North Belfast)
Brady, Mickey (Newry and Armagh)
Buchanan, Thomas (West Tyrone)
Byrne, Joe (West Tyrone)
Campbell, Gregory (East Londonderry)
Clarke, Trevor (South Antrim)
Clarke, Willie (South Down)
Cochrane, Mrs Judith (East Belfast)
Copeland, Michael (East Belfast)
Craig, Jonathan (Lagan Valley)
Cree, Leslie (North Down)
Dallat, John (East Londonderry)
Dickson, Stewart (East Antrim)
Dobson, Mrs Jo-Anne (Upper Bann)
Doherty, Pat (West Tyrone)
Douglas, Sammy (East Belfast)
Dunne, Gordon (North Down)
Durkan, Mark H (Foyle)
Easton, Alex (North Down)
Eastwood, Colum (Foyle)
Elliott, Tom (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Farry, Dr Stephen (North Down)
Flanagan, Phil (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Ford, David (South Antrim)
Foster, Mrs Arlene (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Frew, Paul (North Antrim)
Gardiner, Samuel (Upper Bann)
Gildernew, Ms Michelle (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Girvan, Paul (South Antrim)
Givan, Paul (Lagan Valley)
Hale, Mrs Brenda (Lagan Valley)
Hamilton, Simon (Strangford)
Hay, William (Speaker)
Hilditch, David (East Antrim)
Humphrey, William (North Belfast)
Hussey, Ross (West Tyrone)
Irwin, William (Newry and Armagh)
Kelly, Mrs Dolores (Upper Bann)
Kelly, Gerry (North Belfast)
Kennedy, Danny (Newry and Armagh)
Kinahan, Danny (South Antrim)
Lewis, Ms Pam (South Antrim)
Lo, Ms Anna (South Belfast)
Lunn, Trevor (Lagan Valley)

Lynch, Seán (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Lyttle, Chris (East Belfast)
McCallister, John (South Down)
McCann, Fra (West Belfast)
McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)
McCarthy, Kieran (Strangford)
McCartney, Raymond (Foyle)
McCausland, Nelson (North Belfast)
McClarty, David (East Londonderry)
McCrea, Basil (Lagan Valley)
McCrea, Ian (Mid Ulster)
McDevitt, Conall (South Belfast)
McDonnell, Dr Alasdair (South Belfast)
McElduff, Barry (West Tyrone)
McGimpsey, Michael (South Belfast)
McGlone, Patsy (Mid Ulster)
McGuinness, Martin (Mid Ulster)
McIlveen, David (North Antrim)
McIlveen, Miss Michelle (Strangford)
McKay, Daithí (North Antrim)
McKevitt, Mrs Karen (South Down)
McLaughlin, Mitchel (South Antrim)
McMullan, Oliver (East Antrim)
McNarry, David (Strangford)
McQuillan, Adrian (East Londonderry)
Maginness, Alban (North Belfast)
Maskey, Alex (South Belfast)
Maskey, Paul (West Belfast)
Molloy, Francie (Mid Ulster)
Morrow, The Lord (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Moutray, Stephen (Upper Bann)
Murphy, Conor (Newry and Armagh)
Nesbitt, Mike (Strangford)
Newton, Robin (East Belfast)
Ní Chuilín, Ms Carál (North Belfast)
Ó hOisín, Cathal (East Londonderry)
O'Dowd, John (Upper Bann)
O'Neill, Mrs Michelle (Mid Ulster)
Overend, Mrs Sandra (Mid Ulster)
Poots, Edwin (Lagan Valley)
Ramsey, Pat (Foyle)
Ramsey, Ms Sue (West Belfast)
Ritchie, Ms Margaret (South Down)
Robinson, George (East Londonderry)
Robinson, Peter (East Belfast)
Ross, Alastair (East Antrim)
Ruane, Ms Caitríona (South Down)
Sheehan, Pat (West Belfast)
Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)
Storey, Mervyn (North Antrim)
Swann, Robin (North Antrim)
Weir, Peter (North Down)
Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 13 April 2012

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Underspend by the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail any underspend by the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund since 2001.

(AQW 8348/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund has never declared an underspend from 2001 to date. Where projected spend within the NIMF is lower than the amount awarded, we work with them to identify options to ensure the benefit of funding is maximised to victims and survivors. As an independent charity, the NI Memorial Fund has also historically carried forward reserves.

We continue to provide unprecedented levels of funding to both individuals and groups within the sector. In the last two financial years we provided the Memorial Fund with a total £7.3 million in funding. Under the current round of applications the fund has awarded grants up to 31 March 2012.

The new funding scheme will be opening shortly.

Services Tendered for the Opening of the Ebrington Barracks Site

Mr P Ramsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 7925/11-15, to detail (i) the names of the 74 successful companies; (ii) the cost of each contract; and (iii) the services each company will provide.

(AQW 8693/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: An Events Management company was procured by Ilex through an open competition in line with Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) protocol to manage the opening of the Ebrington Parade Ground. This Events Management company appointed the 74 companies that provided services for the opening ceremony. OFMDFM does not therefore hold the information requested.

Child Poverty

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to define (i) child poverty; and (ii) severe child poverty.

(AQW 8758/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Child Poverty Act 2010 states that a child is to be taken to be living in poverty if the child experiences socio-economic disadvantage.

A child is to be taken to experience socio-economic disadvantage during any period in which –

- (a) the child lives in a household that falls within the relevant income group for the purposes of section 3 (the relative low income target) or section 5 (the absolute low income target), or

- (b) the child lives in a household that falls within the relevant income group for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) of section 4 (combined low income and material deprivation target) and is regarded for the purposes of subsection (1)(b) of that section as experiencing material deprivation.

Severe Child Poverty

The Programme for Government 2008-2011 contained a commitment to 'work towards the elimination of severe child poverty by 2012'. In order to meet this commitment, a definition of 'severe' child poverty and a method of targeting vulnerable children for additional help was developed.

Definition as agreed by the Executive on 16 December 2010:

A headline figure based on a 60% median household income (before housing costs) and a material deprivation score of 35 or more is used as the definition of severe child poverty.

Regeneration of Fort George

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the regeneration of Fort George is included in the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland - Investing Activity Report for East Londonderry, when the site is located within the Foyle constituency.

(AQW 8882/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: During the public consultation on the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland it was brought to the attention of the Strategic Investment Board that the regeneration of Fort George was included in the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – Investing Activity Report for East Londonderry instead of the Foyle constituency in error and this has now been corrected.

NI Memorial Fund and the Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) for their assessment of the efficacy of the NI Memorial Fund's distribution of financial help; and (ii) whether the proposed Victims and Survivors Service is expected to offer similar financial assistance.

(AQW 8987/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We continue to provide unprecedented levels of financial help to both individuals and groups. In the last two financial years we provided the NI Memorial Fund with a total £7.3 million in funding for three application processes between April 2010 and October 2011 that gave awards up to 31st March 2012. The new funding application process will commence shortly.

We have also agreed a transitional plan which will see the administration of any schemes pass from the NI Memorial Fund to the new Victims and Survivors Service during the year.

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at Maze/Long Kesh

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they can offer an assurance that displays at the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the Maze site will not suggest that people convicted of terrorist offences were political prisoners.

(AQW 9093/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: No detailed content for the exhibition and archive element of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre has been developed or approved.

Draft Programme for Government

Mr Swann asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many consultation responses were received on the draft Programme for Government.

(AQW 9180/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We received 432 written responses to the draft Programme for Government. Of this number, 149 were transcripts of a verbatim reply on behalf of the environmental group 'Step Up for Nature'.

Ethnic Minority Development Fund

Ms Lo asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the timescale for funding for the Ethnic Minority Development Fund 2012-2013 to commence; (ii) how panel members and the public will be updated on the Ethnic Minority Development Funding 2012-2013 application process; (iii) whether they would consider hiring temporary staff to minimise the delay in allocating funding, given that the application process has not yet commenced; and (iv) what measures they will put in place to minimise the negative impact the gap in funding may have on groups that are currently in receipt of funding.

(AQW 9307/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The delivery of the Minority Ethnic Development Fund and ensuring continuity of funding for the sector is a priority for us. In line with the findings of the recent evaluation of the Fund, we intend to establish a longer funding period rather than on a yearly cycle. We believe that this will lead to greater stability and capacity building within the sector.

Work to this end is well advanced and we expect to inform relevant parties about future funding arrangements soon.

We are conscious that any gaps in funding resulting from the introduction of the new fund may have a detrimental impact on services provided to the minority ethnic community and to that end we have extended funding for a further six months for those groups currently in receipt of development funding.

We do not consider that the hiring of temporary staff is necessary at this time.

Youth Unemployment

Mr D McIlveen asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what research their Department has carried out on the potential destabilising effect of youth unemployment on the political situation.

(AQW 9317/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: To date, our Department has not carried out nor commissioned any specific research on the potential destabilising effect of youth unemployment on the political situation.

However, addressing issues that may lead to the disengagement of our young people will be a key component of the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy as it develops. The finalised Strategy will inform any additional actions required in respect of further research.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Byrne asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many groups have submitted bids to the Social Investment Fund for the 2012/13 financial year.

(AQO 1455/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering final proposals for the operation of the Fund. Groups will not be applying individually for funds; rather, it is envisaged that each social investment zone comprising of community, political, business and statutory representation will bring forward an area plan setting out their priorities.

Forum for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Abuse

Mr Moutray asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the establishment of an acknowledgement forum for victims and survivors of institutional abuse.

(AQW 9348/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Work is ongoing to establish an acknowledgement forum through which victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse will have the opportunity to recount their individual experiences, within a sensitive and confidential environment.

We have secured suitable accommodation in Belfast to house the acknowledgment forum and have recruited an inquiry secretary and office manager to the inquiry team. We will shortly be appointing panel members to the acknowledgment forum.

Work is ongoing to identify suitable offices for the acknowledgement forum in Derry/Londonderry and we hope to identify the most appropriate location shortly.

The launch of the acknowledgment forum and the inquiry will be advertised widely via local and national media and we anticipate that the work of the forum will commence by the beginning of the summer.

Legislative Programme

Mr Beggs asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline their legislative programme for this Assembly mandate.

(AQO 1526/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: At this time we have already stated our intention, subject to the agreement of the Executive, to bring forward three Bills during the current Assembly mandate.

On 29 September last year, we announced that we will be introducing legislation in the Assembly to confer statutory powers on the Inquiry and Investigation into Historical Institutional Abuse.

On 18 January this year, we announced that we had asked our officials to prepare the necessary legislation to abolish the Department for Employment and Learning and transfer its functions.

Members will also be aware that the Programme for Government, which the Assembly is considering today, contains our commitment to progress legislation to extend age discrimination legislation to the provision of goods, facilities and services. The Programme also contains our commitment to introduce any legislation necessary to implement any agreed changes to post-2015 structures of Government, and this will be confirmed in due course.

Other requirements for primary legislation relating to OFMDFM responsibilities may arise during this mandate and these will be reviewed on a regular basis.

We have also sought and obtained proposals from other Executive Ministers for Bills which they would wish to introduce during the current mandate, and following agreement to the Programme for Government, we intend to present the overall position to the Executive for its consideration. Subsequently, we will write to the Speaker to advise him of our intentions in relation to an overall Executive legislative programme.

Media Communications Protocols

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what media communications protocols exist between their Department and each of its arm's-length bodies; and to publish these protocols.

(AQW 9594/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our Department has no media protocols in place with any of its arms length bodies.

Funding for Minority Ethnic Communities

Mr Kinahan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) what action is being taken to ensure that minority ethnic communities will receive funding after 31 March 2012; and (ii) what interim funding will be available should there be a delay.

(AQW 9623/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The delivery of the Minority Ethnic Development Fund and ensuring continuity of funding for the sector is a priority for us. In line with the findings of the recent evaluation of the Fund, we intend to establish a longer funding period rather than on a yearly cycle. We believe that this will lead to greater stability and capacity building within the sector.

Work to this end is well advanced and we expect to inform relevant parties about future funding arrangements soon.

We are conscious that any gaps in funding resulting from the timing of the introduction of the new fund may have a detrimental impact on services provided to minority ethnic communities and to that end we have extended funding for a further six months for those groups currently in receipt of development funding.

WAVE Trauma Centres

Mr Cree asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the WAVE Trauma Centres are in a position to provide the services necessary for military personnel who have medical problems and mental health issues as a result of active service.

(AQW 9649/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: WAVE receives funding via the Community Relations Council to be used for the benefit of Victims and Survivors who have suffered as a result of the conflict here. The definition of those who can be assisted is contained within Article 3 of the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Delay in Answering Questions

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why they consistently fail to comply with the requirements of Standing Order 20B(4) in relation to the time limits for answering written Assembly Questions.

(AQO 1524/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: There are considerable administrative implications of researching, preparing and processing answers to the over 470 questions which have been tabled to us since the beginning of this mandate. It is also a task which must be undertaken by Ministers alongside all the other responsibilities which they carry.

Apart from the sheer volume of questions, delays can arise in particular cases from the nature of the question, including the range and complexity of information provided and the need to give careful consideration to answers on sensitive issues.

Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse

Mr P Maskey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made on the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse.

(AQO 1530/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: As a part of our preparations we reported to the Assembly last month, we have started to prepare the legislation that will give the investigation and inquiry panel the necessary powers to compel people and documents.

Work is underway to establish an acknowledgement forum, through which victims and survivors will have the opportunity to recount their individual experiences to the inquiry, within a sensitive and confidential environment. Consideration is at an advanced stage looking at potential candidates for the inquiry panel and the acknowledgement forum.

The inquiry will have premises in Belfast City Centre and in Derry/Londonderry.

We are also committed to establishing an advocacy service that will provide support to victims and survivors before, during and after the inquiry. We have arranged for interim support to be provided to

victims and survivors, whilst this service is established, through Lifeline, which can be contacted on 0808 808 8000. Further information on support available to victims and survivors is detailed on the NI Direct website.

We intend that the inquiry and investigation will conclude within two and a half years of its commencement. The chairperson will then be required to provide a report to the Executive within six months.

Appointment Process: Police Ombudsman

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the individuals involved in overseeing the appointment process for the current Police Ombudsman; and (ii) any remuneration which they received.

(AQW 9703/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The appointment of a Police Ombudsman is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, and an independent assessor was assigned by the Commissioner to serve as a full participating member of the appointment panel during the sift of applications and interview of eligible candidates, and to report to the Commissioner at the end of these stages. The assessor was paid a total of £1,625.00 for this work in accordance with scale rates set by the Commissioner's office.

Appointment Process: Police Ombudsman

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to provide a breakdown of the cost to date for the appointment process of the future Police Ombudsman.

(AQW 9704/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Police Ombudsman position is a key element in the policing architecture. The post was advertised widely in the press in December with the aim of attracting high calibre candidates at local, national and international level. Those travelling to interview were eligible for reimbursement of economy travel, subsistence and, in the case of overseas candidates, overnight accommodation costs incurred, as appropriate, at rates agreed in advance with officials administering the process.

Total identifiable costs for the competition, as at 2 April 2012, amount to £25,944.85 consisting of the following:

- £16,134.45 (advertising)
- £4,900.00 (approximate travel costs, as exchange rate variations may impact on this figure)
- £4,875.00 (appointment panel fees, including for the Independent Assessor)
- £35.40 (ancillary expenses)

Landslide Incident in the Marlborough Terrace Area of Londonderry

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 8201/11-15, whether their Department had any role in initiating a co-ordinated response to the landslide incident in the Marlborough Terrace area of Londonderry in December 2011; and if so, to provide details.

(AQW 9750/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In order to advise us of progress, OFMDFM made contact at official level across the range of departments, agencies and other bodies to obtain information on their response to the incident.

Programme for Government: Early Intervention

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the Programme for Government does not include a commitment to prioritise funding for early intervention to reduce the potential for young people to engage in offending behaviour.

(AQW 9779/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We recognise and acknowledge that early interventions are the most effective means of addressing issues that might otherwise affect the ability of young people to fulfil their potential. This includes the discouragement of offending.

The Programme for Government seeks to address the wider issues in a coherent and systemic manner. The Delivery Plans which Departments are producing, in relation to PfG Commitments, will provide further detail including specific reference to a number of proven early interventions.

It is clear from all of this that the Executive has committed and targeted significant levels of funding to support the achievement of positive outcomes for children and young people.

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on Quarter 1 2011/12 of the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan, including the (i) Regeneration Fund Working Group; (ii) Virtual Learning Environment Pilot; (iii) Early Intervention Partnership; (iv) European Youth Capital 2014 application; (v) New City Regeneration Unit; (vi) Ebrington Culture Hub funding application; and (vii) Skills Strategy and Action Plan document.

(AQW 9831/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Developing the 'One Plan' for the regeneration of Derry/Londonderry, incorporating the key sites at Fort George and Ebrington, is a commitment in the Programme for Government and, since its publication, progress in Quarter 1 has been made on a number of objectives including the following areas.

i Regeneration Fund Working Group

The Regeneration Fund Working Group has been established and is currently exploring other alternative models for financing and funding regeneration. It is working with the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) to prepare Terms of Reference and commission consultants to assess practical actions around alternative models for financing/funding of the two sites, Ebrington and Fort George, including the consideration of recycling of receipts, with a view to seeking a determination from HM Treasury and Office of National Statistics (ONS) on the appropriateness of the proposed practical actions identified. In addition, the Working Group will work with Derry City Council to prepare Terms of Reference and commission expert financial and legal advice to determine the feasibility, including proof of concept, of the proposed Regeneration Fund for Derry~Londonderry.

ii Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Pilot

Foyle Cloud (formally VLE) is now entering its 3rd year and is on schedule and delivering outcomes as specified, including:

- Roll out to all 14 schools in 2012/13;
- School Principals wish to expand range of courses on Foyle Cloud in discussions with DE on support.

iii Early Intervention Partnership

Early Intervention Partnership has been established comprising representation from Derry Healthy Cities, Neighbourhood Renewal, DSD, Public Health Agency, SureStart, Western Education and Library Board (WELB) and Ilex, with Derry City Council taking the lead. At its meeting of 27 March, the Partnership agreed that further work was required to identify quantifiable actions against

baseline for objectives within the draft Action Plan. The additional work is to be delivered by mid-May 2012, with a view to finalising the Action Plan in June 2012.

iv European Youth Capital 2014 Application

This is being taken forward by Derry City Council as the lead partner on this project.

v New City Regeneration Unit

The Regeneration Programme Unit has been established and is meeting regularly. The Unit is made up of the Chief Executive of Derry City Council, Chief Executive of Ilex, an Officer from North West Development Office and representatives from the Regeneration Forum and the Business Leaders Group.

vi Ebrington Culture Hub Application

Works on the former Parade Ground have been completed and the new Ebrington Square was opened on 14 February 2012. In addition, funding has been secured for a pilot Animation Programme based on DSD/Custom House Square Model. A business case for the development of a Creative Hub at Buildings 80 & 81 is currently being considered. A Business Case for the Vital Venue at Ebrington for 2013 is awaiting approval.

vii Skills Strategy and Action Plan

The Skills Directorate was established December 2011 and a draft Skills Escalation and Employment Action Plan for Derry~Londonderry 2011-2015 has been developed. The World Host is progressing well within the City and a working group has been established to maximise uptake in the North West. Derry City Council is the lead partner on this project. Ilex is currently exploring with Chamber of Commerce and North West Regional College (NWRC) the roll-out of tailored leadership and management programme to local SMEs.

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on Quarter 2 2011/12 of the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan, including (i) the first meeting of the new City Regeneration Strategy Board; (ii) delivery of the Local Development System; (iii) the launch of integrated place marketing for Derry City; (iv) funding secured for the Quayside development and commenced; (v) establishment of the North West Ireland Working Group to pursue UNESCO World Heritage Status; (vi) the launch of the Diaspora Hall of Fame project at Milwaukee Irish Fest; (vii) the launch of the Creative Classroom project; (viii) the establishment of the Skills Directorate; (ix) the creation of the UNICEF Child Friendly City Framework; and (x) the Tourism and Hospitality Skills Programme underway.

(AQW 9868/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Developing the 'One Plan' for the regeneration of Derry/Londonderry, incorporating the key sites at Fort George and Ebrington is a commitment in the Programme for Government and, since its publication, progress in Quarter 2 has been made on a number of objectives including the following areas.

(i) First Meeting of the new City Regeneration Strategy Board

The first meeting of the new Strategy Board took place in September 2011 and will meet quarterly.

(ii) Delivery of the Local Development System (LDS)

A number of the constituent groups of the LDS have already met and are currently finalising the structure of the remaining groups.

(iii) Launch of the Integrated Place Marketing for the City

Marketing proposition is currently being progressed and developed by Derry City Council.

(iv) Funding Secured for the Quayside development and commenced

Phase I of this development is complete and Phase II went on site February 2012 and is due for completion April 2012. The Department for Social Development is the lead partner on this project.

(v) Establish North West Ireland Working Group to pursue UNESCO World Heritage Status

Derry City Council is the lead partner on this project and they are currently working to establish the working group to pursue World Heritage Status.

(vi) Launch Diaspora Hall of Fame project at Milwaukee Fest

Representatives from Ilex, Derry City Council, Failte Ireland, University of Ulster, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Derry Visitor and Convention Bureau attended this event in August 2011 to promote Derry~Londonderry and Donegal to a global audience.

(vii) Creative classroom project launched

A keynote event led by Sir Ken Robinson was held in March 2011. This is an ongoing project in association with Culture Company 2013. A follow-up event was held on 26 March 2012 – One Day Learning Conference held in St Mary's College.

(viii) Skills Directorate established

A Skills Directorate was established December 2011 and a draft Skills Escalation and Employment Action Plan for Derry~Londonderry 2011-2015 has been developed.

World Host Training is progressing well within the City and a working group has been established to maximise uptake in the North West.

Ilex is currently exploring with Chamber of Commerce and North West Regional College roll-out of tailored leadership and management programme to local SMEs.

(ix) UNICEF Child Friendly framework created

UNICEF has replaced this framework with the "Child Rights Partners Programme" which has the same principles as the Child Friendly Framework. Derry City Council was invited to participate and is the only public authority here to have been invited onto it.

The project is at the initiation stage and the Children's Officer in Derry City Council is leading on this.

(x) Tourism and Hospitality skills programme underway

Ilex was instrumental through the Skills Directorate in identifying the needs for skills in the tourism and hospitality industry in the lead up to 2013. Working closely in partnership DEL Learning and Skills Sector, Derry City Council, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, and the Department Skills Solutions Services have worked to put in place World Host Customer Services Training across NI.

World Host Training is progressing well within the City and a working group has been established to maximise uptake in the North West.

Derry City Council is the lead partner on this project.

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on Quarter 3 2011/12 of the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan, including (i) the operation of the Local Development Strategy; (ii) the Smart Economy in the North West; (iii) the awarding of the decontamination contract for Fort George; (iv) funding for the North West Regional Science Park; (v) the completion of the business case for Phase 1 of the university expansion; (vi) the establishment of the Literacy and Numeracy pilot scheme; (vii) the establishment of the Family Support pilot scheme; (viii) the completion of the City of Culture programme; (ix) the thermal mapping of Derry City; and (x) the Digital City Action Plan underway.

(AQW 9869/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Developing the 'One Plan' for the regeneration of Derry/Londonderry, incorporating the key sites at Fort George and Ebrington is a commitment in the Programme for Government and since its publication progress in Quarter 3 has been made on a number of objectives including the following areas.

(i) Operation of Local Development Strategy

A number of the constituent groups for the Local Development Strategy have already met and are currently finalising the structure of the remaining groups.

(ii) Smart Economy in the North West

An Economic appraisal has been completed by Derry City Council and will be presented to the Steering Committee following the resolution of a number of queries raised by SEUPB.

(iii) Awarding of the Decontamination Contract for Fort George

Consultants have been appointed and the draft remedial strategy is to be agreed with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency by June 2012. The tender for the decontamination contract is due to be advertised in September 2012 with tenders to be returned by January 2013.

(iv) Funding for the North West Regional Science Park

A €14m application has been submitted to SEUPB and a response is expected in May 2012.

(v) Completion of the Business Case for Phase I of the University Expansion

A Working Group chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Richard Barnett, has been established. The Working Group is currently developing a plan in line with Minister Farry's recent announcement.

(vi) Establishment of the Literacy and Numeracy pilot scheme

Early Intervention Partnership is developing an Action Plan which will include consideration of a Literacy and Numeracy pilot.

(vii) Establishment of the Family Support Pilot Scheme

This is being progressed as part of the development of the Action Plan for the Early Intervention City Catalyst Programme.

(viii) Completion of the City of Culture Programme

The Culture Company will launch the highlight Programme of Events for 2013 in May 2012 with the full Programme to be released in September 2012.

(ix) Thermal Mapping of the City

Thermal mapping contract was awarded February 2011 but as yet has not been completed as there must be very specific weather conditions for it to be carried out.

(x) Digital City Action Plan underway

An Action Plan is being developed and underway to be delivered by Digital Derry.

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on Quarter 4 2011/12 of the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan, including (i) the Fort George and Ebrington Planning Development Frameworks; (ii) the completion of the City Health Plan; (iii) the completion of the Neighbourhood Development Plans; (iv) the completion of the Sustainable City Study; (v) the Charter of Rights for older people; (vi) the Retrofitting Action Plan; and (vii) the Maritime Museum building.

(AQW 9876/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Developing the 'One Plan' for the regeneration of Derry/Londonderry, incorporating the key sites at Fort George and Ebrington is a commitment in the

Programme for Government and, since its publication, progress in Quarter 4 has been made on a number of objectives including the following areas.

(i) Fort George and Ebrington Planning Development Frameworks

The Fort George Framework is due to be completed in April 2012.

The Ebrington Framework proposal is currently being developed by Ilex and is expected to be out to tender by June 2012.

(ii) Completion of the City Health Plan

The Draft City Health Plan is due to be completed by June 2012, subject to resources being made available to Derry Healthy Cities.

(iii) Completion of the Neighbourhood Development Plans

Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans have been realigned by the North West Development Office and the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships to the objectives and outcomes of the One Plan.

(iv) Completion of the Sustainable City Study

This project is being considered by the North West Development Office.

(v) Charter of Rights for Older People

Derry Healthy Cities is the lead partner on this project and will be taking this forward.

(vi) Retrofitting Action Plan

This will be taken forward subject to the completion of the Sustainable City Study.

(vii) Maritime Museum Building

A Business Case for the Maritime Museum/Archive/Genealogy Centre is currently being developed by Derry City Council.

Average Cost of Childcare

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to provide an estimate of the average cost of childcare per hour.

(AQW 9966/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: OFMDFM does not currently have access to official statistics on the average cost of childcare per hour. The net cost of childcare to parents will vary according to individual circumstances.

We intend to carry out a consultation later in the year on proposals for a strategy to promote the availability of good quality, accessible, integrated and affordable childcare. This issue will be raised in the consultation and an aim of the strategy will be to provide clearer information on the cost and availability of childcare.

Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee

Mr McKay asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when their Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9974/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The information requested is detailed in the table below and is provided from the start of the current mandate, May 2011.

Date of Committee Meeting	OFMDFM Business	Date Papers sent to Committee
06 July 2011	Qualification of the Department's Resource Accounts	06 July 2011
28 Sept 2011	October Monitoring Round Proposals	27 Sept 2011
05 Oct 2011	Review of the European Division	04 Oct 2011
16 Nov 2011	Departmental Accounting (including Ministerial Direction in relation to Shackleton Site).	15 Nov 2011

Departmental Appointments to Quangos

Mr Weir asked First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the quangos to which their Department makes appointments; (ii) how many members are appointed; and (iii) the remuneration paid to (a) the Chair; and (b) other members.

(AQW 9993/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Information on public bodies, the number of appointees and the remuneration paid to them is set out in the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report published by our Department.

The most recent Report covers the 2010/11 financial year and is available from the OFMDFM website at www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/public-appointments-annual-report-2010-2011.pdf or from the Assembly Library (reference number R351.41609 NOR).

Not included in the OFMDFM section of the Annual Report is the Commissioner for Older People who took up post on 14 November 2011 and receives a salary of £60,000 per annum.

Assembly Written Questions

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, for the last year, to detail (i) the average time; and (ii) the longest time it has taken their Department to answer ordinary and priority Assembly Written Questions tabled by MLAs from (a) the DUP; (b) Sinn Féin; (c) the Alliance Party; (d) the TUV; (e) the Green Party; and (f) independent MLAs.

(AQW 10013/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The information requested is not readily available in the format requested.

Answers to Assembly Questions

Mr Swann asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, for the last year, to detail (i) the average time; and (ii) the longest time it has taken their Department to answer ordinary and priority Assembly Written Questions tabled by MLAs from (a) the Ulster Unionist Party; and (b) the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

(AQW 10107/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The information requested is not readily available in the format requested.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether development and project grants will be made available under the Minority Ethnic Development Fund for the 2012/13 financial year.

(AQW 10207/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We announced an extension of awards of development funding for a further 6 months on 3 April.

This is gap funding, pending the introduction of a revised Minority Ethnic Development Fund which will take account of the recommendations of a recent evaluation of that Fund.

While the details of the revised fund are yet to be finalised, both development and project funding are likely to be available. The details will be discussed with the minority ethnic sector and other key stakeholders over the coming weeks.

Cost of Providing Services

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an estimate of the annual additional cost to their Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10218/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for our officials to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

New Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the skills and experience developed by the NI Memorial Fund and the Community Relations Council will be transferred to the new Victims and Survivors Service.

(AQW 10238/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: It is intended that the staffing structure of the new Victims and Survivors Service will fully address the Service's objectives in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The Service's interim management team have formally initiated the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) process with the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund and the Victims Unit of the Community Relations Council.

One Plan for the Regeneration of the North West Area

Mr P Ramsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the work of the Inter-departmental Co-ordinating Group in delivering the One Plan for the regeneration of the North West area.

(AQW 10266/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Developing the 'One Plan' for the regeneration of Derry/Londonderry, incorporating the key sites at Fort George and Ebrington is a commitment within the Programme for Government. A key performance indicator in delivery of the Commitment is to establish a Departmental Co-ordination Group to progress the implementation of Central Government enabled projects under each of the eleven Catalyst Programmes in the 'One Plan'.

Our Department is leading in this exercise. Nominations were sought from other departments for membership of the group and an initial meeting of the group took place in early April.

This group will work closely with other key delivery partners including the Derry-Londonderry Strategy Board, Ilex and Derry City Council in ensuring progress against the 'One Plan' objectives.

Costs of Opening the Peace Bridge in Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the costs of opening the Peace Bridge in Derry, broken down by (a) service provider; and (b) all other associated costs.

(AQW 10276/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Ilex Urban Regeneration Company has built the Peace Bridge as part of the city's regeneration programme. Funded by the European Union's PEACE III programme (Shared Space initiative), the Peace Bridge is a living landmark and a lasting legacy.

Construction of the bridge commenced in January 2010 and was officially opened on June 25th 2011. The costs of opening the Peace Bridge were as follows:

Peace Bridge Opening Expenditure		
Supplier	Activity	£
Eventor	River Activity Manager (paid via Eventor)	1,626.00
Eventor	Safety Cover Foyle Search & Rescue (paid via Eventor)	2,855.10
CDS	Design Services for the Day	15,944.27
AA	Road Signs	840.00
Estate Services	Stewarding	30,000.00
Unit 7	Unit 7 PA/AV services	29,208.00
North Down Marquees	Marquees	24,429.78
Eventor	Programme of Events	43,632.00
Pains Fireworks	Fireworks Display	25,068.00
PeterD	Catering	23,460.00
D Doherty	Civic Choir	1,250.00
Codetta	Civic Choir	1,000.00
City of Derry Civic Choir	Civic Choir	6,050.00
Artfrique:	Opening Ceremony	2,350.00
Eventor	Event Management Team	5,461.20
Teresa Craig	Master of Ceremonies	500.00
Corish	Video Production Services	5,854.80
Big Fish	Poster reprint	444.00
Yellow Door	Catering	13,248.00
Eventor	Event management fees	30,188.99
	Total	263,410.14

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

The EU Fiscal Treaty

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the potential impact on the farming and agri-food sectors if the electorate in the Republic of Ireland votes against the EU fiscal treaty in the forthcoming referendum.

(AQW 9107/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): The Austerity Treaty does not affect the Common Agricultural Policy and, therefore, if the agreement is not ratified in the south of Ireland, then I do not anticipate any direct impact on the farming and agri-food sectors in the north.

Crossmaglen Republican Monument

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 8721/11-15, why it is not appropriate to divulge the content of the plaques, in that there can be no commercial confidentiality; and (ii) whether her Department is aware of the content.

(AQW 9442/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Whilst my Department are aware of the proposed content of the plaques we do not normally consider it good practice to release information about projects which are still under assessment with no decisions made regarding funding. However with the applicant's permission I attach the proposed wording for each plaque:

PLAQUE A

Background

The idea to erect a memorial to commemorate all those who had contributed in any way to Ireland's struggle for freedom had long been the aim of Crossmaglen Memorial Committee which first began meeting in 1947.

By 1965, the Committee began in earnest to work towards the realisation of this memorial. In June 1970 the site was generously donated by The Market Committee and is now held in trust by Crossmaglen Memorial Committee.

The cost of the memorial was gathered through fundraising by the local community. Many people contributed their time and expertise to the creation of the monument which was cast by Dublin Art Foundry, granite work to the plinth was done by Mickey Keenan, Newry and engraving was completed by Byrne Monumental Works. All site works were completed by donation by McParland Brothers and the sculptor was Yann Goulet.

The monument, entitled 'Glory', was finally erected during the night in 1979.

PLAQUE B

The Sculptor - Yann Goulet

Yann Goulet, sculptor and Breton activist, was born in August 1914 in Brittany and died August 1999 in Bray, Ireland. He was a staunch Breton nationalist who worked tirelessly for the liberation of Brittany.

Throughout his life Goulet spent time in many French and Breton prisons, and at one stage undertook a Hunger Strike which lasted for three weeks. Having eventually fled France for Ireland in the early 40's he was sentenced to death in absentia.

Goulet's artistic career began at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, where he won a scholarship to study art and architecture. In 1952, having been granted Irish citizenship, Goulet became an art professor. He was commissioned to create public works commemorating Irish freedom fighters, including the Custom House Memorial in Dublin, the Ballyseedy Memorial in Kerry and the Glory Memorial in Crossmaglen. He exhibited regularly at the Royal Hibernian Academy, eventually becoming Professor of Sculpture. He was made a member of Aosdána in 1982.

PLAQUE C

The Phoenix

The phoenix is a mythical bird demonstrating rebirth, renewal and immortality. It can live for up to 1000 years and at the end of its life legend has it that the Phoenix builds itself a nest which then ignites.

The Phoenix burns ferociously until only its ashes remain. From these ashes arises a new, young and vibrant Phoenix.

In Yann Goulet's words,

"The blending of phoenix and freedom fighter is unique in its composition. Surging out of the heritage of Nationalist Ireland, they merge in complete unity, figure and symbol completing each other."

PLAQUE D

The Figure

The figure in the sculpture is that of a man striving onwards. There is a sense of movement and energy in the figure, in his striding forward, facing the future.

This sculpture portrays a proud, brave and determined individual embodying the aspirations of the community.

Rural Tourism

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her strategy for rural tourism.

(AQW 9548/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Tourism has the potential to make a substantial contribution to our economy and can bring immense benefits to rural areas. My Department supports rural tourism in a number of ways, such as promoting local produce and supporting the provision of recreational activities in our Forest Parks. Under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme 2007- 2013 my Department has set a budget of £12m for 'Encouragement of Tourism Activities'. Presently this measure has commitment in the region of £7.7 million for delivery of 138 different projects aimed at enhancing Tourism potential of our rural areas.

The Loughs Agency which is co-sponsored by my Department continues to develop marine tourism and angling in the Foyle and Carlingford areas and is currently progressing a number of important initiatives including the development of a marine event platform and city centre cruise ship quay which will form the centre piece of the 'Clipper 11-12 Round the World Yacht Race' in July of this year, a visitor facility at Benone Beach near Limavady, and canoe trails on the River Foyle and Carlingford Lough.

Microchipping of Dogs

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the final provisions of The Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which come into effect in April 2012, what plans she has to promote the compulsory microchipping of dogs.

(AQW 9666/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The control of dogs here is legislated for by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. Local Councils are responsible for enforcing all aspects of the Dogs Order 1983, as amended.

The Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 introduced a number of provisions including making compulsory microchipping of dogs a condition of a dog licence. Microchipping is an essential part of dog control and will assist Council dog wardens to help to reunite stray and stolen dogs with their owners and also to trace the owners of dogs that are dangerous and out of control more quickly.

On 27 June 2011, I attended an event hosted at Parliament buildings by the dog welfare charity, Dogs Trust, to raise awareness of compulsory microchipping. The Dogs Trust provided free microchipping for dog owners at the event and it was attended by a number of MLAs who were encouraged to promote microchipping within their constituency. The event proved to be a great success and in the press release issued by the Dogs Trust, I stated that microchipping was an essential part of dog control here and encouraged dog owners to make use of the free microchipping being provided by the Dogs Trust.

In September 2011, I issued a press release to inform dog owners of the forthcoming provisions of the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 and to advise them of changes to the dog licensing rules coming into effect from 3 October 2011. This was a joint press release with the Councils' Dog Advisory Group. It also advised dog owners of the introduction of compulsory microchipping from April 2012 and encouraged them to take advantage of the free microchipping being provided by the Dogs Trust through local Councils and participating veterinary practices. The press release was extensively covered in local newspapers.

My officials have continued to work closely with Councils and the Dog Advisory Group, who have had a number of ongoing publicity campaigns to advise dog owners of the introduction of compulsory microchipping from 9 April and the free microchipping service being provided by the Dogs Trust, who are working alongside the Councils. The Dogs Trust free microchipping service is also available in 12 pet stores here. For those dog owners unable to get to the pet stores or veterinary practices, the Dogs Trust works in conjunction with local Councils to visit housing areas in their mobile unit.

On 7 March I participated with the Dogs Trust in one of their microchipping campaigns and had my own dog microchipped. At this event, I again took the opportunity to encourage all dog owners to take advantage of the Dogs Trust's generous offer of free microchipping before it becomes a compulsory requirement from 9 April. I conveyed this message in the accompanying press release for the event. I also expressed my gratitude to the Dogs Trust for the invaluable work their organisation carries out in relation to dog welfare and their promotion of microchipping here.

Most recently on 21 March, I issued a press release to announce that the powers for compulsory microchipping of dogs will commence on 9 April. The commencement has also been formally notified to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, Chief Executives of all District Councils, Dogs Trust and the Dog Advisory Group.

I am delighted the Dogs Trust has recently announced that they will be extending their free microchipping campaign for dog owners in the north until the end of 2012.

Animal Welfare: Greyhound Dogs

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans she has to introduce a Bill to enhance animal welfare in relation to the (i) breeding; (ii) working life; and (iii) homing of greyhound dogs at the end of their racing life.

(AQW 9769/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Welfare of Animals Act 2011 provides for the welfare of all animals throughout their life, which includes greyhounds and any other vertebrate animal, and protects them from unnecessary suffering. In addition, powers exist within the 2011 Act to regulate any activity involving animals to protect their welfare and this could include the welfare of racing greyhounds should this prove necessary in the future.

My Department issued a 12 week consultation on proposals in the draft Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments) Regulations 2012 which was carried out between 19 October 2011 and 10 January 2012. The draft Regulations specifically focus on the standards required for any dog breeding establishment, including greyhound breeding establishments here. The draft Regulations include a proposed minimum and maximum age for breeding a bitch and the maximum number of litters.

This consultation was wide ranging and issued to over 2000 consultees. Along with registered breeders, a number of specific greyhound organisations were included, such as Greyhound Welfare NI, Society of Greyhound Veterinarians and the Irish Greyhound Board (Bord na gCon).

Some responses to the consultation proposed exempting greyhounds from these draft Regulations and suggested separate Regulations specifically for greyhound breeding. My officials are currently analysing all the responses received. I will want to consider all stakeholders' views before deciding how to proceed.

I am aware that there are a number of organisations here, in the south of Ireland and in Britain dedicated to rehoming greyhounds when their racing days are over.

Pony Trekking Businesses

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 8850/11-15, who provided her Department with the legal advice on the level of public liability insurance for users of Forest Service land.

(AQW 9798/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Departmental Solicitors Office provides legal advice relating to land and property matters. The quotation in AQW 8850/11-15 was from a licence prepared by DSO, acting on Forest Service instructions, to prepare the legal documentation underpinning the use of forests by 3rd parties.

The Forest Service Instructions specified the £5 million cover, which is a long standing standard requirement for the use of forestry land by third parties. There was no special consideration given to pony trekking businesses.

As some considerable time has passed since that requirement was set I have asked officials to review the amount to make sure it continues to be appropriate for the activities now taking place in forests within the guidance and general principles provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel on such matters.

Farm Modernisation Programme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 8939/11-15, to list the groups that were under-represented in the previous tranches of the Farm Modernisation Programme.

(AQW 9801/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In developing the proposed selection criteria for Tranche 3 of the Farm Modernisation Programme my Department has considered the results of the Section 75 monitoring of beneficiaries of the previous two Tranches and population information relating to the equality composition of the farming industry here or society as a whole. A statistical summary of the Section 75 information collated by NISRA for Tranches 1 and 2 is presented in Table 1 below. An assessment of the impacts of these Tranches of the Farm Modernisation Programme on each of the Section 75 groups is summarised at pages 17-20 of the Farm Modernisation Tranche 3 Equality Impact Assessment which closes for consultation on 18 April 2012. A copy of this document can be found on the

Department's website at: www.dardni.gov.uk/index/consultations/active-consultations/farm-modernisation-tranche-3-equality-impact-assessment.htm.

The cumulative response rate to the Section 75 monitoring forms, issued to successful applicants in these tranches, is approximately 21%. I would encourage all applicants to return their monitoring forms to help improve the reliability and representativeness of the data used for Section 75 monitoring.

TABLE 1: SECTION 75 RESULTS FROM TRANCHE 1 AND TRANCHE 2 BENEFICIARIES COMPARED WITH POPULATION INFORMATION

Section 75 Category	FMP Tranche 1 beneficiaries	FMP Tranches 1 + 2 cumulative beneficiaries	Population information	Source of Population Information
Gender	89% male	91% male	95% male	EU Farm Structure Survey 2010
Marital Status	82% married	77% married	68% married	EU Farm Structure Survey 2010
Disability	7% with a disability	5.8% with a disability	27% of farmers with a disability	Farmers & Farm Families Survey 2001/02

Section 75 Category	FMP Tranche 1 beneficiaries	FMP Tranches 1 + 2 cumulative beneficiaries	Population information	Source of Population Information
Dependants	40% no dependants	42% no dependants	27% no dependants	Farmers & Farm Families Survey 2001/02
Racial Group	99% white	98% white	99% white	2001 Census
Country of birth	99% north of Ireland	97% north of Ireland	91% north of Ireland	2001 Census
Sexual Orientation	97% heterosexual	97% heterosexual	98% heterosexual	NI Life and Times Survey 2009
Religion	77% Protestant 20% Catholic 2% Other	61% Protestant 37% Catholic 2% Other	54% Protestant: 44% Catholic 2% Other	Farmers & Farm Families Survey 2001/02
Political Opinion	68% Unionist 16% Nationalist 15% Not stated	53% Unionist 30% Nationalist 17% Not stated	50.5% Unionist, 42% Nationalist	Westminster Election 2010
Age	4% 25 and under	5% 25 and under	1% under 25; 5% under 35; 20% under 45	EU Farm Structure Survey 2010

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

Gender

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 91% of beneficiaries under Tranche 1 and 2 are male. Population information shows that 92% of farmers are male. There is no significant imbalance between FMP beneficiaries and the contextual information. Due to the make up of the farming industry as a whole, it is likely that the majority of applicants will be male. DARD will, however, ensure that women are alerted to the FMP through ways that are easily accessible to women e.g. rural women's organisations.

Marital Status

Our Section 75 monitoring, shows that 77% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries are married. Population data show that 71% of farmers are married. This indicates that there is an over-representation of married people amongst beneficiaries to date. We are not aware of any aspects of the delivery or criteria for FMP which may have caused an adverse impact in terms of marital status and would welcome any comments on this point.

Disability

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 5.8% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries have stated that they have a disability, (similar to the proportion in T1) although the population information shows that 27% of farmers have a disability. This may indicate non-declaration on the forms, or a lower response rate from farmers with a disability or an under-representation of farmers with a disability amongst beneficiaries to date.

In Tranche 2, the Department put in place mitigation actions to assist those who may be unable to access a computer or to use one to submit an application electronically. DARD also put in place measures to ensure widespread access to DARD offices or other support, and promoted the scheme in different formats. There was widespread discussion and support for these actions. Over 600 farmers used the mitigation actions to submit FMP applications online. It is our intention to use these methods

again for Tranche 3. Our delivery agent, Countryside Agri-Rural Partnership (CARP), will have a helpline in place and farmers who call this number will be directed to a range of local sources of support.

Dependants

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 42% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries have no dependants, similar to T1. Population information shows that 27% of farmers have no dependants. This indicates an over-representation of farmers without dependants amongst beneficiaries. However, as we are not aware of any aspect of the delivery or criteria in Tranche 2 which may have caused an adverse impact in terms of dependants, we would welcome comments on this point. The fact that Tranche 3 will have additional marks to favour young farmers (those under 40), who are more likely to have young dependants, may have a positive influence on this group.

Racial Groups

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 98% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries identify as white. Population information shows that 99% of farmers are white. There is no significant imbalance between beneficiaries and the contextual information and we therefore are not proposing any mitigating actions in respect of racial groups.

Country of birth

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 97% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries were born in the north, and population information (census) shows that 91% of people were born here. We consider that this reflects the realities of farm ownership here, rather than any adverse equality impact created by the Tranche 2 application process or criteria. The vast majority of our farms are family owned, and are traditionally passed down from father to son/daughter, remaining in the family. This may explain the high number of beneficiaries born locally. We do not propose any mitigating action with regard to country of birth.

Sexual Orientation

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 97% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries identify as heterosexual. There is no significant imbalance between FMP beneficiaries and the contextual information, and we do not intend to propose any mitigating actions with regard to sexual orientation.

Religion

The low response rate of the monitoring forms (21% T1 and T2) and the lack of information on how representative these returns are of all beneficiaries, mean that the data must be interpreted with great care and that it is not possible to draw definitive conclusions.

The Section 75 monitoring suggests that 61% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries are Protestant. The Farmers and Farm Families Survey 2001/02 indicates that 54% of farms were owned by a member of the Protestant community and 44% by a member of the Catholic community. This suggests an over-representation of Protestants amongst beneficiaries to date, although less than in Tranche 1. One of the objectives of Tranche 2 was to prioritise those areas where incomes are lower and the need for support for modernisation is greater i.e. Less Favoured Areas (LFA). The apparent change in representation may reflect the impact of this land classification criterion in Tranche 2, as farmers in the SDA are predominantly Catholic, those in DA are broadly 50:50 Catholic:Protestant and farmers in lowland areas are predominately Protestant. DARD analysis of Tranche 2 shows that the approach taken has been very successful in targeting those in Less Favoured Areas in most need of assistance to modernise. Given the high proportion of Letters of Offer not taken up by applicants (25%), the data suggest that the targeting through the land classification criterion has met the greater part of the effective demand amongst this group. Moreover, the additional marks for those not successful in previous tranches should act to mitigate any remaining imbalance by increasing success among groups under-represented in the programme to date.

Political Opinion

Our Section 75 monitoring suggests that 53% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries identify as Unionist, 30% as Nationalist and 17% did not state a political opinion. The Westminster election has been used by the Department as a guide to political opinion and in 2010 50.5% voted Unionist and 42% Nationalist. Against this, our monitoring data suggests a slight overrepresentation of Unionists and a substantial under-representation of Nationalists amongst beneficiaries to date. Both figures have changed significantly from Tranche 1. The change in representation may again reflect the impact of the land classification criterion in Tranche 2 as referred to above. However, with such a low response rate and a significant proportion of "not stated" it is not possible to draw firm conclusions about the extent of under-representation of Nationalists over the two tranches. Again, the 20 additional marks for those not successful in previous tranches should act to increase success among groups under-represented in the programme to date.

Age

Our Section 75 monitoring shows that 5% of Tranche 1 and 2 beneficiaries are aged 25 and under. Contextual information shows that 1% of farmers are less than 25 years old. DARD analysis of the young farmer criterion shows that 24% of beneficiaries were aged under 40 in Tranche 1 and 54% in Tranche 2 compared to the nearest available comparator of 25% aged under 45 (from the EU Farm Structure Survey). This shows that the priority given to young farmers in the criteria has had a substantial impact. We recognise the importance of supporting young farmers and propose to continue to encourage young farmers by retaining the selection criteria which awards additional marks for young farmers aged 40 years or under. We have also consulted with the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) and other stakeholders on this criterion and they are supportive of this approach.

Renewable Energy and Leisure

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 7100/11-15, (i) when the business case for testing commercial opportunities in renewable energy and leisure, including caravan and camping, was completed; (ii) to detail the timescale for the conclusion of the approvals process; and (iii) to outline the associated budgetary limitations and expenditure to date on this project.

(AQW 9837/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Consultants presented the Business Case for commercial opportunities in renewable energy and leisure in March 2011. This was reviewed within the Department and was recently sent to the Department of Finance & Personnel for approval. At this stage I am unable to provide a timescale for completion of the necessary approvals. The contractual budgetary provision put in place by my Department and the Strategic Investment Board for preparation of the Business Case was £100k. Approximately 50% of this has been paid.

Over-Night Camping

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the rationale in classifying over-night camping as commercial as opposed to non-commercial.

(AQW 9839/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Forest Service is directed by the Department of Finance and Personnel to comply with Managing Public Money NI (MPMNI) which sets out the main principles for dealing with resources used by public sector organisations in NI (NI).

As directed by MPMNI, the standard approach to setting charges for public services is to aim for full cost recovery. Where services are supplied into competitive markets, the charges should be set at a commercial rate, including delivering a proper return on the use of resources acquired with public funds.

MPMNI directs public suppliers of commercial services to respect competition law. Otherwise public services using resources acquired with public funds might disturb or distort the fair operation of the market, especially where the public sector provider might be in a dominant position.

The provision of caravan and camping is a service of this kind therefore classification as commercial recreation is appropriate.

Non-commercial recreation refers to visits to all of our forests with entrance charges only levied for the 9 Forest Parks, therefore full cost recovery cannot realistically be achieved in the foreseeable future and the short term objective is to recover at the maximum level that the market will bear.

Commercial Forest Industry

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether statutory requirements exist for leisure facilities to be categorised within the commercial forest industry.

(AQW 9840/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Forest Service is directed by the Department of Finance and Personnel to comply with Managing Public Money NI (MPMNI) which sets out the main principles for dealing with resources used by public sector organisations in NI.

This provides the statutory basis for forest recreation provision to be classified as either commercial or non-commercial.

Netting in Lough Neagh

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what role her Department or its arm's-length bodies have in the (i) regulation of netting in Lough Neagh; and (ii) enforcement of such regulations.

(AQW 9841/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD or its arm's-length bodies have no role in the regulation of netting in Lough Neagh. It is the responsibility of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to regulate netting in Lough Neagh and for the enforcement of such regulations. On one occasion on 15 March 2012 DARD contributed a boat and two staff to assist DCAL at their request to look for nets on Lough Neagh.

Genetically Modified Food

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the impact that the introduction of genetically modified food would have on the agricultural sector.

(AQW 9845/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The European Union operates a control regime for the evaluation and approval of genetically modified (GM) ingredients for food and feed. Only GM varieties that have been scientifically assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as safe can be approved for use in the EU. However, none of the GM crop varieties that are approved for growing in the EU are currently grown in the north of Ireland. Market forces and consumer preferences will also have a part to play in determining demand for food derived from genetically modified material.

The local livestock industry, particularly the pig and poultry sectors, relies heavily on imported feed material such as soya from North and South America where GM varieties are widely used. Only feed material containing GM varieties that have been approved through the EU control regime can be imported into the north of Ireland.

In the north of Ireland roles and responsibilities for the full range of issues raised by the genetic modification of food and animal feed are distributed across several local Departments and agencies, including the Department of the Environment (DOE) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The safety of GM material for human consumption is a matter for the FSA, so the FSA is in the lead on GM authorisations. The DOE is responsible for policy and legislation on the environmental safety of GM material and therefore would be the lead on any request to grow GM crops in the north.

DARD's role is strictly limited to the enforcement of European law governing the importing of animal feeding stuffs and seed certification. DARD implements EU regulations which require labelling of all feed products derived from genetically modified material. Approval of GM seed is at European Union level and decisions are not made locally.

I am both personally and politically opposed to the growing of GM crops on the island of Ireland.

Eggs Imported into Northern Ireland

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she has any evidence of eggs being imported into Northern Ireland which have been produced by hens kept in battery cages. (AQW 9873/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has no evidence of eggs being imported into the north, which have been produced by hens kept in battery cages since the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive came into force on 1 January 2012.

From 1 January 2012 my Department's inspectors have not identified any batches of non-compliant Class A eggs, either of domestic origin or from other EU Member States. To date, only a small number of consignments of eggs from other Member States have been encountered. Origin details of these consignments were checked against Member States' lists of compliant premises and inspectors examined the eggs under ultra-violet light. The eggs were found to be compliant with Egg Marketing Regulations, including production method criteria.

EU Egg Marketing Regulations require all Class A eggs to be labelled with their method of production and this must be in conformity with production criteria specified in the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive.

Any eggs produced in systems which do not meet these production criteria are prohibited from being placed on the Class A (shell egg) market but may be used for processing or disposed of as an Animal By-product.

Field Boundary Restoration

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the make, manufacture and specification of measuring wheels used by her Department in the verification of measurements for Field Boundary Restoration work under the Countryside Management Scheme. (AQW 9907/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The details of measuring wheels that are used to measure Field Boundary Restoration work for the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) are provided in Table 1. In 2011 my Department also used mobile mapping and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to accurately measure Field Boundary Restoration work during inspections for the 2010 claims to the new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS).

TABLE 1

Make	Manufacture	Specification
Trumeter 5000 - 611	Trumeter Technologies Ltd	Accuracy \pm 1%
Trumeter Measuremeter	Trumeter Technologies Ltd	Accuracy \pm 1%
NEDO Lightweight Measuring Wheel	NEDO Nestle & Fischer GMBH	Accuracy \pm 0.05 %

Field Boundary Restoration

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) which certified body is responsible for the calibration of the measuring wheels used by her Department in the verification of measurements for Field Boundary Restoration work under the Countryside Management Scheme; (ii) how often each wheel is calibrated; and the permissible tolerance.

(AQW 9908/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department uses measuring wheels to measure Field Boundary Restoration work for the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS). My Department also uses mobile mapping and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to measure Field Boundary Restoration work during inspections for the new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS).

- (i) My Department does not use a certified body to calibrate measuring wheels.
- (ii) Measuring wheels are examined before every inspection for signs of damage which may cause reduced accuracy. This year DARD intends to commence an in-house calibration exercise for measuring wheels. Measuring wheels are purchased with a tolerance of $\pm 0.05\%$ or $\pm 1\%$ depending on the manufacturer.

Field Boundary Restoration

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development which certified body completed the training for of departmental staff in the use of measuring wheels used by her Department in the verification of measurements for Field Boundary Restoration work under the Countryside Management Scheme.

(AQW 9909/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department does not use a certified body for the training of Departmental staff in the use of measuring wheels, but rather training is completed in-house. Measuring wheels are bought with a tolerance of $\pm 0.05\%$ or $\pm 1\%$ depending on the manufacturer.

Field Boundary Restoration

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many measuring wheels are used by her Department in the verification of measurements for Field Boundary Restoration work under the Countryside Management Scheme; and (ii) whether her Department holds calibration and maintenance records for each wheel to allow full traceability and audit.

(AQW 9910/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- i) My Department uses 27 measuring wheels to measure Field Boundary Restoration work for the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS). These wheels were also used for rapid field visits for the new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS). However in 2011, my Department also used mobile mapping and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to measure Field Boundary Restoration work during inspections for the 2010 claims for the new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS).
- ii) My Department does not hold calibration and maintenance records for these wheels, however this year DARD intends to commence an in-house calibration exercise for measuring wheels.

Failure to Properly Dispose of Dead Animals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farmers have been prosecuted for failing to properly dispose of dead animals in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9923/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

Dates of Conviction	Number of persons convicted	Number of offences
23/03/2007-22/03/2008	8	18
23/03/2008 – 22/03/2009	3	9
23/03/2009 – 22/03/2010	3	3
23/03/2010 – 22/03/2011	4	5
23/03/2010 – 22/03/2012	6	8
Total	24	43

31 offences of failure to dispose of carcasses – 19 persons convicted

7 offences of allowing animals access to carcasses – 5 persons convicted

5 offences of failure to comply with a notice to dispose of carcasses - 3 persons convicted

Bovine TB

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many (i) beef; and (ii) dairy cattle have been slaughtered as a result of Bovine Tuberculosis in each of the last three years.

(AQW 9925/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department does not routinely record the detailed information sought. However, for the purpose of this question, dairy cattle reactors have been defined as female animals of a recognised dairy production breed and beef cattle reactors taken as all other TB reactors.

Year	All Reactors	Beef Cattle Reactors	Dairy Cattle Reactors
2011	8136	4328	3808
2010	6404	3912	2492
2009	8198	4239	3959

Departmental Advisors to the Beef and Dairy Industries

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Departmental advisors are currently servicing the (i) beef; and (ii) dairy industry.

(AQW 9926/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department currently has (i) 12 advisory posts to assist beef farmers and (ii) 16 advisory posts to assist dairy farmers.

EU Welfare of Laying Hens Directive

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the meetings she has had in relation to member states' compliance with the EU Welfare of Laying Hens Directive.

(AQW 9950/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have had discussions with Minister Simon Coveney and Minister Jim Paice on several occasions about compliance with and enforcement of the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive. I have also had meetings with the Ulster Farmers' Union and the British Egg Industry Council to discuss my enforcement strategy in relation to the Directive.

The Welfare of Laying Hens Directive was also raised by the Defra Minister of State, Jim Paice, when he met EU Commissioner John Dalli in London on 6 February 2012.

All Member States' Action Plans have been discussed at the monthly EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFAH) meetings, which took place in January, February and March 2012. At the SCoFAH meeting in Brussels on 8-9 March, it was reported that 13 Member States remain non-compliant with the Laying Hens Directive.

The Commission has undertaken the actions that we were pressing for; formal infraction letters have been sent to all 13 non-compliant Member States; these Member States have been required to submit action plans for achieving compliance and they have agreed not to export any conventional caged eggs (just the food or industrial product made with those eggs). The Commission is targeting its EU Food and Veterinary Office Audit Missions in the non-compliant Member States.

Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when her Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9975/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Since May 2011, the Department has provided papers relating to a Committee presentation in less than 48 hours as outlined below:-

Description/Topic	Date paper issued to Committee	Date of presentation to Committee
Budget Settlement (including Savings Plan)	31 May 2011	31 May 2011
DARD Business Plan 2011/12	27 June 2011	28 June 2011
Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals Regulations (NI) 2011	28 November 2011	29 November 2011
DARD Business Plan 2011/12	9 January 2012	10 January 2012
Schmallenberg Virus update	28 February 2012	28 February 2012

The Department aims to provide information to Assembly Committees in accordance with existing guidelines and subject to any specific timescales which may have been agreed with the Committee Clerk.

Badger Diggers

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department has taken to counter the threat posed by badger diggers; and what effect the movement of badger diggers has had on the spread of disease in farm animals and wildlife.

(AQW 10005/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: While the badger is a protected species under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985, the statutory and enforcement responsibility does not rest with my Department. I am aware of the recent allegations made about interference with badger setts and badger baiting and I deplore any such illegal activity.

Movement of personnel between farms will represent a risk if biosecurity advice is not followed. There is no scientific evidence that would enable my Department to measure the effect of the movement of badger diggers on the spread of disease in farm animals or wildlife. However, I am not aware of any TB breakdown in any cattle herd that can be attributed to such alleged activity.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10006/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: To comply with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1982, an assessment of the requirement for fully trained and certified First Aiders is conducted at each departmental location and the relevant number of staff appointed. All departmental First Aiders are fully trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation as part of their certification course.

In addition, due to the large number of students and customers who use the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise Campuses, defibrillators are available at each site. A number of staff have been trained to operate the defibrillators to ensure that there is coverage at all times.

Hydroelectric Scheme on the River Camowen in Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she has any concerns about the recently installed hydroelectric scheme on the River Camowen in Omagh. [R]

(AQW 10007/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Rivers Agency are satisfied that all necessary precautions in respect of drainage and flood risk were met to allow the scheme to progress. Any issues raised have been addressed during the planning and consent process, to comply with schedule 6 of the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973.

Hydro-Electricity Scheme

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department was fully involved in the consultations on the installation of the hydroelectric scheme on the River Camowen by Omagh District Council. [R]

(AQW 10008/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Rivers Agency were fully consulted by Planning Service as a consultee in respect of the drainage and flood risks associated with this development. My Rivers Agency also worked with the developer on this project who provided a flood risk assessment to my Rivers Agency.

Dog Licensing and Microchipping

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to increase the compliance rates for dog licensing and microchipping.

(AQW 10045/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The control of dogs here is legislated for by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. Local Councils are responsible for enforcing all aspects of the legislation. The Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 introduced a number of provisions including making the microchipping of dogs a condition of the licence.

Local Councils provide my Department with statistics relating to enforcement of the Order on a quarterly basis. These statistics have shown a steady rise in the number of dog licences issued each year. In 2005 over 95,000 licences were issued. This has increased every year with almost 135,000 licences issued in 2011.

During the past year I have taken part in a number of initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness and encouraging voluntary uptake before microchipping became compulsory on 9 April 2012.

For example, on 27 June 2011 and 7 March 2012, I attended events hosted by Dogs Trust as part of their campaign to provide free microchipping. At both of these events I took the opportunity to encourage dog owners to take advantage of Dogs Trust's generous offer of free microchipping.

In September 2011, I issued a joint press release with the Councils' Dog Advisory Group advising dog owners of the forthcoming provisions of the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 and to advise them of changes to the dog licensing rules which came into effect on 3 October 2011. The press release was extensively covered in local newspapers and the media.

Most recently, on 21 March 2012, I issued a press release to announce that the powers for compulsory microchipping of dogs commenced on 9 April. The commencement has also been formally notified to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, Chief Executives of all District Councils, Dogs Trust and the Dog Advisory Group.

My officials have continued to work closely with Councils and the Dog Advisory Group, who have had a number of ongoing publicity campaigns advising dog owners of the introduction of compulsory microchipping and the free microchipping service being provided by Dogs Trust.

I am delighted Dogs Trust has recently announced that they will be extending their free microchipping campaign for dog owners in the north until the end of 2012.

My Department will continue to monitor the statistics provided by Councils relating to the enforcement of the Order, which will include the new requirement for microchipping since 9 April 2012.

The Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, how her Department will address the consequences of breed specific provisions including (i) the breeding of 'status' dogs; (ii) the number of stray dogs; (iii) a false sense of security for owners of other types of dogs; and (iv) the unnecessary public expenditure on the seizure of dogs because they are of a certain breed, rather than having displayed aggression; and whether she will make a statement on this issue.

(AQW 10049/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) The control of dangerous dogs, is regulated under the Dogs Order 1983 ("the Order"), as amended. The Order designates certain dog types which it is an offence to own. These are dogs that are of a type bred for fighting, including Pit Bulls, Japanese Tosas, Dogo Argentinos and Fila Brasilieros. Councils are responsible for enforcing this legislation and may seize any dog that appears to be of a prohibited type. The Dangerous Dogs Order 1991, which banned ownership of Pit Bulls and Japanese Tosas, and the Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Order 1991, which banned Dogo Argentinos and Fila Brasilieros, were both introduced in October 1991.

The issue of the ban on certain dangerous dogs was considered during the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development's scrutiny of the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"), and was raised in debates during the Act's passage through the Assembly, but ultimately no change to the ban was proposed. The 2011 Act made no changes to the existing prohibition, but it provided some clarification to the circumstances in which an exemption from the prohibition could be made available through the courts.

The 2011 Act has strengthened the provisions to deal with the issue of uncontrolled dogs and dog attacks regardless of the breed of dog involved. It has introduced a new system of control conditions that Council dog wardens may impose where there has been a breach of dog control law. These controls include keeping the dog securely fitted with a muzzle when in a public place; keeping it under control (leashed) when in a public place; keeping the dog securely confined in a building, yard or other enclosure when not under control; keeping it away from any place; and/or having the dog neutered (if male).

- (ii) Under the Order it is an offence to allow a dog to stray, regardless of its type. The 2011 Act introduced compulsory microchipping from 9 April 2012. This, along with robust control conditions, the new offence of a dog attack on another pet, more substantial penalties and stiffer fixed penalties, will help dog wardens enforce the law. It will also hold careless or irresponsible owners and keepers to account where they have failed to exercise adequate control of their dogs. The new

provisions will help protect the public, promote responsible ownership and penalise irresponsible owners.

- (iii) During consultation on the 2011 Act, some stakeholders raised concerns about the prohibition on certain dog types only. While certain types of dogs are prohibited because of the specific risk they pose, this does not imply that other dogs are not dangerous. The legislation provides protection to the public from dangerous dogs regardless of their breed.
- (iv) In my view it is not a waste of public money to remove dangerous dogs from harming the public whether they are of a prohibited type or not. Public safety is my key priority. It was for this reason that the 2011 Act increased the resources available for enforcement by Councils through an increase in the level of the dog licence fee. In addition, the Act provided for an increase in the levels of fixed penalties, the receipts from which are, for the first time, kept by Councils.

Loughs Agency: Prosecutions

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the 161 illegal nets seized by the Loughs Agency, how many prosecutions have been brought and how many are ongoing.
(AQW 10063/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: 10 cases relating to 18 individuals have been presented to the Loughs Agency's solicitors for ongoing processing through the courts.

Loughs Agency: Prosecutions

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the 12 boats seized by the Loughs Agency, how many prosecutions have been brought and how many are ongoing.
(AQW 10064/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: 11 boats were persons unknown or abandoned by persons fleeing the scene of an incident. 1 boat is the subject of an ongoing case.

Loughs Agency: Prosecutions

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the 36 bags of Oysters seized by the Loughs Agency, how many prosecutions have been brought and how many are ongoing.
(AQW 10065/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: 12 bags of oysters seized resulted in persons being formally cautioned, 2 bags were seized owner unknown, and 22 bags of oysters are the subject of ongoing court proceedings against 2 persons.

Loughs Agency: Prosecutions

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the two cars seized by the Loughs Agency, how many prosecutions have been brought and how many are ongoing.
(AQW 10066/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In relation to the two cars seized by the Loughs Agency, there are 2 ongoing prosecutions involving three individuals.

Countryside Management Scheme Payments

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department is on target to make the 2011 Countryside Management Scheme payments.
(AQW 10071/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department makes Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) payments on an on-going basis. CMS is claimed throughout the year around the anniversary date of the agreement. The new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) is claimed annually on the Single Application Form. DARD

aims to begin making payments for 2011 claims for NICMS by September 2012. DARD is currently on target to meet this date.

Countryside Management Scheme Payments

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Countryside Management Scheme payments have been issued for 2011; and what is the timescale for release of all payments.

(AQW 10072/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department makes Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) payments on an on-going basis. CMS is claimed throughout the year around the anniversary date of the agreement. The new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) is claimed annually on the Single Application Form. My Department has not yet issued payments for 2011 claims for the NICMS. In line with EU requirements, all inspections must be completed before any claims can be paid. I expect that inspections will be completed by August 2012 after which payment processing will begin. The timescale for all payments will be determined by the findings of the inspections.

Provision of Services in our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an estimate of the annual additional cost to her Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10090/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Crossmaglen Republican Monument

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 9489/11-15, whether the representations from the Joint Council Committee had the support of both its unionist and nationalist membership; and what is the wording planned for the plaques.

(AQW 10101/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The SOAR Joint Council Committee is an incorporated body empowered by my Department to deliver funding under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme. Its internal decision making process is governed by its Standing Orders i.e. each decision must have a proposer, seconder and have the support of the majority present to vote. The request to the Department to review its decision on the eligibility of the proposed Crossmaglen Monument project was conveyed on behalf of the JCC by its Chairman.

The proposed wording for the plaques has been provided in response to your AQW 9442-11-15.

North-South Ministerial Council Meetings

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, further to her statement on 26 March 2012 on the North-South Ministerial Council meeting, over what period the (i) 161 illegal nets; (ii) 12 boats; and (iii) 2 cars were seized.

(AQW 10102/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The seizures were made between the 1st January 2011 and the 13th November 2011.

North-South Ministerial Council Meetings

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, further to her statement on 26 March 2012 on the North-South Ministerial Council meeting, how many people have been (i) arrested or

questioned; (ii) charged; and (iii) processed through the courts and with what result, in relation to the (a) 161 nets; (b) 12 boats; and (c) 2 cars that were seized; and what happened to the seized items.

(AQW 10103/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: No one was arrested as the Loughs Agency does not have the power of arrest.

18 people have been charged with all cases remaining pending.

In relation to the seized items, 80 nets and 5 boats have been the subject of destruction orders by the courts and 81 nets, 7 boats and 2 cars are in the process of being presented to the courts for orders for their forfeiture and destruction.

Departmental Headquarters

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she has established a shortlist of suitable locations for her new departmental headquarters.

(AQW 10182/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As you will be aware the advancement of the relocation of the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is one of the commitments set out in the Executive's Programme for Government 2011-2015. Work on delivering this important commitment is progressing. The Programme Board for DARD HQ Relocation recently submitted a paper to me with views on possible shortlisting criteria to ensure alignment with the key Executive Strategies and policies. I am currently considering this with a view to establishing a shortlist of suitable locations. This will help to inform the way ahead including the options to be considered in the outline business case.

Allocation from the European Commission

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much of her Department's total allocation from the European Commission is directed to administration.

(AQW 10196/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Of the income received from the European Commission, there is only one area where my Department directs income to administration, i.e. NI Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) Axis 1 and Axis 3.

The amounts DARD has directed to administration from the European Commission from the start of the NIRDP i.e. 2007, to the end of January 2012 are as follows:

Axis 1	Axis 3
£2.082m	£3.725m

The Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the impact of the Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, specifically the provision to allow dog wardens to attach conditions to dog licences where a dog's behaviour has led to a breach of the legislation; and whether there are any plans for an extension of dog control legislation to include private land.

(AQW 10210/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The control of dogs here is legislated for by the Dogs Order 1983 ("the Order"), as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 ("the Act"). The new provisions, which give powers to council dog wardens to attach control conditions to dog licences where an offence under the Order has been committed, came into operation on 3 October 2011.

The purpose of these provisions is to give council dog wardens greater powers to enforce changes to the management of a dog and so help to protect the public from dangerous or problem dogs. These provisions received widespread support during consultation.

My Department will monitor the enforcement of the new provisions through the quarterly statistical information that Councils are required to provide regarding the enforcement of the dog control legislation generally. Councils will be required to provide information regarding the new provisions of the Act starting from June 2012. At present, it is too early to make an objective assessment of the impact the new provisions are having.

Many of the provisions within the Dogs Order 1983, as amended, apply to private land. For example, under Article 25C, a magistrate may issue a warrant authorising a dog warden to enter and search premises in order to seize a dog of a banned type. Under Article 28, a person is guilty of an offence if they set a dog on another person, livestock or any animal owned by another person; this applies no matter where the attack takes place unless the person attacked is trespassing. Article 42 gives dog wardens the power to enter any land, other than a dwelling house, in order to prevent a dog attacking a person, livestock or another dog.

We now have the most robust dog control legislation in these islands and I have no plans to extend the legislation any further at this time.

Work Following the Flooding in the South Antrim Constituency in 2008

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what work has been (i) proposed; (ii) commenced; and (iii) completed following the flooding in the South Antrim constituency in 2008.
(AQW 10324/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Rivers Agency has commenced and completed various schemes to improve flood protection to urban areas within the Sixmilewater catchment since August 2008. Works completed at Antrim and Muckamore include raising of the floodwall and flood bank at Meadowside, culvert replacement at Abbeyview and the removal of a bridge across the river at Grangers Mill. Culvert works have also been completed at Edenduff and Ballynure. Work to improve the flood alleviation at Fourmile Burn is in progress. In October 2010, my Rivers Agency also completed a major Feasibility Study, with an Economic Appraisal which has been approved by DFPNI. Any further schemes identified, will be prioritised alongside other such schemes and taken forward as financial resources permit. My Rivers Agency has no further works planned for this area at this time.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Media Communications Protocols

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what media communications protocols exist between her Department and each of its arm's-length bodies; and to publish these protocols.
(AQW 9567/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): The Department is presently seeking agreement with its ALBs on a Communications Protocol. The Department will publish the document once finalised.

SportNI has drafted and asked for the Department's agreement on two communications protocols.

Press Guidelines

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will publish the memo on press guidelines which she sent to her Department's arm's-length bodies.
(AQW 9655/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department is presently seeking agreement with its ALBs on a Communications Protocol. The Department will publish the document once finalised.

Press Guidelines

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why she issued the memo on press guidelines to her Department's arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 9658/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department has issued a letter to ALBs on a communications protocol in order to promote best practice in communication to ensure that the media and the general public are fully informed about DCAL and the work of the ALBs.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what meetings she has had with (i) the Irish Football Association and (ii) the GAA in 2012 to date.

(AQW 9730/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: During 2012 I have met with the Gaelic Athletic Association to discuss the Líofo 2015 initiative. I met with Patrick Nelson from the Irish Football Association on 23 August 2011 and I plan to meet with the IFA in the near future to discuss the Líofo initiative.

I have also had a meeting on cultural awareness at which GAA officials were present.

Appointment of Special Advisers

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the selection process that will be followed for the appointment of her new special adviser.

(AQW 9731/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The DCAL Special Adviser will be appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers and the Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order 1999 as amended.

Ministerial Attendance at Cultural Events

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what cultural events she plans to attend during 2012.

(AQW 9734/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: To date in 2012 I have attended the following open air cultural events:

Event	Date
Opening of Ebrington Square, Derry	February 2012
GAA Participation in Derry City of Culture event	March 2012
Switch on of the Global Rainbow	March 2012

At this time it is my intention to attend the following events later this year:

Event	Date
School Games at Olympic Park	May 2012
Unveiling of the Olympic Rings	May 2012
"La Boheme" at Belfast and Derry sites	May 2012
Newry Olympic Torch Relay Celebration	June 2012
London 2012 Festival – Peace One Day Concert	June 2012

Event	Date
Land of Giants Main Event	June 2012
Paralympic Flame Festival	August 2012

These intentions may be subject to change, and further events will be added to my diary as the year progresses.

Grant Funding

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much grant funding has been awarded by her Department or its arm's-length bodies, in each of the last five years, to sports clubs that are named after people who took part in the Maze Prison hunger strikes.

(AQW 9797/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The name of a sporting organisation is not part of any assessment criteria for funding and Sport NI, which is responsible for the distribution of funding to sport, does not monitor awards that it provides to sporting clubs on the basis of whether or not they are named after people who took part in any Long Kesh/Maze hunger strike. I am, however, aware that in 2009/10 an award of £245,000 was made to one club, Kevin Lynch's Hurling Club, towards the construction of changing rooms and toilet facilities.

Decade of Centenaries

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has received or sought any advice from the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster Scots Academy in relation to how the decade of centenaries should be commemorated or celebrated.

(AQW 9961/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: On 15 March 2012, Ministers agreed that it was appropriate and necessary for the Executive to set the tone and provide leadership in putting an official acknowledgement process in place to mark the forthcoming Decade of Commemorations. It was unanimously agreed that I and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment will jointly bring forward a programme based on the principles of; educational focus, reflection, inclusivity, tolerance, respect, responsibility and interdependence.

Our arts and cultural base can play a key role in telling the stories behind these centenaries and other significant anniversaries. The knowledge and skills within the arts, museums, libraries, public records, the creative industries and, indeed, the MAGUS, can help us to explore historical facts, review different interpretations, and gain a better understanding of who we are and how our past shapes our relationships today.

MAGUS is considering commissioning research studies into various aspects of those centenaries of relevance to Ulster-Scots history, heritage and culture. Should these studies go ahead, then they will provide further insight into our connected past and help inform the broader official acknowledgement process being put into place by the Executive. There is a diverse range of significant events from the distant and more recent past that are important to many people. The key issue is not whether these events are remembered but how they are remembered in the context of a shared and accepting society.

Arts Council Lottery Funding

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many of the Local Authority controlled regional theatre venues were built with Arts Council lottery funding.

(AQW 9962/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Thirteen Local Authority controlled regional theatre venues (including multi-purpose arts centres containing performance spaces) received lottery funding from the Arts Council towards the cost of building or refurbishment.

See attached table:

Local Authority	Project	Grant
Antrim Borough Council	Antrim Castle Gardens -Clotworthy House Arts Centre	£241,862
Antrim Borough Council	Refurbishment/Conversion - Old Antrim Courthouse	£500,407
Armagh City & District Council	Marketplace Theatre	£3,672,452
Ballymena Borough Council	The Braid Arts Centre	£2,000,000
Coleraine Borough Council	Extension to Flowerfield Arts Centre	£1,387,875
Cookstown District Council	Burnavon Arts Centre	£1,125,585
Down District Council Arts Service	Extension to Down Arts Centre	£620,510
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	Castle Hill Development; Refurbishment & Extension of Ranfurly House	£500,000
Larne Borough Council	Refurbishment of Carnegie Library for arts provision	£269,976
Lisburn City Council	Island Arts Centre	£1,301,571
Newtownabbey Borough Council	Theatre at the Mill	£371,309
Omagh District Council	Strule Arts Centre	£4,000,000
Strabane District Council	Alley Arts Centre	£763,250

Arts Council Funding

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many of the Local Authority controlled regional theatre venues currently receive arts funding from the Arts Council to assist in the programming of the venues.

(AQW 9963/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: No Local Authority controlled regional theatre venues currently receive arts funding from the Arts Council.

In March 2009, due to budgetary pressures, the Arts Council ceased providing annual funding to local authority owned theatre venues in order to concentrate its funding on the independent arts sector.

Local authority owned theatres can apply to other programmes but are a low priority.

Capital Funding for Regional Theatre Venues

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans there are to enable regional theatre venues outside Belfast to access capital funding to develop their arts facilities.

(AQW 9964/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department has no plans to fund capital arts projects over the next three years. There has been a significant investment in capital arts projects in recent years as a result of which

there are a number of high quality arts venues across the north of Ireland including the Crescent Arts Centre, Lyric Theatre, Playhouse Theatre and Waterside Theatre.

There is however, capital funding of £200k available per year over the next three years which will enable regional venues and other arts organisations to apply for minor refurbishment and equipment.

This funding will be administered by the Arts Council.

Committee Papers Presented by the Department

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when her Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9976/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: From the start of the current mandate, on one occasion my Department provided papers pertaining to a presentation to an Assembly Committee less than 48 hours beforehand. The Departmental briefing was on the Review of Core Funding by Foras na Gaeilge.

Arrangements for the provision of papers are discussed and agreed in line with the guidelines for the provision of information between Departments and Assembly Committees.

Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department communicates or interacts with the Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

(AQW 9978/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: A DCAL official met Members of the Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities during its visit to Belfast on 7 March 2011.

Interaction between DCAL and the Advisory Committee in written form is through OFMDFM.

Advice on the Irish Language

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, over the last 5 years, what advice on the Irish language her Department has provided to the Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

(AQW 9979/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL provided input to the second report submitted by the British Government pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities which was received by the Council of Europe 22 February 2007.

The full report can be viewed on their website at the link below.

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_SR_UK_en.pdf

The third report was received on 23 March 2010 without Northern Ireland input. The Northern Ireland input was not agreed.

A DCAL official met Members of the Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities during its visit to Belfast on 7 March 2011.

The Committee was advised of the commitment in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 Section 28D which states:

“(1) The Executive Committee shall adopt a Strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.”

Advice on Ulster-Scots

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, over the last 5 years, what advice on Ulster-Scots her Department has provided to the Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

(AQW 9980/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL provided input to the second report submitted by the British Government pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities which was received by the Council of Europe 22 February 2007.

The full report can be viewed on their website at the link below.

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_SR_UK_en.pdf

The third report was received on 23 March 2010 without Northern Ireland input. The Northern Ireland input was not agreed.

A DCAL official met Members of the Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities during its visit to Belfast on 7 March 2011.

The Committee was advised of the commitment in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 Section 28D which states:

“(2) The Executive Committee shall adopt a Strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and develop the Ulster Scots language, heritage and culture.”

Creative Industries Sector

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the duplication of activities across her Department, its arm's-length bodies and other agencies and initiatives in relation to the Creative Industry sector.

(AQW 9981/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The challenges facing the creative industries in the north of Ireland include a fragmented sector with insufficient scale and engagement in international markets, and diverse government interventions which at times lack effective coordination.

The diversity within the creative industries means that no one department, agency or representative body can fully realise the sector's potential in isolation.

My Department, in partnership with DETI and Invest NI, is developing a collaborative framework to define the structures, roles and principles guiding strategic collaborations and investment across the creative industries. This aims to harness the region's creative skills and knowledge and support businesses in developing innovative content, products, services and experiences capable of competing in global markets.

The framework will constitute a strategic partnership between industry, government and academia to realise the potential of the creative industries and their contribution to rebuilding and rebalancing the economy.

Big Screen, Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure who is responsible for the programming shown on the Big Screen in Derry.

(AQW 10004/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Derry Live Sites Programme is managed by the BBC, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games & Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and Derry City Council.

The Live Site programme brings the public the latest news in the lead-up to the 2012 Games and is at the centre of action during the Games this summer.

Sporting fixtures and music performances will also be part of the programme.

Toome Eel Fishery

Mr Molloy asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the recent incident in which hooks were measured and removed from the Toome eel fishery, (i) whether the hooks were an unacceptable size; (ii) whether the fishery concerned asked for an amnesty for the remainder of the year; and (iii) whether any amnesty was granted.

(AQW 10014/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) has carried out sampling of hook sizes currently being used by long-line eel fishermen on Lough Neagh and has found that some hooks did not meet the regulatory specifications as prescribed in the Eel Fishing Regulations (NI) 2010.
- (ii) On being informed of the outcome of the sampling above, the Lough Neagh Fishermens Co-operative Society (LNFCS) asked that DCAL consider permitting the continued use of irregular hooks until such supplies become exhausted.
- (iii) The Department could not sanction the use of hooks which were not compliant with the regulatory specifications.

I would also advise that the LNFCS provided samples of stocks of hooks it held for measurement and no hooks were removed from LNFCS premises.

Consultation on Additional Salmon Fishery Conservation Measures

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the consultation on additional salmon fishery conservation measures, (i) when the draft terms of reference of the consultation will be presented to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure; (ii) how the framework will be established and what it will contain; and (iii) how the consultation will be communicated to the general public.

(AQW 10085/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) The Department is at an advanced stage on the development of the consultation on salmon conservation measures and details will be forwarded to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure in the following weeks.
- (ii) The consultation will contain a range of options for control of the exploitation of wilds Atlantic salmon by both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. The range of options is based on scientific analysis carried out by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute.
- (iii) The consultation will be communicated to the public through stakeholder groups, the NI Angling website and the press. It is planned that the consultation will be web based and arrangements will be in place to enable those without internet access to participate.

Provision of Services in our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an estimate of the annual additional cost to her Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10091/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10162/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations (NI) 1982, DCAL as an employer must train suitable first-aiders in the workplace who have undergone training from an approved organisation and received a certificate confirming this. There are currently 37 staff in DCAL who have received this training which includes Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The Department has arrangements in place to ensure certificates are up-to-date and refresher training is arranged as appropriate.

Special Adviser

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) when her former Special Adviser left her post; (ii) to outline the process by which she left the post; and (iii) whether she received a severance package.

(AQW 10185/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I advised the Department that my Special Adviser resigned from her post on 19 March 2012. In these circumstances, under the Code of Practice for the Appointment of Special Advisers, a severance package is not applicable.

Special Adviser

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what was the total cost to the public purse of her former Special Adviser's tenure.

(AQW 10189/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Special Adviser referred to was appointed on 16 May 2011 and was placed on pay band B of the Special Adviser pay scale, that is, within the range £57,300 to £90,000. Employer National Insurance and Superannuation costs have also been paid in accordance with the appropriate scheme guidance.

Salmon in the Classroom Project

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department has any plans to replicate or adopt the 'salmon in the classroom' project, which was recently delivered by the Rivers Agency, to schools across Northern Ireland to highlight and educate school children about the importance of salmon in our rivers.

(AQW 10195/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: It is my understanding that the Rivers Agency has not been involved in the delivery of the Salmon Hatchery in the Classroom Project.

My Department currently supports the Salmon Hatchery in the Classroom Project, which is an education programme aimed at Controlled and Maintained Primary Schools located in the same towns and villages in the Lower Bann catchment area.

The Department supplies the schools with salmon eggs from the Department's River Bush Salmon Station. The Department also allocates staff time (technical, industrial and administrative) to school visits to the Bushmills Salmon Station, which is an integral part of the project. The children are given a tour of the facilities by DCAL staff and learn more about the life cycle of the wild Atlantic salmon.

Appointment of Special Advisers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in regard to the appointment of her current Special Adviser, to detail (i) the job description deployed; (ii) the person specification; (iii) how the

vacancy was made known; (iv) how many candidates were considered; (v) the criteria against which candidates were judged; (vi) what regard was given to avoiding any imbalance of religious belief; and (vii) what documentation exists pertaining to the appointment.

(AQW 10240/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The DCAL Special Adviser was appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers and the Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order 1999 as amended.

Ministerial Special Adviser

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) who is her current Special Adviser; (ii) when and how he was appointed; (iii) when he took up office; and (iv) within which salary band he is being paid.

(AQW 10241/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Jarlath Kearney was appointed Special Adviser in DCAL on 2 April 2012.

The Special Adviser was appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers and the Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order 1999 as amended.

The salary of DCAL's Special Adviser has yet to be finalised.

Ministerial Special Adviser

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in regard to the appointment of her current Special Adviser, when and how the Permanent Secretary was informed of the Minister's choice.

(AQW 10242/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Permanent Secretary was notified orally by me of the intended appointment of my current Special Adviser on Tuesday 13th March 2012.

Ministerial Special Adviser

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in regard to the appointment of her current Special Adviser, whether any vetting or character checking was applied to the appointed person, including details of how, when and by whom.

(AQW 10243/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The DCAL Special Adviser was appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers and the Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order 1999 as amended.

Department of Education

Cycling Proficiency Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what percentage of primary school children have completed the Cycling Proficiency Scheme.

(AQW 9669/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The Cycling Proficiency Scheme is operated by the Department of the Environment and I understand is aimed primarily at pupils in Year 7, although some schools do offer the scheme to pupils in other year groups in Key Stage 2.

DoE has advised that, during the 2010-11 academic year 575 primary schools participated in the scheme. We do not hold information on the precise number of pupils who participated.

There is also an opportunity for pupils who have not completed the scheme and who are aged 9 or over to take a Cycling Proficiency Test. Figures from DoE show that, during the 2010-11 academic year

8,670 pupils took the test. This represents 19.7% of those pupils aged 9 and over in primary schools in 2010/11.

Note:

- 1 Information on numbers of pupils who sat the test provided by DOE, who have a statutory responsibility for road safety education.
- 2 Total eligible pupils taken as those pupils in primary schools and preparatory departments of grammar schools aged 9 or more at 1 July 2010.

Substitute Teachers

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of substitute teachers in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) sector; and (ii) Education and Library Board.
(AQW 9885/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The cost of substitute teachers in each of the last five financial years, broken down by (i) sector; and (ii) Education and Library Board is detailed in the attached table.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Belfast					
Controlled	4,538,220.23	5,313,751.12	5,566,337.11	5,059,799.92	5,201,793.26
Maintained	4,064,754.84	4,749,935.06	5,242,218.58	4,932,063.76	4,357,979.06
GMI	333,690.79	337,960.08	371,188.86	353,635.94	287,711.71
Total	£8,936,665.86	£10,401,646.26	£11,179,744.55	£10,345,499.62	£9,847,484.03
North Eastern					
Controlled	8,077,705.22	9,034,048.94	10,130,238.82	9,310,929.85	8,883,702.63
Maintained	3,315,694.76	3,691,224.50	4,211,609.63	4,403,572.94	4,165,170.04
GMI	488,464.44	618,757.86	671,127.92	504,237.87	675,139.54
Total	£11,881,864.42	£13,344,031.30	£15,012,976.37	£14,218,740.66	£13,724,012.21
South Eastern					
Controlled	6,502,737.39	7,269,713.34	8,649,782.89	8,690,712.40	8,728,714.15
Maintained	2,800,966.43	3,296,520.57	3,747,126.04	3,891,732.28	3,567,152.88
GMI	439,102.37	562,855.09	783,007.23	937,788.16	841,702.02
Total	£9,742,806.19	£11,129,089.00	£13,179,916.16	£13,520,232.84	£13,137,569.05

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Southern					
Controlled	5,323,085.96	5,718,332.53	6,344,979.79	5,794,931.28	5,906,347.94
Maintained	6,466,053.79	7,337,685.85	8,286,440.64	8,684,070.35	8,448,643.77
GMI	509,969.37	484,216.53	446,534.23	498,684.14	444,631.08
Total	£12,299,109.12	£13,540,234.91	£15,077,954.66	£14,977,685.77	£14,799,622.79
Western					
Controlled	4,179,420.52	4,218,751.80	4,255,236.72	4,030,922.83	3,651,723.23
Maintained	5,218,243.98	6,045,656.84	6,887,420.06	6,475,495.32	5,859,175.42
GMI	478,471.58	484,125.50	482,240.68	408,023.29	407,236.50
Total	£9,876,136.08	£10,748,534.14	£11,624,897.46	£10,914,441.44	£9,918,135.15
Grand Total	£52,736,581.67	£59,163,535.61	£66,075,489.20	£63,976,600.33	£61,426,823.23

* Figures are net of employers' ERNI and Superannuation

Use of School Buses

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 9227/11-15, for a breakdown of the all-year-round youth activities for which the buses are used; and how frequently the buses are used outside the 38 week school year.

(AQW 9902/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The all-year-round youth activities for which buses are used include: camping, scouting, youth hostelling, outdoor pursuits, girl-guiding, outdoor education programmes, and attendance at sports such as ice skating, bowling, horse riding, swimming, orienteering, hill walking, canoeing, and rock climbing, as well as trips to cultural activities and venues, community based activities and many other youth work curriculum-based projects, youth work programmes, visits and residential schemes. The combination of these activities is unique to each Board.

I have been advised by Education and Library Boards that data relating to the frequency of Board bus use is available for only some of the Boards and for only some of the activities listed. The figures quoted below for buses used outside the 38 week school period are for 2011.

BELB

- (a) 29 buses supported special school summer schemes at six schools for periods ranging from one to three weeks in July and August.
- (b) 80 school trips to youth outdoor pursuit centres.
- (c) 5 buses to support a range of activities from those listed above.

NEELB

- (a) 44 buses, each for a two week period to support a number of special and mainstream school summer schemes in July and August.
- (b) 22 buses to support other youth related trips.

SELB

246 youth trips conducted during the period July to August.

SEELB

196 youth trips in July and August.

WELB

An average of 48 trips per week during the months of July and August, excluding summer schemes for special schools.

Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when his Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9928/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The details of papers provided by the Department to Assembly committees less than 48 hours beforehand are detailed in the table below:

Date of Committee Meeting	Issue Date of Paper(s)
1 June 2011	31 May 2011
29 June 2011	27 June 2011
3 October 2011	3 October 2011

Date of Committee Meeting	Issue Date of Paper(s)
12 October 2011	11 October 2011 (2 papers)
7 December 2011	6 December 2011 (2 papers)
14 December 2011	14 December 2011
22 February 2012	20 February 2012
29 February 2012	28 February 2012

Cost-Effectiveness of Away-Days and Team-Building Exercises

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Education how his Department assesses the cost-effectiveness of away-days and team-building exercises.

(AQW 9948/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In the Department of Education, away days in the main are used for Business Planning purposes. As an Investor in People it is important to involve people when developing the organisation's business plan and when agreeing team and individual objectives. The Department seeks to use venues where costs are minimal or nil. Where costs cannot be avoided, the Department would secure a competitive rate.

Where team-building exercises are undertaken, these are normally within the terms of the Department's Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) policy and are arranged in consultation with the Voluntary Service Bureau (VSB) at nil cost. Team objectives are set prior to undertaking the volunteering activity to inform the evaluation process.

Education and Skills Authority Bill

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the key stages completed on the current Bill to establish the Education and Skills Authority; and the timescale and scope for a public consultation on the Bill.

(AQW 9955/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Subject to Executive agreement, I intend to introduce the Bill in the Assembly in the very near future. As there has already been extensive public consultation on the policy proposals, I do not intend to consult on the Bill.

The Bill will go through normal Assembly scrutiny and debate.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Education what strategy is in place to train staff in schools in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 9968/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following strategies are in place to train staff in schools in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation?

Schools in BELB and SEELB board areas:

The BELB and SEELB provide a comprehensive First Aid training package for both teaching and non-teaching staff and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an integral part of these Training courses.

Schools in WELB, SELB and NEELB board areas:

Schools in the WELB, SELB and NEELB areas use the "Heartstart Schools Programme" in partnership with the British Heart Foundation (BHF), which includes training staff on key medical emergencies:

- How to recognise the signs & symptoms of a Heart Attack
- How to deal with an unconscious casualty who is breathing (Recovery position)
- How to deal with an unconscious casualty who is NOT breathing (CPR)
- How to deal with a casualty who is severely bleeding
- How to deal with a casualty who is choking.
- Emergency Life Support
- Coronary Heart Disease
- The Four Stage Approach
- Infection Control Protocol

In all Board areas, The Board's Health and Safety Manual for Principals and Governors includes specific guidance on First Aid, stipulates the level and number of first aiders required and reminds schools of the requirement to have staff trained in First Aid, including CPR.

I have arranged for a copy of the full BHF "Heartstart Programme" and the BELB/SEELB Provision of First Aid Training Courses contract, to be placed in the Assembly library.

Panel of School Principals

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 8475/11-15, whether the Department made an agreement, before he came into office, to establish a panel of school principals.

(AQW 10018/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department has not made an agreement to establish a panel of school principals. My intention is to support new and existing representative bodies for the various school sectors, which may include school principals.

schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board Area Under Formal Intervention

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education which post-primary schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area are under formal intervention; and what additional support has been (i) offered to; (ii) accepted by; and (iii) delivered at each school.

(AQW 10042/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) area the following post-primary schools are currently in the Formal Intervention Process (FIP): Ballee Community High School (CHS); Crumlin Integrated College (IC); and Cambridge House Grammar School (GS). One further school is in the process of entering the FIP and preparing an action plan, and I will write to the member regarding that school before the inspection report is published.

The purpose of the FIP is to provide the school with the support and guidance it needs to improve. When a school enters the FIP the Department writes to instruct the local Education and Library Board (ELB) to work with the school to develop and implement an action plan to address the areas for improvement identified during the inspection.

This action plan will include details of the type and level of support to be provided by the ELB. The action plan is agreed between the school and the ELB before being submitted to the Department, to be quality assured by the ETI. Therefore the support offered by the ELB, accepted by the school and subsequently delivered by the Board is detailed in the agreed action plan. The ETI monitor the implementation of the action plan and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement detailed in the inspection report.

The NEELB has advised that it has provided support to Ballee CHS, Crumlin IC and Cambridge GS as detailed below:

BALLEE CHS

Continuous Link Officer support and guidance for the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team.
Link officer support for action planning after initial inspection, monitoring visits and follow-up inspection and subsequent coordination of the support programme.
Support for Governors including training and attendance at meetings.
Training for Senior Leadership Team and Middle Managers.
Whole staff in-service training programmes in the areas of Quality Learning and Teaching, Data Analysis and Target Setting, Special Educational Needs and Behaviour Management.
Specialist subject support and/or in-service training for Maths, English, Science, SEN, Library, Data Management, ICT, Languages, Music, School Council.
Demonstration Lessons, Team teaching, actual subject teaching in English and Maths.
Support from other schools in the Ballymena Learning Community, particularly to raise standards in English at GCSE.
Provision of a Multi-disciplinary team including the additional NEELB services of Psychology, Behaviour, Youth and EWO.
In total, in excess of 500 hours of support has been given by 23 CASS officers.

CRUMLIN IC

Continuous Link Officer support and guidance for the Acting Principal and the Senior Leadership Team.
Link officer support for action planning after the initial inspection, monitoring visits and follow-up inspection and subsequent coordination of the support programme.
Secondment of an experienced Principal to lead the school in the initial phase.
Coordination and delivery of support to the unsatisfactory Principal.
Coordination and delivery of support to the unsatisfactory Vice-Principal.
Support for Governors including training, attendance at meetings and advice in areas such as HR and Budgetary Management.
Whole staff in-service training programmes in the areas of Leadership and Management, Quality Learning and Teaching, Pastoral Care and Special Educational Needs.
Specialist subject support and/or in-service training for Maths, Literacy, SEN, Library, Data Management, CEIAG, ICT, LLW, School Council, Induction and Music.
In total, in excess of 500 hours of support has been given by 20 CASS officers.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE GS

Continuous Link Officer support and guidance for Acting Principal and Senior Leadership Team.
Link officer support for action planning after the initial inspection and the monitoring visit with subsequent coordination of the support programme.
Engagement of an experienced Principal as a mentor to the Acting Principal and Senior Leadership Team to progress the action plans to address areas for improvement.

Facilitating the support of experienced Principals and middle leaders to share good practice in the areas of raising standards at sixth form, monitoring classroom practice, CEIAG, and data management.

Support for Governors including training, attendance at meetings and advice in areas such as HR and Budgetary Management.

Facilitating the support of C2K to implement tracking systems and train staff.

Whole staff in-service training for the action planning process.

Middle leader in-service training in the areas of roles and responsibilities and departmental monitoring and evaluation.

Specialist subject support for CEIAG, Maths, English, and Induction.

In total, in excess of 150 hours of support has been given by 8 CASS officers.

Educational Psychologists

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the current number of vacancies for educational psychologists in the (a) Belfast Education and Library Board; and (b) South Eastern Education and Library Board; and (ii) when the vacancies were created.

(AQW 10051/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been advised by the Chief Executives as follows:

- (i)(a) There are no vacancies in the Belfast Education and Library Board educational psychology service.
- (i)(b) There are 5 vacant educational psychologist posts in the South Eastern Education and Library Board.
- (ii)
 - 1 post vacant since October 2010
 - 1 post vacant since August 2011
 - 2 posts vacant since November 2011
 - 1 post vacant since February 2012

In November 2011 the Board undertook a recruitment exercise which resulted in the filling of 3 posts. The Board will be advertising the remaining vacant posts in the very near future.

Coláiste Feirste, Belfast

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education for his Department's assessment of the recent ruling in relation to Coláiste Feirste, Belfast.

(AQW 10105/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As indicated in my reply to AQW 6276/11-15, published in the Official Report on 27 January 2012, this is a significant and important judgment which requires careful and detailed consideration before I can be in a position to provide an overall assessment on the outcome.

In line with the court judgment, Department officials have been re-examining the transport arrangements for all pupils travelling to Coláiste Feirste, a process which has involved consultative discussions with the school. This re-examination process is at an advanced stage and will in the near future bring recommendations to me for consideration.

Gaelic Games in Schools

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools in each sector offer Gaelic games as part of Physical Education.

(AQW 10108/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory element of the revised curriculum for all pupils of compulsory school age and Department of Education guidance recommends that schools should provide a minimum of 2 hours PE per week.

The Department does not prescribe specific sports or games to be delivered within a school's PE curriculum as this is a matter for each school. However,

legislation does detail that PE provision to pupils should cover different types of physical activity. Namely in Primary Schools, provision should include athletics, dance, games and gymnastics with the addition of swimming at Key Stage 2. For Key Stage 3 pupils in Post-Primary School, provision should include athletics, games, gymnastics and swimming. For pupils in Key Stage 4 schools should facilitate pupils' participation in a regular, frequent and balanced programme of physical activity.

The Department does not collect information on the individual sports or games provided by each school.

Irish Language in Schools

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools in each sector offer Irish language as a subject at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

(AQW 10109/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Modern languages are a statutory requirement at Key Stage 3, and a qualification choice at Key Stage 4 and sixth form. Schools can choose to deliver any of the languages of the 27 EU member states, including Irish. However, it is up to individual schools to decide which languages they choose to offer to meet the needs of their pupils.

The Department does not hold information on the languages schools choose to teach in Primary Schools or Post-Primary schools. However, we do have information on Key Stage 2 & 3 assessments in Irish returns for 2010/11 and examination entries for Irish in 2010/11 and this is detailed in the tables below:

KEY STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT IN IRISH LANGUAGE

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of schools with assessment results in Irish	% of schools
Controlled	381	1	0.3
Voluntary	14	0	0.0
Catholic Maintained	393	10	2.5
Other Maintained	21	18	85.7
Controlled Integrated	19	0	0.0
Grant Maintained Integrated	23	0	0.0
Totals	851	29	3.4

KEY STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT IN IRISH LANGUAGE

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of schools with assessment results in Irish	% of schools
Controlled	71	0	0.0
Voluntary	50	0	0.0

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of schools with assessment results in Irish	% of schools
Catholic Maintained	71	1	1.4
Other Maintained	1	1	100.0
Controlled Integrated	5	0	0.0
Grant Maintained Integrated	15	1	6.7
Totals	213	3	1.4

2010/11 GCSE IRISH ENTRIES

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of Entries	Number of schools	% of schools
Controlled	70	0	0	0
Voluntary	51	1016	29	56.9
Catholic Maintained	71	619	34	47.9
Other Maintained	1	0	0	0
Controlled Integrated	5	0	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	15	21	3	20.0
Totals	213	1656	66	31.0

2010/11 GCSE GAEILGE ENTRIES

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of Entries	Number of schools	% of schools
Controlled	70	0	0	0
Voluntary	51	19	2	3.9
Catholic Maintained	71	28	3	4.2
Other Maintained	1	69	1	100
Controlled Integrated	5	0	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	15	2	1	6.7
Totals	213	118	7	3.3

2010/11 IRISH GCE 'A' LEVEL ENTRIES

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of Entries	Number of schools	% of schools
Controlled	50	1	1	2.0
Voluntary	51	208	28	54.9
Catholic Maintained	52	62	18	34.6
Other Maintained	1	46	1	100

Management Type	Total Schools	Number of Entries	Number of schools	% of schools
Controlled Integrated	2	0	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	14	2	2	14.3
Totals	170	319	49	28.8

To support primary schools wishing to deliver language learning the Primary Language Programme was introduced in 2007 to give pupils at Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 the opportunity to learn an additional language in school. The programme offers primary schools the opportunity to work with peripatetic language tutors to deliver Irish, Spanish and Polish. As at 20 March 2012, 92 primary schools are learning Irish through this programme, 91 of which are from the Maintained sector and 1 from the Grant Maintained Integrated sector.

In addition, we have also commissioned an Irish language primary pilot programme for pupils in Key Stage 2 which aims to build upon and complement the provision made available via the Primary Languages Programme. The programme involves 10 primary schools from the Maintained sector in the Derry/North West area and will run for 4 years.

Capital Assets

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to list the capital assets that his Department intends to dispose of in each of the next three years.

(AQW 10113/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Publicly-owned properties in the education estate fall within the Controlled sector and are owned by Education and Library Boards. Properties in other sectors are owned by Trustees and the disposal of those properties is the Trustees' responsibility.

While Boards are obliged to dispose of surplus property within 3 years of a school closure the determining factor in trying to realise capital receipts has tended to be the lack of market interest.

Currently planned disposals by Education and Library Boards in each of the next three years are listed below.

Board	Asset Name	2012/13 Value (£)	2013/14 Value (£)	2014/15 Value (£)
BELB	Land at Orangefield		75,000	
BELB	Belfast School of Music		120,000	
BELB	Grove Primary School	130,000		
BELB	Former Forthriver Primary School Site		75,000	
BELB	Mersey Street Primary School	45,000		
BELB	Laburnum Playing Fields lease		20,000	
BELB	Former caretaker's residence 243 Ballygomartin Road, Belfast	20,000		
BELB	Newtownbreda Primary School	450,000		
BELB	Trinity Drop-in Centre	61,000		
BELB	Sydenham Youth Club	85,000		
BELB	Shankill Youth Club	65,000		

Board	Asset Name	2012/13 Value (£)	2013/14 Value (£)	2014/15 Value (£)
BELB	Mount Gilbert College			1,250,000
BELB	Land at Kircubbin Sailing Club		5,000	
BELB	Turf lodge Youth Club	35,000		
BELB	Land at Donegall Pass Youth Club		25,000	
NEELB	Land at Carnalridge Primary School	15,000		
NEELB	Ballee Primary School		100,000	
NEELB	Antiville Primary School		200,000	
NEELB	Roddensvale School		75,000	
NEELB	Ballypriormore Primary School		50,000	
NEELB	Ballymoney Music Centre		100,000	
NEELB	Glenarm Primary School		100,000	
SEELB	2 Donard Street, Newcastle		85,000	
SEELB	4 Donard Street, Newcastle		40,000	
SEELB	24 Cabra Towers Newry (Former Outdoor Education Centre)	130,000		
SEELB	Lower Ballinderry Primary School		125,000	
SEELB	22 Pond Park Road		150,000	
SEELB	44 Ballylesson Road	10,000		
SEELB	Kindle Primary School Ballykinler		70,000	
SEELB	Land at Good Shepherd Road, Lisburn		230,000	
SEELB	Land at Clifton Special School, Ballykillaire, Bangor	750,000		
SEELB	Killard Special School, Newtownards	400,000		
SELB	Tullymacarette Primary School		30,000	
SELB	Play area at Toberlane Primary School		4,000	
SELB	Playing Field at Collone Primary School		47,500	
SELB	Playing Field at Annaghmore Primary School		30,000	
WELB	Burnfoot Primary School		100,000	
WELB	Faughan Valley High School (Lisneal)		250,000	
WELB	Duke of Westminster High School, Kesh		300,000	

Area Planning Process

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education what action his Department intends to take to ensure that any proposals submitted by communities outside the formal area planning process will receive a fair hearing compared with the proposals submitted by statutory agencies.

(AQW 10126/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The area planning process is an important driver for achieving my Department's vision for education which is to ensure that every learner fulfils their full potential at each stage of development.

I encourage everyone to embrace the Area Planning process and to engage fully in the consultation exercise which will provide schools, parents, wider communities and others with the opportunity to comment and present their views and alternatives before plans are finalised. I want to stress that there will be no alternative area plans to those drawn up, consulted and agreed upon through the Area Planning process. There will therefore be no scope for proposals to be considered outside the Area Planning process.

I will continue to make my decisions on all Development Proposals taking account of the merits and issues pertinent to each individual case and mindful of my Department's policies and priorities.

School Financial Deficits

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education what action his Department intends to take to address the issue of the outstanding deficits that schools have accrued to allow such schools to move forward with agreed amalgamations with other schools.

(AQW 10127/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Under the current Common Funding Scheme arrangements, any budget deficits will be met from Funding Authority centre funds providing that each of the Board of Governors involved, in conjunction with the Employing Authority, can demonstrate that in preparing the school for amalgamation it complied with any requirements, direction or advice issued by the Funding Authority.

Funding Authorities should work closely with schools, and CCMS in the case of Catholic maintained schools, in the period leading up to amalgamation to ensure that appropriate decisions are taken, effective financial monitoring arrangements are in place and the risk of significant deficits minimised.

In this respect, amalgamating schools should, as early as possible, draw up an Amalgamation Implementation Plan which should include details of the various financial actions to be addressed in the period prior to the amalgamation.

School Enrolment Figures

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the approved, maximum, and current enrolment number (a) at each school; and (b) in each Education and Library Board area; and (ii) any differences in the figures provided for (a) each school; (b) each Board; and (c) the overall total.

(AQW 10128/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Hurling in Schools

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools in each sector offer hurling as part of Physical Education.

(AQW 10150/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory element of the revised curriculum for all pupils of compulsory school age and Department of Education guidance recommends that schools should provide a minimum of 2 hours PE per week.

The Department does not prescribe specific sports or games to be delivered within a school's PE curriculum as this is a matter for each school. However,

legislation does detail that PE provision to pupils should cover different types of physical activity. Namely in Primary Schools, provision should include athletics, dance, games and gymnastics with the addition of swimming at Key Stage 2. For Key Stage 3 pupils in Post-Primary School, provision should include athletics, games, gymnastics and swimming. For pupils in Key Stage 4 schools should facilitate pupils' participation in a regular, frequent and balanced programme of physical activity.

The Department does not collect information on the individual sports or games provided by each school.

Education Systems

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education whether he has carried out an assessment of the education systems in other countries that have broken the link between socio-economic background and educational underachievement; and if so, what lessons could be learnt.

(AQW 10157/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: International evidence, in the form of the PISA 2009 results, shows that the best performing school systems manage to provide high-quality education to all students.

PISA 2009 Results: What Makes a School Successful? Resources, Policies and Practices Vol IV, reports that "successful school systems - those that perform above average and show below-average socio-economic inequalities - provide all students, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds, with similar opportunities to learn. Systems that show high performance and an equitable distribution of learning outcomes tend to be comprehensive, requiring teachers and schools to embrace diverse student populations through personalised educational pathways. In contrast, school systems that assume that students have different destinations with different expectations and differentiation in terms of how they are placed in schools, classes and grades often show less equitable outcomes without an overall performance advantage."

A previous OECD Policy Brief Ten Steps to Equity in Education looked at how to improve equity in education in three key policy areas: the design of the education systems, practices both in and out of school, and resourcing. The report cautions against streaming or academic selection as this can increase inequalities and inequities particularly if it takes place early in the education process. This is also reported in the latest OECD (2012) report 'Equity and Quality in Education: Supporting Disadvantaged Students and Schools' which states that selection widens achievement gaps and inequities and that pupils from lower socio-economic backgrounds are the group most adversely affected by selection.

I want all our young people to achieve to their full potential. Therefore, I want to drive out the inequities that exist in our education system and end academic selection.

The OECD Policy Brief also recommends strengthening the links between school and home to help disadvantaged parents help their children to learn. I want to stress the value of education and work with local communities to ensure young people receive positive messages about the importance of doing well at school and are encouraged to have high expectations.

I am equally determined to take action to break the link between social disadvantage and educational underachievement - through encouraging schools to set high expectations for their pupils and supporting and, where necessary, challenging schools to improve.

Middletown Centre for Autism

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what research is currently being undertaken at the Middletown Centre for Autism.

(AQW 10158/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Middletown Centre is currently undertaking four areas of research:

- 1 A pilot study in mainstream schools across north and south to assess the working memory of children on the autism spectrum.
- 2 An all-Ireland project to research the sensory processing difficulties of children aged 4-11 on the autism spectrum.
- 3 A research bulletin targeted at both parents and professional is being developed on this issue of social communication for those children on the autism spectrum.
- 4 A series of case studies based upon the children receiving intensive trans-disciplinary support from the Centre in the north.

Middletown Centre for Autism

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education how his Department intends to increase awareness of the services provided by the Middletown Centre for Autism.

(AQW 10159/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Primary responsibility for the promotion and advertising of the Middletown Centre for Autism is delegated to the Centre in order to ensure a consistent approach across the north and south.

To facilitate such promotion, the Department of Education has recently authorised the Centre to use the C2k system to promote its support and services in schools. C2k will also enable the Centre to provide online learning for schools and will enable online learning materials to be provided.

Primary Schools: Enrolment Numbers

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Education whether the temporary variation in enrolment numbers for primary schools is quantified by the number of pupils or the percentage of pupils attending a school.

(AQW 10160/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Requests from primary schools to the Department for temporary variations to increase enrolment and/or admissions numbers are considered on an individual basis and are not quantified by the number of pupils or the percentage of pupils attending a school.

A school will request a temporary variation for the total number of additional places it requires. In consideration of this request the Department takes into account factors including:-

- (1) the teaching accommodation available for use by pupils, to be satisfied that the school could deliver the statutory curriculum effectively to all its pupils;
- (2) the availability of places in other schools within reasonable travelling distance of the address(es) of the child(ren) for whom additional place(s) are being sought; and
- (3) the statutory requirement that all classes in Foundation and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 to 4) are limited to a maximum of 30 pupils - except where an exception is approved by an Education and Library Board.

In considering all such requests, the Department will consult with, and take into account the views of, the appropriate Education and Library Board and (in the case of catholic maintained schools) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

Provision of Services in our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Education for an estimate of the annual additional cost to his Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10168/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for the Department of Education to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education to outline the agreed process which led to organisations being invited to the Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups.

(AQW 10183/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In January 2012, I published a Summary Report of Responses to the Consultation on Every School a Good School - The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion and the associated Equality Impact Assessment. In the Ministerial foreword to the report I stated that I had asked Departmental officials to further engage with parents, schools and other stakeholders to discuss how best the policy proposals as outlined in the foreword could be progressed.

As part of this engagement, a series of reference group meetings was arranged in each Education and Library Board area, inviting a mixture of voluntary organisations, schools and parents. The voluntary organisations invited were those which had responded to the consultation and/or had contacted the Department concerning the Review of SEN and Inclusion, or were known to have a particular interest in SEN issues. Invitations were initially sent to schools, selected at random from those which had responded to the consultation, in order to provide representation from each school sector – early years, primary, post primary and special schools, maintained, controlled, integrated, Irish medium and grammar school sectors across the boards. The parents who were invited included those who had been in contact with the Department in the past 2 years regarding a SEN issue or were chosen at random from parents who had responded to the original consultation, according to the board area in which they lived. Those voluntary organisations invited were also given the opportunity to bring along parent representatives.

The purpose of the reference groups was to hold small meetings with interested stakeholders to provide an update on my key proposals and to explore suggestions as to how these could best be taken forward. The participants in the meetings were asked if they would be willing to participate in future meetings to examine any issues that may arise with the implementation of the proposals. It was felt that these meetings could provide a forum to keep stakeholders informed of developments and to continue to seek their input.

The process and timescales for the Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion are as follows:

May 2012 - SEN and Inclusion Policy Memorandum to Education Committee;

August 2012 - Final Equality Impact Assessment;

September 2012 - SEN and Inclusion Policy Memorandum to other Departments and the Executive;

December 2012 - Legislation drafted for Ministerial clearance, including primary and subordinate legislation;

October 2013 - Assembly process from Bill clearance through to Royal Assent; and

September 2015 - Transitional arrangements, including development of revised code of practice and associated guidance.

Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the purpose of the Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups; and (ii) whether there are any plans for further engagement on the Special Educational Needs proposals.

(AQW 10197/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In January 2012, I published a Summary Report of Responses to the Consultation on Every School a Good School - The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion and the associated Equality Impact Assessment. In the Ministerial foreword to the report I stated that I had asked Departmental officials to further engage with parents, schools and other stakeholders to discuss how best the policy proposals as outlined in the foreword could be progressed.

As part of this engagement, a series of reference group meetings was arranged in each Education and Library Board area, inviting a mixture of voluntary organisations, schools and parents. The voluntary organisations invited were those which had responded to the consultation and/or had contacted the Department concerning the Review of SEN and Inclusion, or were known to have a particular interest in SEN issues. Invitations were initially sent to schools, selected at random from those which had responded to the consultation, in order to provide representation from each school sector – early years, primary, post primary and special schools, maintained, controlled, integrated, Irish medium and grammar school sectors across the boards. The parents who were invited included those who had been in contact with the Department in the past 2 years regarding a SEN issue or were chosen at random from parents who had responded to the original consultation, according to the board area in which they lived. Those voluntary organisations invited were also given the opportunity to bring along parent representatives.

The purpose of the reference groups was to hold small meetings with interested stakeholders to provide an update on my key proposals and to explore suggestions as to how these could best be taken forward. The participants in the meetings were asked if they would be willing to participate in future meetings to examine any issues that may arise with the implementation of the proposals. It was felt that these meetings could provide a forum to keep stakeholders informed of developments and to continue to seek their input.

The process and timescales for the Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion are as follows:

May 2012 - SEN and Inclusion Policy Memorandum to Education Committee;

August 2012 - Final Equality Impact Assessment;

September 2012 - SEN and Inclusion Policy Memorandum to other Departments and the Executive;

December 2012 - Legislation drafted for Ministerial clearance, including primary and subordinate legislation;

October 2013 - Assembly process from Bill clearance through to Royal Assent; and

September 2015 - Transitional arrangements, including development of revised code of practice and associated guidance.

Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education to detail the process and timescale that the Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups are working towards in relation to primary legislation, Statutory Rules, guidance, and equality.

(AQW 10198/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In January 2012, I published a Summary Report of Responses to the Consultation on Every School a Good School - The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion and the associated Equality Impact Assessment. In the Ministerial foreword to the report I stated that I had asked Departmental officials to further engage with parents, schools and other stakeholders to discuss how best the policy proposals as outlined in the foreword could be progressed.

As part of this engagement, a series of reference group meetings was arranged in each Education and Library Board area, inviting a mixture of voluntary organisations, schools and parents. The voluntary organisations invited were those which had responded to the consultation and/or had contacted the Department concerning the Review of SEN and Inclusion, or were known to have a particular interest in SEN issues. Invitations were initially sent to schools, selected at random from those which had responded to the consultation, in order to provide representation from each school sector – early years, primary, post primary and special schools, maintained, controlled, integrated, Irish medium and grammar school sectors across the boards. The parents who were invited included those who had been in contact with the Department in the past 2 years regarding a SEN issue or were chosen at random from parents who had responded to the original consultation, according to the board area in which

they lived. Those voluntary organisations invited were also given the opportunity to bring along parent representatives.

The purpose of the reference groups was to hold small meetings with interested stakeholders to provide an update on my key proposals and to explore suggestions as to how these could best be taken forward. The participants in the meetings were asked if they would be willing to participate in future meetings to examine any issues that may arise with the implementation of the proposals. It was felt that these meetings could provide a forum to keep stakeholders informed of developments and to continue to seek their input.

The process and timescales for the Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion are as follows:

May 2012 - SEN and Inclusion Policy Memorandum to Education Committee;

August 2012 - Final Equality Impact Assessment;

September 2012 - SEN and Inclusion Policy Memorandum to other Departments and the Executive;

December 2012 - Legislation drafted for Ministerial clearance, including primary and subordinate legislation;

October 2013 - Assembly process from Bill clearance through to Royal Assent; and

September 2015 - Transitional arrangements, including development of revised code of practice and associated guidance.

Child Protection Clearance

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education what is the average waiting time for a new teacher on the substitute register to achieve child protection clearance; and whether this delay affects the placement of substitute teachers in schools.

(AQW 10226/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Access NI aims to deliver 90% of correctly completed applications for Enhanced Disclosure Checks within four weeks of receipt. For requests made between September 2011 and February 2012 the average time for a check to be returned to the NI Substitute Teachers Register (NISTR) was 25 days.

In certain circumstances an enhanced disclosure check is not required for a teacher to join NISTR. This is the case for: newly qualified teachers from teacher training colleges in the north of Ireland who apply to join NISTR within three months of completing their training; teachers joining directly from previous teaching service in the north of Ireland provided that the relevant employing authority can confirm that the individual has previously been vetted; part-time teachers wishing to join NISTR to undertake substitute teaching outside of their normal contracted hours; and teachers with an Enhanced Disclosure Certificate dated within the last three months.

Enrolment Figures

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education to detail the maximum enrolment number for each (i) primary school; and (ii) post-primary school in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 10227/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The maximum enrolment number for each primary school and post-primary school in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area for the 2011/12 school year are as detailed in the attached tables.

(I) NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD PRIMARY SCHOOL APPROVED ENROLMENT NUMBERS

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Abbots Cross Primary School	523
Acorn Integrated Primary School	203
Altayeskey Primary School	46
Ampertaine Primary School	138
Anahorish Primary School	174
Antrim Primary School	600
Armoy Primary School	116
Ashgrove Primary School	374
Ballycarry Primary School	174
Ballycastle Integrated Primary	158
Ballyclare Primary School	572
Ballycraigy Primary School	326
Ballyhackett Primary School	67
Ballyhenry Primary School	317
Ballykeel Primary School	406
Ballymena Primary School	369
Ballymoney Controlled Integrated Primary School	414
Ballynure Primary School	154
Ballysally Primary School	304
Ballytober Primary School	77
Balnamore Primary School	111
Barnish Primary School	115
Bellaghy Primary School	115
Braidside Integrated Primary School	348
Broughshane Primary School	319
Buick Memorial Primary School	472
Bushmills Primary School	226
Bushvalley Primary School	174
Cairncastle Primary School	137
Camphill Primary School	385
Carhill Integrated Primary School	94
Carlane Primary School	124
Carnaghts Primary School	118

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Carnalbanagh Primary School	58
Carnalridge Primary School	230
Carniny Primary School	267
Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School	62
Carnmoney Primary School	448
Carrickfergus Central Primary	290
Carrickfergus Model Primary School	406
Carrowreagh Primary School	102
Castledawson Primary School	145
Castleroe Primary School	98
Clough Primary School	151
Cloughmills Primary School	143
Corran Integrated Primary School	203
Creavery Primary School	65
Creggan Primary School	118
Crossroads Primary School	145
Crumlin Controlled Intergrated Primary School	374
Culcrow Primary School	77
Cullycapple Primary School	100
Culnady Primary School	63
D H Christie Memorial Primary School	452
Dalriada School	n.a.
Damhead Primary School	174
Desertmartin Primary School	48
Doagh Primary School	138
Drumard Primary School	116
Dunclug Primary School	261
Duneane Primary School	80
Dunseverick Primary School	166
Earlview Primary School	221
Eden Primary School, Carrickfergus	213
Eden Primary School, Ballymoney	95
Fairview Primary School	525
Fourtowns Primary School	262

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Gaelscoil an Chaistil	105
Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí	33
Gaelscoil Eanna	67
Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach	71
Gaelscoil na Spéiríní	58
Garryduff Primary School	70
Garvagh Primary School	236
Glenann Primary School	61
Glengormley Integrated Primary School	446
Glenravel Primary School	162
Glynn Primary School	103
Gorran Primary School	120
Gracehill Primary School	406
Greenisland Primary School	401
Greenlough Primary School (St Mary's)	196
Greystone Primary School	394
Groggan Primary School	137
Harpurs Hill Primary School	224
Harryville Primary School	277
Hazelbank Primary School	120
Hezlett Primary School	295
Hollybank Primary School	440
Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt	622
Irish Society's Primary School	427
Kells & Connor Primary School	203
Kilbride Primary School	135
Kilcoan Primary School	87
Killowen Primary School, Coleraine	195
Kilmoyle Primary School	115
Kilrea Primary School	127
Kilross Primary School	112
King's Park Primary School, Newtownabbey	425
Kirkinriola Primary School	104
Knockahollet Primary School	106

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Knockloughrim Primary School	105
Knocknagin Primary School	75
Landhead Primary School	60
Larne and Inver Primary School	237
Leaney Primary School	319
Linn Primary School	380
Lislagan Primary School	109
Loanends Primary School	203
Longstone Primary School	73
Macosquin Primary School	194
Maghera Primary School	163
Magherafelt Controlled Primary School	406
Maine Integrated Primary School	120
Mallusk Primary School	132
Millburn Primary School	422
Millquarter Primary School	145
Millstrand Integrated Primary School	232
Moneynick Primary School	69
Moorfields Primary School	220
Mossgrove Primary School	330
Mossley Primary School	610
Mount St Michael's Primary School, Randalstown	444
Moyle Primary School	290
Mullaghdubh Primary School	78
New Row Primary School	170
Oakfield Primary School	369
Olderfleet Primary School	198
Parkgate Primary School	77
Parkhall Primary School	443
Portglenone Primary School	204
Portrush Primary School	286
Portstewart Primary School	412
Randalstown Central Primary School	379
Rasharkin Primary School	169

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Rathcoole Primary School	488
Rathenraw Integrated Primary School	223
Round Tower Integrated Primary School	276
Seaview Primary School, Glenarm	121
Silverstream Primary School	225
Spires Integrated Primary School	203
St Anne's Primary School, Corkey	92
St Anthony's Primary School, Larne	476
St Bernard's Primary School, Newtownabbey	493
St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena	319
St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymoney	308
St Brigid's Primary School, Cloughmills	106
St Brigid's Primary School, Knockloughrim	195
St Brigid's Primary School, Tirkane	203
St Ciaran's Primary School, Cushendun	105
St Colmcille's Primary, Ballymena	319
St Columba's Primary School, Draperstown	132
St Columba's Primary School, Garvagh	144
St Columba's Primary School, Kilrea	202
St Columb's Primary School (Cullion)	113
St Colum's Primary School, Portstewart	187
St Comgall's Primary School, Antrim	536
St Eoghan's Primary School, Draperstown	127
St James' Primary School, Newtownabbey	387
St John Bosco Primary School, Ballynease	106
St John's Primary School, Carnlough	192
St John's Primary School, Coleraine	351
St John's Primary School, Swatragh	195
St Joseph's Primary School, Dunloy	300
St Joseph's Primary School, Stiles	762
St Macnisius' Primary School, Tannaghmore	108
St Macnissi's Primary School, Larne	261
St Macnissi's Primary School, Newtownabbey	175
St Malachy's Primary School, Coleraine	323

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
St Mary's Primary School (Glenview)	446
St Mary's Primary School Glenravel	125
St Mary's Primary School, Ballycastle	29
St Mary's Primary School, Bellaghy	222
St Mary's Primary School, Cushendall	213
St Mary's Primary School, Draperstown	260
St Mary's Primary, Portglenone	203
St Mary's-on-the-Hill Primary School, Newtownabbey	430
St Nicholas' Primary School, Carrickfergus	232
St Olcan's Primary School, Armoy	97
St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, Toomebridge	227
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School, Ballycastle	406
St Patrick's & St Joseph's Primary School, Garvagh	160
St Patrick's Primary School (Glen)	175
St Patrick's Primary School, Loughguile	232
St Patrick's Primary School, Portrush	150
St Patrick's Primary School, Rasharkin	273
St Patrick's Primary School, Waterfoot	130
St Paul's Primary School, Ahoghill	81
St Trea's Primary School, Ballyronan	107
Straid Primary School	119
Straidbilly Primary School	105
Straidhavern Primary School	125
Sunnylands Primary School	290
Templepatrick Primary School	406
The Diamond Primary School	138
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Primary School	160
Thompson Primary School	194
Tildarg Primary School	80
Tir-na-Nog Primary School	77
Tobermore Primary School	130
Toreagh Primary School	105
Upper Ballyboley Primary School	100
Victoria Primary School, Carrickfergus	575

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Whiteabbey Primary School	414
Whitehead Primary School	390
Whitehouse Primary School	360
Woodburn Primary School	193
Woodlawn Primary School	310

(II) NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL APPROVED ENROLMENT NUMBERS

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Antrim Grammar School	740
Ballee Community High School	525
Ballycastle High School	460
Ballyclare High School	1210
Ballyclare Secondary School	960
Ballymena Academy	1200
Ballymoney High School	670
Belfast High School	930
Cambridge House Grammar	1030
Carrickfergus College	900
Carrickfergus Grammar School	800
Coleraine Academical Institution	870
Coleraine College	600
Coleraine High School	800
Cross & Passion College, Ballycastle	720
Crumlin Integrated College	400
Cullybackey High School	700
Dalriada School	815
Dominican College, Portstewart	480
Downshire School	800
Dunclug College	600
Dunluce School	550
Edmund Rice College	600
Garvagh High School	350
Glengormley High School	1250
Larne Grammar School	735

School name	Approved Enrolment Number
Larne High School	750
Loreto College, Coleraine	800
Magherafelt High School	600
Monkstown Community School	820
Newtownabbey Community High School	650
North-Coast Integrated College	500
Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	400
Parkhall Integrated College	735
Rainey Endowed School	700
Slemish College, Ballymena	720
Sperrin Integrated College	500
St Benedict's College, Randalstown	500
St Colm's High School, Magherafelt	340
St Joseph's College, Coleraine	490
St Killian's College, Carnlough	830
St Louis' Grammar School, Ballymena	960
St Mary's College, Portglenone	350
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	1070
St Patrick's College, Ballymena	760
St Patrick's College, Maghera	1355
St Paul's College, Kilrea	270
St Pius X College, Magherafelt	850
Ulidia Integrated College	500

Source: DE School Access Team.

Note:- maximum enrolment number is the same as approved enrolment number

Refurbishment and Repairs at Portadown College

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Education how much was spent on refurbishment and repairs at Portadown College in the 2010/11 financial year.

(AQW 10265/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The total amount spent on refurbishment and repairs at Portadown College during 2010/11 was £49,134.

Post-Primary Education for Children Living in the Republic of Ireland

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has any plans to allow children living in the Republic of Ireland to avail of post-primary education.

(AQW 10267/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Pupils from the south can already apply for admission to a post-primary school in the north. Currently 402 young people who live in the south attend post-primary schools here and all applicants for the 2011/12 school year were accepted for places.

This is reflective of how people in the border areas live and avail of services, including education. My Department and the Department of Education and Skills are both planning for schools into the future and it is important to do so in a sustainable way that is able to meet parental preference in the border region. At the North South Ministerial Council education sectoral meeting in February 2012 it was agreed that the Departments will jointly conduct a survey in the autumn of potential cross border pupil movement to inform school planning.

Refurbishment and Repairs at Portadown College

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Education how much was spent on refurbishment and repairs at Portadown College in the 2011/12 financial year.

(AQW 10278/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The total amount spent on refurbishment and repairs at Portadown College during 2011/12 was £ 400,216.

Sure Start Provision

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education (i) what plans he has to extend the Sure Start provision in Bangor to include the Dufferin and Whitehill electoral wards; (ii) when this will take place; and (ii) how much funding has been set aside to deliver the provision in these areas.

(AQW 10314/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Under the draft Early Years Strategy there is an intention to extend Sure Start provision on a gradual basis over time, and as budgets allow, to the top 25% most disadvantaged wards. As the Dufferin and Whitehill wards fall within the top 25%, work is being progressed through the Eastern Childcare Partnership to scope existing provision and develop proposals for Sure Start services, based on an analysis of local needs through engagement and consultation with local representatives, organisations and parents. The proposal for the introduction of Sure Start to these areas will be considered by the Department in light of the available resources at that time.

Sure Start Provision

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education, given that Sure Start provision is delivered to the Harbour and Rathgill areas of Bangor, why this information is not on the Eastern Childcare Partnership website to promote access to the service and to demonstrate his Department's investment in the areas.

(AQW 10315/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Sure Start services were introduced to the Harbour and Rathgill areas of Bangor during 2010/2011, through an expansion of the reach of Sure Start to the top 20% Super Output areas.

The Eastern Childcare Partnership (ECP) website provides information about childcare and family support services in the areas it serves, including an overview of Sure Start Projects. I am advised that the current website is in a period of transition as a new regional website for Sure Start is under development. Therefore the areas of Harbour and Rathgill are not included in the website in its current form.

Department for Employment and Learning

Meeting with the Staff of Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 7953/11-15, (i) why he did not attend the meeting with staff from Stranmillis University College on 19 January 2012; (ii) who initiated the cancellation and when; and (iii) when he intends to meet with the staff.

(AQW 9193/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): The meeting was cancelled as the format was considered inappropriate. As I have stated previously, I remain open to meeting with all stakeholders.

Steps to Work Programme

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he will seek to widen participation in the Steps to Work programme by reducing the compulsory hours for people on Job Seekers Allowance from 30 hours per week in order to help employers give people who are currently out of work the necessary experience to gain employment.

(AQW 9806/11-15)

Dr Farry: It is important that participants on the Steps to Work programme get the opportunity to undertake a meaningful level of participation to provide them with a realistic and relevant workplace experience.

The current attendance requirement of 30 hours per week gives participants exposure to the normal weekday and weekly routine of the organisation or employer with whom they are placed and enables participants to acquire the employability skills sought by prospective employers.

As Steps to Work contracts end in March 2013 the Department is currently considering what will be delivered in the future. Attendance requirements will be considered as part of the development work for the new programme. Proposed Merger Between Stranmillis University College and Queen's University, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 7182/11-15, whether he will take cognisance of the unions which are opposed to the proposed merger, such as Stranmillis University College UCU Branch.

(AQW 9858/11-15)

Dr Farry: I have taken cognisance of all responses to the public consultation.

Queens University and Stranmillis College Merger

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 9075/11-15, how many people will be involved in carrying out the study; and from where the £50,000 budget will be obtained.

(AQW 9921/11-15)

Dr Farry: The first stage of the study is being procured through the Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel. It is likely that the work will be awarded to a company and at this stage one cannot predict the size of the team that may be tasked with undertaking the work. The budget will come from the normal administrative resources made available to my department.

Technical Theatre Courses

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why technical theatre courses, such as set design and lighting, are not provided by universities.

(AQW 9933/11-15)

Dr Farry: Higher Education Institutions are responsible for their own policies and procedures, including course provision. Queen's University and the University of Ulster have, however, stated that, while they

do not offer stand-alone Technical Theatre courses, a number of degree courses include modules teaching technical theatre skills.

Details of this are included in the information provided by the Universities and attached at Annex A.

Annex A

University of Ulster

School of Media, Film and Journalism

The University of Ulster has traditionally not offered bespoke programmes in set design or lighting. Historically, the University has produced graduates from its School of Art and Design in design, fine art and applied arts that have applied their creative skills and are currently working within film set and theatre set design. A number of these graduates have been working in this area for over 25 years.

Having a modest theatre provision and a traditionally small film production operation in Northern Ireland there has not been a local industry set-up large enough to employ the throughput of specialist graduates required to make a bespoke set and lighting design programme viable in its own right.

The Media Studies and Production programme in Coleraine covers a limited aspect of set lighting for television studio. However, the current provision in architecture, interior design, product design, fine art, fashion/textiles, and applied arts make the University well placed to produce graduates suited to work within technical theatre/film.

One Master of Architecture student is currently designing a theatre on the Crumlin Road jail site and in the past some interior design students have elected to produce theatre set designs as part of their final-year portfolio submission. However, international productions generally bring together partners from across the globe and often film directors/producers will have their own preferences for set designers/lighting designers – who they will source worldwide.

The University is acutely aware of the huge benefits of the developing film and production facilities in Northern Ireland and have set up a new BAHons Interaction Design and Animation for the purposes of training for post-production. The first cohort of undergraduates will commence in autumn 2012. This programme is led by internationally renowned animator and Professor of Animation, Greg Maguire. A number of students studying at masters level under his tutelage (MA Multidisciplinary Design [Animation]) are producing work for high profile film productions internationally.

If the need arises, and there are sufficient cross-linkages with partnership organisations that can facilitate the access to specialist facilities (the MAC/Lyric/Opera House/Playhouse etc.) then a postgraduate offering in this area may be considered. This would of course require the recruitment of further specialist staff and the added resource required to ensure a course of appropriate quality could be delivered in Northern Ireland.

School of Creative Arts

The University of Ulster teaches set design and lighting on the BA Drama on the University's Magee campus. The two first-year core modules DRA111 Issues in Performance 2: The Theatrical Space and DRA110: Performance Technologies are the most relevant modules in year 1 for introducing Drama students to fundamental skills and concepts in scenography and technical theatre production respectively, and DRA309: Production Process in year 2 requires Major and Single Honours students to research, develop and apply skills across the whole range of production roles appropriate to professional theatre production. A number of graduates from the Drama programme are now working professionally in technical theatre roles.

Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University offers a module in 'Stage Management and Theatre Production' (DRA2056) which runs across two semesters of the undergraduate degree in Drama Studies. The main thrust of the modules is to equip students with a basic grounding in all aspects of technical theatre.

Similar modules are offered at all levels of the Film Studies undergraduate degree programme – with the focus on technical issues, including lighting and film craft. As part of the Music Technology degree programme, modules are offered which provide training in location sound, theatre sound, and recording and editing.

Cost-Effectiveness of Away-Days and Team-Building Exercises

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department assesses the cost-effectiveness of away-days and team-building exercises.

(AQW 9949/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department has a policy on organisational development (away-days) and team building exercises, and issues guidance to all staff. The policy and guidance include information on how all events must be evaluated against output-based objectives. This evaluation exercise is led by management in business areas. Events are only approved where appropriate objectives are set in advance and financial resources are available. The policy and guidance are regularly reviewed, updated and circulated to staff.

Presentations to Assembly Committees

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when his Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9977/11-15)

Dr Farry: During the period 1 March 2011 to 29 February 2012 there were eight occasions when officials from the Department for Employment and Learning made a presentation to the Assembly committee and papers were provided less than 48 hours before the meeting. The attached table lists the meeting dates, topics and dates of issue. An asterisk marks each of the eight occasions.

ANNEX

Date of meeting	Topic	Dates papers issued
23 March 2011	European issues	18 March 2011
1 June 2011	June monitoring Temporary Agency Workers	31 May 2011* 23 May 2011
8 June 2011	Higher Education Strategy	2 June 2011
15 June 2011	European issues Further information on Temporary Agency Workers	9 June 2011 10 June 2011
22 June 2011	Stranmillis College and Queen's University Belfast June monitoring	17 June 2011 21 June 2011*
29 June 2011	Student finance	23 June 2011
14 September 2011	Legislative Consent Motion – Ofqual Consultation on tutor qualifications	2 August 2011 and 8 September 2011 4 August 2011

Date of meeting	Topic	Dates papers issued
21 September 2011	Review of Education Maintenance Allowance Welfare Reform Incapacity Benefit migration	Report provided 13 January 2011 16 September 2011 9 September 2011
5 October 2011	October Monitoring	30 September 2011 4 October 2011
12 October 2011	Re-contracting Training for Success	6 October 2011
19 October 2011	Disability Employment Service Budget briefing	6 October 2011 14 October 2011
9 November 2011	Essential Skills October Monitoring	3 November 2011 3 November 2011
23 November 2011	Employment Rights	21 November 2011*
30 November 2011	Careers Strategy December monitoring	29 November 2011* 29 November 2011*
14 December 2011	December Monitoring Young People not in Education, Employment or Training	14 December 2011* 8 December 2011
11 January 2012	Employment Service PfG, ISNI and Economic Strategy	4 January 2012 Papers issued centrally
18 January 2012	Training for Success	17 January 2012*
8 February 2012	Learner Access and Engagement Further Education Division	24 January 2012 12 January 2012
29 February 2012	Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division Blacklisting of trade union members	27 February 2012* 22 February 2012

* provided less than 48 hours before the meeting.

Training for Success Contract Providers

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what discussions his Department has had with Training for Success contract providers in relation to the continuation of their contracts post March 2012.

(AQW 9988/11-15)

Dr Farry: To ensure that training provision under Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI continues to be in place, my Department has written to all existing training suppliers offering an extension to their current contract for a short period after 31 March 2012.

In terms of the new training provision my Department, via the Central Procurement Directorate, issued Intention to Award letters to all successful tenderers on 2 April 2012. It is my Department's intention

to have the new provision in place as soon as possible, in line with the principles and procedures of public procurement.

Procedures in Further Education Facilities

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he has ordered a review of the relevant procedures in further education facilities to avoid a recurrence of the issues surrounding Stuart Townsend's attendance at Belfast Metropolitan College and the allegations made at the North West College.

(AQW 10022/11-15)

Dr Farry: My officials have requested a sector-wide policy, in respect of safeguarding at the six further education colleges. This will ensure that coherent, joined-up procedures are in place, to avoid any recurrence of this situation.

Merger of Stranmillis College with Queen's University, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he will seek clarification from the Chair of the Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College on his statement that the college was "in a dire situation, on a life support machine" and whether he was referring to the College's long-term future or the proposed merger with Queen's University, Belfast.

(AQW 10023/11-15)

Dr Farry: I will not be seeking any clarification on the statements made in November 2011 by the Chair of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College.

European Social Fund Programme for the Training for Success Initiative: Advisors

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning who were the independent assessors for his Department's application to the European Social Fund Programme for the Training for Success initiative; and how they were appointed.

(AQW 10031/11-15)

Dr Farry: The independent assessors appointed to undertake the selection process for Priority 1 of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF) Programme, 2007-2013 (the Government Managed Programme Application for the Training for Success Programme administered by my Department's Training Programmes Branch) were FPM Consultants. They were appointed by single Tender.

Training for Success Initiative

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much of the European Social Fund allocation has been spent to date on the Training for Success initiative; and how much is indicated on the spend database.

(AQW 10032/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Northern Ireland ESF Managing Authority has a letter of Offer with Training Programmes Branch, worth £8.67m, for the Programme Led Apprentices project. This amount, once vouched, verified and claimed in keeping with EU regulations will be recorded on the spend database in due course and no slippage is currently expected.

Training for Success Initiative

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to his Department's Training for Success initiative and the European Social Fund, whether there is an opportunity to amend the letter of offer allocation to the Training for Success initiative should slippage be identified; and whether other projects are eligible to bid should slippage occur.

(AQW 10033/11-15)

Dr Farry: The regulations applying to the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme (NIESF), 2007 -2013 allow for the amendment of all Letters of Offer, including the offer to the Training for Success Programme. It is not anticipated that slippage will occur in expenditure committed to the Training for Success Programme and there are no plans to hold further competitions for funding over the remaining duration of the NIESF Programme 2007-2013.

Review of the Freedom of Information Act

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail his Department's position in relation to the submission made by the Civil Service to the Westminster Justice Committee's review of the Freedom of Information Act.

(AQW 10040/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department provided input to the NICS submission underlining that, where the Freedom of Information Act is used appropriately, it serves a useful purpose. The Department for Employment and Learning's input raised a number of points, however, where it felt that the operation of the Act could be improved. These included: a suggestion that fees provisions be amended to include time spent analysing information before release, and to allow the aggregation of costs to individual departments in responding to 'round robin requests'. In addition, my Department's response proposed that the definition and criteria around both the issue of vexatious requests and the application of the section 35 exemption be reviewed.

I continue to support Freedom of Information and believe that when used properly it is an important tool in achieving accountability and transparency in government.

Enrolment Figures for the North West Regional College

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the enrolment figures for the North West Regional College for the (i) 2007/08; (ii) 2008/09; (iii) 2009/10; and (iv) 2010/11 academic years, broken down by (a) curriculum area; and (b) school.

(AQW 10068/11-15)

Dr Farry: The number of professional and technical enrolments at the North West Regional College by Subject Area from 2007/08 to 2010/11 is detailed in Annex A. The Department does not hold enrolment data by school within Further Education Colleges, and so I am not in a position to provide this information.

ANNEX A

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENROLMENTS IN NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE BY SUBJECT AREA (2007/08 - 2010/11)

Subject Area	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Health, Public Services & Care	2,035	2,004	2,743	3,265
Science & Mathematics	793	892	1,047	997
Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Care	72	48	94	301
Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies	1,283	1,416	1,272	1,246
Construction, Planning & the Built Environment	1,595	1,193	1,117	1,080
Information & Communication Technology	2,081	1,988	1,694	2,011

Subject Area	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Retail & Commercial Enterprise	2,149	2,223	2,428	2,541
Leisure, Travel & Tourism	523	512	621	832
Arts, Media & Publishing	950	1,184	1,350	1,336
Social Sciences	84	100	93	97
Languages, Literature & Culture	1,211	743	867	598
Education & Training	2,770	3,419	5,302	5,109
Preparation for Life & Work	361	94	160	242
Business, Administration & Law	1,085	1,332	1,453	1,296
Total	16,992	17,148	20,241	20,951

Source: Further Education Statistical Record (FESR)

Notes:

- 1 Latest validated data held by my Department pertains to the 2010/11 academic year.
- 2 Professional and technical provision relates to those courses which have a qualification aim attached.
- 3 Recreational provision is not included in the above table.
- 4 It is important to note that whilst ICT Essential Skills provision was included in the answer to AQW 10069/11-15 (which requested information on ICT enrolments by Levels 0, 1 and 2) that Essential Skills ICT provision in the above table is included under the Subject Area 'Education and Training'.

Enrolment Figures in ICT/Computing

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the enrolment figures in ICT/Computing Levels (i) 0; (ii) 1; and (iii) 2 in the North West Regional College for the (a) 2007/08; (b) 2008/09; (c) 2009/10; and (d) 2010/11 academic years.

(AQW 10069/11-15)

Dr Farry: The number of ICT professional and technical enrolments for levels 0, 1 and 2 under the Subject Area ICT as well as those for ICT in Essential Skills at the North West Regional College from 2007/08 to 2010/11 is detailed in Annex A.

ANNEX A

ICT PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL ENROLMENTS (FOR LEVELS 0,1 AND 2) IN NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE 2007/08-2010/11

Level	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
ICT Subject Area enrolments				
0	436	804	566	1,176
1	984	424	566	209
2	226	332	278	244
ICT Subject Area Total	1,646	1,560	1,410	1,629

Level	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
ICT Essential Skills Enrolments				
ICT Essential Skills Total	0	169	1,478	1,291
Overall Total	1,646	1,729	2,888	2,920

Source: Further Education Statistical Record (FESR)

Notes:

- 1 Latest validated data held by my Department pertains to the 2010/11 academic year.
- 2 For the purpose of this AQW, over and above enrolments in the Subject Area ICT, the answer also sets out enrolments in ICT Essential Skills which is classified under the Subject Area Education and Training. It is important to note that in respect of AQW 10068/11-15 ICT Essential Skills provision has been included under the Subject Area Education and Training.
- 3 Professional and technical provision relates to those courses which have a qualification aim attached.
- 4 Recreational provision is not included in the above table.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether applications to the European Social Fund Programme were open only to agencies associated with his Department.

(AQW 10080/11-15)

Dr Farry: No. Applications to the European Social Fund were open to all organisations who met the regulatory requirements of the Northern Ireland ESF Operational Programme Document.

Projects with a Nil Spend on the EU Spend Database

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning which projects, awarded funding under the European Social Fund Programme, currently have a nil spend on the EU spend database; and how this will impact on the departmental N+2 target and expenditure figures.

(AQW 10098/11-15)

Dr Farry: A total of three projects offered funding under the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme, 2007-2013 have not yet submitted claims and have not yet recorded spend on the European Programmes database system. All three projects have commenced and incurred expenditure that will be claimed from the programme and reimbursed, subject to vouching and verification of regulatory eligibility. The projects are anticipated to spend during the current year and to contribute to the achievement of the N+2 expenditure target for 2012.

N + 2 Targets

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what remedial action plan his Department has in place to meet the N+2 targets in cases where an underspend is anticipated.

(AQW 10099/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department has achieved all N+2 expenditure targets since the commencement of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme, 2007-2013 and is satisfied that sufficient funding has been committed to meet future N+2 targets.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether any of his Department's match funding for the European Social Fund Programme has been surrendered to the Executive.

(AQW 10100/11-15)

Dr Farry: In 2008/09 and 2009/10 £813k and £300k respectively of the Department's 25% contribution to the Northern Ireland Social Fund (NIESF) was surrendered to DFP as part of the monitoring round process. No ESF funding was lost as a result of these easements.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether any of the funding allocated from the European Social Fund Programme has been recommitted and surrendered to the EU.

(AQW 10106/11-15)

Dr Farry: None of the funding €165.7 million allocated to the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme, 2007-2013 has been recommitted or returned to the European Commission.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10161/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy working environment and has published a Strategy for Workplace Health and Safety (2011- 2014). In line with Health & Safety regulations the Department actively trains designated first aiders in the skills they need to carry out this role. First Aid training includes current instruction in administering Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 9638/11-15, (i) whether St Mary's University College, Belfast, is part of the proposed merger; (ii) whether a public consultation on its inclusion has been completed or will be completed; and (iii) how many of its staff or members of the Board of Governors have been detailed with pursuing a proposed merger.

(AQW 10232/11-15)

Dr Farry: As outlined during my statement in the Assembly, the proposals put forward by Stranmillis University College did not include merger with St Mary's University College Belfast. The second stage of the study of the teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland will examine the options for a more shared and integrated system for the delivery and funding of teacher education.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the (i) departmental procedures; and (ii) EU guidance in relation to the distribution of allocated funds from the European Social Fund when projects do not accept the funding or withdraw from the European Social Fund Programme.

(AQW 10250/11-15)

Dr Farry: The procedures for the application, distribution and allocation of funding under the NIESF Programme were agreed by the ESF Monitoring Committee, EU Commission and the NI Executive and are set out in the Operational Manual. The distribution and allocation of ESF funding is subject to ongoing review by the Managing Authority to take account of spending across the current 82 projects in the second call and to ensure that we meet our N+2 targets.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the total level of funding allocated but not accepted in the second round of the European Social Fund Programme.

(AQW 10251/11-15)

Dr Farry: A total of £1,270,337 ESF and DEL funding was allocated under the second call of the NIESF Programme to 2 organisations that subsequently withdrew from the Programme.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to the second round of the European Social Fund Programme, (i) how many projects were scored as successful by the assessment team, but were not allocated funding due to oversubscription; and (ii) the total value of the unallocated funding for the successful but unfunded projects.

(AQW 10252/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the second round of the European Social Fund Programme a total of 17 projects were scored as successful but not allocated funding, the total eligible value of the ESF and DEL funding sought was £ 9,744,700.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what mechanism was used to allocate the funds identified in his Department's value for money exercise on the European Social Fund Programme.

(AQW 10300/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department carried out an affordability exercise on the second call for funding under the Northern Ireland European Social Fund. In addition all 83 projects, selected for reduced funding of 75% had to achieve a satisfactory economic appraisal rating determined against DFP standards.

The second call was significantly over-subscribed in terms of both the number of applications received and the funding sought. A total of 112 applications were received under the second call compared with 86 for the first call, an increase of over 30%.

The total value of ESF funding sought amounted to almost £50 million, against an ESF budget of £30 million over a three-year period. The Department applied a cut – off point of 134 marks to ensure that available funds were distributed to as many projects as possible i.e. fund the greatest number of projects, but at a reduced level that would still be feasible for the projects.

This arrangement resulted in a much greater number of projects funded than would have been the case. Had all top scoring projects been allocated the full amount bid for, only 49 projects would have been supported in the second call.

European Social Fund Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether his Department's instruction, that projects successful in the European Social Fund Programme required a 25 percent value for money reduction in costs, was implemented across all the projects; and if not, what are the reasons for any inconsistency.

(AQW 10301/11-15)

Dr Farry: I can confirm that all successful projects in the second call of the NIESF Programme were required to make a 25% reduction to their costs without exception.

Step Ahead Initiative

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he plans to recommence the Step Ahead initiative before the dissolution of his Department.

(AQW 10308/11-15)

Dr Farry: I am considering making a bid in the June monitoring round for additional resources. If successful this will allow me to introduce a targeted Step Ahead initiative.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Report on the Inquiry into Public Procurement in Northern Ireland

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to paragraph 258 of the Report on the Inquiry into Public Procurement in Northern Ireland about her Department's lead responsibility in terms of the small business and social economy sectors, what guidance is available to a panel assessing a tender if it is unsure about any element of an application or the applicant's ability to meet the criteria.

(AQW 8793/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) has published two guidance notes in relation to the selection and assessment of tenders. They are "The Selection and Pre-qualification of Contractors" (Procurement Guidance Note 04/10) and "The Procedures and Principles for the Evaluation of Tenders" (Procurement Guidance Note 02/09).

The guidance sets out a clearly defined process which must be followed by evaluation panels to ensure consistency of approach, transparency and equality of treatment. Tender evaluation panels are required to assess each tender on the basis of the information supplied.

In line with the guidance the Chair of the assessment panel may seek clarification via the Centre of Procurement Expertise (CoPE) in relation to any element of the application on behalf of panel members, if required. In so doing CoPEs ensure that other applicants are not placed at a disadvantage.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what support her Department provides to small and medium-sized enterprises that wish to make their properties more energy efficient.

(AQW 9688/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI supports Northern Ireland businesses (including SMEs) to improve their competitiveness, productivity and sustainability by delivering a range of measures to identify and achieve cost savings in the consumption of water, energy and raw materials. The degree of support will depend on the savings that are likely to be achieved in any particular business.

As well as advice and information delivered through Invest NI's website – www.investni.com and through www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk Invest NI can provide tailored support to appropriate businesses to assess energy, water and materials use with a view to identifying and prioritising projects that will reduce the cost of resource consumption.

Further technical expertise and support can also be offered to help individual business take forward projects and realise cost savings.

Specifically in relation to energy saving projects Invest NI also provides the funding for interest free, energy efficiency loans for businesses which are delivered by the Carbon Trust. This funding option offers unsecured business loans from £3k to £400k over four years to help Northern Ireland businesses install energy saving equipment. The size of loans depends on the energy saving potential of any particular project.

Business Start-Ups

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 9229/11-15, to give a breakdown by constituency of the 5,321 businesses started and the circa 4,257 of these which survived for more than 12 months.

(AQW 9700/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI does hold the data necessary to determine the exact location of those new business starts which continued to trade after one year.

In order to provide an approximate estimate of the total number of new business starts that survive beyond the first year, a formula is applied. This formula was developed by KPMG during a previous evaluation of the Enterprise Development Programme (formerly the Start a Business Programme) and is considered to be appropriate.

The formula is based on the number of approvals that were estimated to proceed to starting a business (68%) and the number that were then estimated to survive for more than 1 year (80%).

Greyhound Industry

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what financial assistance is available to the greyhound industry to promote its development in relation to tourism and job creation.

(AQW 9770/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board offers financial assistance to tourism and events projects through the Tourism Development Scheme and the Tourism Events Fund.

Applications are invited from those who require assistance and who meet the criteria of the application process.

The criteria for each call for applications is aligned to identified tourism priorities, currently based on the draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020.

No application for funding was received from the Greyhound Industry for either of these funding streams.

There is no current funding to the greyhound industry from DETI or its other Non Departmental Public Bodies.

Tourist Board: Capital Investment

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the amount of capital investment by the Tourist Board in each council area in each of the last five years.
(AQW 9785/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The total amount of financial assistance paid to tourism related businesses by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board in each of the last five financial years is broken down in the table attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

BREAKDOWN OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL AREAS BY FINANCIAL YEAR.

District Council Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Antrim			£5,000.00	£58,382.50	£145,000.00	£208,382.50
Ards			£214,284.00	£53,428.00	£120,655.27	£388,367.27
Armagh			£1,029.00	£375,926.50	£356,506.12	£733,461.62
Ballymena			£2,800.00		£5,875.00	£8,675.00
Ballymoney						£0.00
Banbridge						£0.00
Belfast		£612,085.00		£39,703,021.00	£89,000.00	£40,404,106.00
Carrickfergus			£126,055.00		£2,875.00	£128,930.00
Castlereagh						£0.00
Coleraine	£110,000.00	£68,650.00	£5,000.00	£497,655.00	£168,814.25	£850,119.25
Cookstown				£27,000.00	£500,000.00	£527,000.00
Craigavon				£263,697.00		£263,697.00
Londonderry		£778,225.45	£3,467,006.00	£333,087.00	£812,500.00	£5,390,818.45

District Council Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Down		£275,769.00	£6,750.00	£4,763.00	£1,812,845.58	£2,100,127.58
Dungannon					£132,971.00	£132,971.00
Fermanagh	£194,997.00	£50,000.00		£217,145.00		£462,142.00
Larne		£204,500.00		£29,918.00	£132,777.09	£367,195.09
Limavady		£64,534.75			£7,202.75	£71,737.50
Lisburn		£29,072.00				£29,072.00
Magherafelt					£35,753.00	£35,753.00
Moyle		£76,752.00	£142,005.00	£283,772.38	£9,487,532.29	£9,990,061.67
Newry and Mourne			£8,750.00	£363,330.25	£494,083.10	£866,163.35
Newtownabbey				£669,359.00		£669,359.00
North Down				£4,970.00	£37,521.30	£42,491.30
Omagh		£260,000.00		£150,000.00	£32,500.00	£442,500.00
Strabane						£0.00
Cross		£443,269.80		£199,769.00	£32,800.00	£675,838.80
Total	£304,997.00	£2,862,858.00	£3,978,679.00	£43,235,223.63	£14,407,211.75	£64,788,969.38

InvestNI: Advertising

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) how much InvestNI has spent on advertising in each month of the current financial year; (ii) how much of this spend was planned; and (iii) how much was spent to use up the budget.

(AQW 9786/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

(i) How much Invest NI has spent on advertising in each month of the current financial year.

In the current financial year, Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI) has been responsible for delivering 11 separate advertising campaigns, covering a broad range of activities to support delivery of corporate targets and ensure that individuals and businesses are aware of relevant support available from Invest NI.

Monthly advertising expenditure for these campaigns, inclusive of VAT, media rebate and advertising levies, is as follows:

FY 2011-12 Q1 AND Q2

Campaign Title	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sept-11
Boosting Business	-	-	-	-	-	-
Go for It	-	-	-	£18,954	£91,945	£62,473
nibusinessinfo.co.uk	£5,504	£5,988	£7,133	£4,697	£5,040	£6,938
Bring It On	-	-	-	-	-	-
R&D Calls for Application	-	-	-	-	-	-
Innovation Vouchers	-	-	£3,029	-	-	£11,074
Collaborative Networks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate Positioning	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679
Regional Advertorials	-	-	-	-	-	-
Continental & United Airlines	-	-	-	-	-	-
International 2012 Promotion	-	-	-	-	-	-

FY 2011-12 Q3 AND Q4

Campaign Title	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
Boosting Business	£146	£67,117	£40,857	£101,087	£51,473	£116,117
Go for It	£18,154	£33,344	£22,812	£50,658	£40,531	£0
nibusinessinfo.co.uk	£15,525	£11,164	£5,994	£30,599	£47,078	£63,209

Campaign Title	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
Bring It On	-	-	-	-	£46,431	£33,879
R&D Calls for Application	-	-	£15,019	£9,553	£15,463	£12,278
Innovation Vouchers	-	£3,006	-	-	£16,619	-
Collaborative Networks	-	-	£1,413	£2,826	£1,413	-
Corporate Positioning	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679	£2,679
Regional Advertorials	-	£16,555	£16,555	£20,336	£20,336	£20,336
Continental & United Airlines	-	-	-	-	£300,000	-
International 2012 Promotion	-	-	-	£470,742	£28,390	£287,538

(ii) How much of this spend was planned.

All advertising expenditure associated with Invest NI campaigns is planned and aligned to Corporate Plan priorities and annual Operating Plan targets.

(iii) How much was spent to use up the budget.

All advertising expenditure associated with Invest NI campaign is covered by the organisation's annual, existing baseline budget. None of Invest NI's advertising expenditure was spent to use up its annual budget.

North Coast Tourism: Hurling

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what consideration she has given to making hurling part of the north coast's tourism product, involving clubs such as Loughgiel Shamrocks. **(AQW 9799/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: My department through the work of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has already identified hurling as an integral part of the tourism product in the north coast area. NITB has encouraged the development of Scullion Hurls as a visitor attraction and supported their aspiration to become part of the prestigious Économusée network which celebrates and promotes the work of artisan workers across Canada and Northern Europe. Phase 1 of the development is due to open in July 2012.

If Loughgiel Shamrocks wish to engage in tourism there are plenty of opportunities for them to do so. They need to engage at a local level and get involved in the destination planning for the Causeway Coast and Glens region through their local council, Ballymoney Borough Council.

Business Improvement Districts

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the opportunities that would be afforded to local businesses as a result of the introduction of Business Improvement Districts; and what discussions her officials have had with the Department for Social Development with a view to progressing its proposals.

(AQW 9832/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Vibrant town and city centres create the incentive for the further development of tourism by offering more opportunities for visitors to spend in shops, restaurants, pubs and other attractions. In turn, this will support business growth.

I welcome the establishment of Business Improvement Districts with their potential to help Northern Ireland's high streets to reposition themselves to provide attractive vibrant environments which add value to the overall consumer experience.

DSD officials are keeping me informed as the primary legislation is taken forward and will be seeking their input as the secondary legislation and guidance are developed. I am keen to support DSD to ensure the potential of this important enabling legislation is realised..

Titanic Building and Festival

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail, for each of the last five years, (i) the funding that has been allocated by the Tourist Board to promote the Titanic Building and festival; and (ii) the funding that has been provided to each organisation to carry adverts highlighting the Titanic Building and festival.

(AQW 9844/11-15)

Mrs Foster: NI 2012 is a major opportunity to leverage from a series of significant events, including the Titanic Festival, and anniversaries to create a platform which will reposition Northern Ireland as a positive place to live, work, invest, study and visit.

The campaign supporting the ni2012 programme has been developed to maximise investment efficiencies and impact effectiveness across TV, Radio, Outdoor, Print, and Digital advertising. As a key focal point for the Titanic Festival, the Titanic Belfast building is one of a number of visual references being used in the current campaign. To date the NITB has allocated £402,508 to promote the Titanic Festival in both the Northern Ireland and Republic Of Ireland marketplaces.

Regarding the previous five years, the NITB has not developed campaigns featuring or promoting the Titanic Belfast building and has not provided funding for external organisations to develop advertising for the Titanic Building or Festival.

Energy Costs

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 9158/11-15, what action her Department is taking to assist new companies in their decision to invest in Northern Ireland, and to ensure that high energy costs do not become a negative factor in their decision to do so.
(AQW 9957/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI has a successful record in attracting high quality inward investment with a proposition that is based on a number of factors, including its proximity to customers, cultural compatibility, cost competitiveness, a highly educated, skilled, English speaking workforce and a robust infrastructure. Invest NI targets investment in sectors that play to these strengths, including financial services, business services and ICT/software. Energy costs are not a significant factor in the investment decisions of companies operating in these sectors.

The Strategic Energy Framework 2010 recognises the impact that high energy costs have on the local business economy and commits to developing a more competitive energy market across Northern Ireland.

From my previous answer to AQW 9158/11-15, you will be aware that although my Department does not set electricity and gas tariffs, it works closely with the Utility Regulator to develop market conditions to put downward pressure on prices. Engagement with the Utility Regulator includes discussions and meetings around the review of regulated energy tariffs, and in relation to price controls, to ensure that retail energy costs are kept as low as possible.

All energy consumers are encouraged to seek out the best deals available from competing supply companies, and business customers are encouraged to use the energy buyers' guides which have been produced by the Utility Regulator and Manufacturing NI.

Northern Ireland businesses can also access capital support for investment in energy saving projects through the Invest NI funded, interest-free, Energy Efficiency Loan Fund managed by Carbon Trust as well as through the UK-wide finance scheme provided by Carbon Trust Implementation Services and Siemens Financial Services.

My Department, along with Invest NI, is considering if direct capital support beyond what is currently available can be provided to existing high energy users within the limits of the EU's State Aid Regulations. Revenue support for deployment of renewable energy technologies is provided through the existing NI Renewable Obligation Certificates (NIROC) regime managed by my Department.

In addition, the UK Government is currently taking steps to establish the "Green Investment Bank" which may be able to assist businesses take steps to reduce the cost of energy consumption in future.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10015/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department follows Health and Safety guidance to ensure that there is an adequate number of certified First Aiders operating across all locations. The Department has currently 19 staff trained in First Aid, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, and has systems in place to ensure this training is updated by the training provider every three years.

Tourism Ireland Funding

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQO 1595/11-15, (i) how much of the £1 million invested in Tourism Ireland is directed towards Belfast International Airport; and (ii) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the delivery of Tourism Ireland funding to ensure that the investment is sufficiently proportionate between Northern Ireland's international airport and the Republic of Ireland's international airports.

(AQW 10017/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Tourism Ireland cannot specify how much of its £1 million co-operative marketing investment has been allocated to Belfast International Airport (BIA), as this information is commercially sensitive. However, I can confirm that a number of airlines which operate services from BIA are participating in the initiative. These are Aer Lingus, easyJet, Jet2 and United.

The £1million co-operative marketing initiative relates to air and sea carriers which operate out of Northern Ireland's airports and ports. No element of this funding has been used to support the marketing activities of carriers which operate out of airports and ports in the Republic of Ireland.

Presentations to Assembly Committees

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when her Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 10035/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The details are contained in the table below:

Date of meeting	Topic
22 March 2012	DETI response to the ETI Inquiry into Developing the Northern Ireland Economy through Innovation, Research and Development
01 December 2011	Invest NI Performance update
24 November 2011	DETI update on the Renewable Heat Incentive consultation.
30 June 2011	NITB presentation – The Tourism Opportunity
23 June 2011	Invest NI Presentation – Overview of Performance
02 June 2011	DETI input into June 2011 Monitoring round

InvestNI Funding in the North Antrim Area

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding InvestNI has allocated to the North Antrim area in each of the last three years; and to list the businesses that have received funding.

(AQW 10089/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Table 1 shows the amount of assistance, or funding, that Invest NI has offered to companies in the North Antrim Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) in each of the last three financial years.

TABLE 1: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED IN NORTH ANTRIM PCA (2008-09 TO 2010-11)

Financial Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Total Assistance £m	2.58	6.15	6.22	14.95

Table 2 lists the names of businesses that were offered the assistance contained in table 1.

TABLE 2: BUSINESS IN NORTH ANTRIM PCA OFFERED INVEST NI ASSISTANCE (2008-09 TO 2010-11)

BUSINESS NAME
ADRIAN AUSTIN
AEROSPACE METAL FINISHERS LIMITED
AEROSUBS LIMITED
AGQUIP LTD
ALEXANDER BONAR & CO., LIMITED
ALTERNATIVE ANGLES (A TRIANGLE HOUSING ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE)
ASHGROVE CONTRACT FURNITURE LIMITED
BALLYMENA BUS DEVELOPMENT CTR LTD TSO
BELL ARCHITECTS LTD
BOVILL LEAD LIMITED
BRIAN JOHNSTON
BUSHMILLS HOTELS LIMITED
C & C FRAMES LTD

BUSINESS NAME
CARMICHAELS (NI) LIMITED
CHRISTIES DIRECT LTD
CIGA HEALTHCARE LIMITED
CLINTY CHEMICALS LTD
CLINTY RE-GEN LIMITED
COATING DEVELOPMENTS 2005 LIMITED
COLIN DONNELLY
COMPASS ADVOCACY NETWORK LIMITED
CRAWFORD CONTRACTS GROUP LTD
CYRIL REID
DAVID PATTON AND SONS (NI) LTD
DIXONS CONTRACTORS LTD
DOHERTY & GRAY LIMITED
DOKO SUSHI LTD
DONTAUR ENGINEERING LIMITED
DUNBIA (BALLYMENA) LIMITED
E & C INNS LTD
ECOMESH LTD
EDAPHON S-OIL TEC LIMITED
EDDIE FERGUSON
ESTHER ELLIOTT
FEARGHAS QUINN
FENCING SOLUTIONS (NI) LTD
FINISH SPECIALIST CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS LTD
FOODSERVICE SUPPORT SOLUTIONS (N.I) LIMITED
FRANCIS DINSMORE, LIMITED
FRANK & GLORIA ALEXANDER
FRANK MC CAUGHAN JAMES MC CAUGHAN & FRANCIS FARRELL
FRED & RUTH GIBSON T/A GIBSON CONTRACTS
G2DATA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED
GALGORM MANOR HOTEL LIMITED
GARAGE DOOR SYSTEMS LIMITED
GARY HOOD
GARY MC CONNELL

BUSINESS NAME
GEORGE FLECK SENIOR, GEORGE FLECK JUNIOR, AGNES FLECK & BRENDA FLECK
GIRVAN MACCORKELL, ALISTAIR MACCORKELL & ELIZABETH MACCORKELL
GLENOVATION LIMITED
GRANT'S ELECTRICAL SVS (NI) LTD
GROUNDSMAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED
GUY THOMPSON & BRAD HUSTON
H. K. DICKEY
HARRY HARPUR
HAYBURN WOOD PRODUCTS LIMITED
HELEN MARTIN
HUGH ANDERSON
IAN ELLIOTT
INTEC (CONTRACT INTERIORS) LIMITED
J. F. & H. DOWDS LIMITED
J.M.F. LTD.
JACKSON TODD
JAMES STEVENSON (QUARRIES) LTD
JH INDUSTRIAL CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED
JOHN BORLAND
JOHN MORTON
JOHN SHARKEY
JOHN WARD
JOSEPH HUGHES PAINTING CONTRACTORS LIMITED
KARMA DESIGN 22 LTD
KBE LIMITED
KENNETH SINCLAIR
LAWSCRIPT (NI) LTD
LORNA AND TONY BOYCE
LOUGHGIEL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LTD
M. CLARKE & SONS CONTRACTS LIMITED
MADDEN BROS LTD
MAINE SURFACE FINISHING LIMITED
MAINE TANKERS LIMITED
MARK REA

BUSINESS NAME
MARY ELIZABETH LYNN
MCAULEY KITCHENS LIMITED
MCKEOWN FINE FOODS LIMITED
MET HEALTHCARE LIMITED
MICHELIN TYRE PLC
MOORE (UNIDRILL) LIMITED
MOORE CONCRETE PRODUCTS LIMITED
MOORINGS MEDIQUIP LTD
MR MATTHEW CORDNER & MR IAN MCKEOWN
MR R MCMULLAN, MRS M MCMULLAN, MRS V MCMULLAN AND MR A MCMULLAN
MUGGINSOFT LLP
MULLINSALLAGH LIMITED
NAMPAK PLASTICS EUROPE LIMITED
NEW WORLD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
NORMAN BELL
NORTH ANTRIM BUSINESS AGENCY LTD
NORTHERN MATERIALS HANDLING (IRELAND) LIMITED
NU-LOK (IRELAND) LTD
NU-LOK ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS LTD
O'KANE POULTRY LIMITED
OKOTECH LIMITED
ONUS (NI) LTD
PASCHAL MC LOUGHLIN
PATRICK & EILEEN DOUGAN
PATRICK MCNEILL
PAUL SLOAN
PETER DALLAT & BERNADETTE DALLAT
PETER MCCARTNEY
PETER MCFETRIDGE
PETER O KANE
PETER TAYLOR
R. ROBINSON & SONS (CHARTERED ARCHITECTS & CIVIL ENGINEERS) LTD
RAYMOND TODD
REDFLITE LTD

BUSINESS NAME
RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LTD
RICHARD MILLAR
ROBERT JOHN & WILLIAM ADRIAN CHERRY
ROBERT STEWART & ANNA STEWART
S J MCAULEY ENGINEERING LIMITED
SALMAR CONSTRUCTION LTD
SEAN BLANEY
SELLING SERVICES UK LLP
SHAW AUTOMATION LTD
SIMON AND ANGELA MURRAY
SMITH'S ENGINEERING WORKS (NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED
STEPHENS CATERING EQUIPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
STEVEN HOUSTON T/A RED HEIFER CHEESE
STEVENSON & COMPANY
SWITCHSOURCE LTD
SYSTEM CONTROLS LIMITED
TAKETHEBISCUIT LTD
THE OLD BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY COMPANY LIMITED
THE SUFFOLK SHEEP SOCIETY
THEONESWITCH LTD
THOMAS POLLOCK
TICKETPAL IRELAND LTD
TONY MORRISON
TRAVAN PRECISION ENGINEERING LTD
TRIANGLE HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD
WARWICK ENGINEERING (NI) LIMITED
WILLIAM MCCAUGHERN
WOODLAND FURNITURE LTD
WOODLAND KITCHENS (NI) LIMITED
WRIGHT COMPOSITES LIMITED
WRIGHTBUS LIMITED

NOTE: The names of 4 companies have been withheld as their inclusion may damage their commercial interests.

Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an estimate of the annual additional cost to her Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10092/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Tourism Ireland Budget

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what proportion of the Tourism Ireland budget is spent specifically on promoting Northern Ireland.

(AQW 10139/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI has allocated £14.85million to Tourism Ireland for 2012 to promote Northern Ireland as part of the island of Ireland overseas. Tourism Ireland's total budget for 2012 is £54.57million*. Tourism Ireland features Northern Ireland prominently as part of its extensive global destination marketing programme.

DETI has also provided an additional £4.7million to boost Tourism Ireland's ni2012 specific promotional activity for Northern Ireland overseas.

* €62.727million converted at €1:0.87p as per Tourism Ireland 2012 Business Plan

Belfast International Airport

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what initiatives and support her Department has provided to Belfast International Airport in order to attract new airlines to use the airport.

(AQW 10141/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There are a number of ways in which my Department works with Belfast International Airport (BIA). For example, BIA and airlines which operate services from the airport, are participating in a Tourism Ireland Northern Ireland Access Initiative aimed at promoting ease of access, competitive fares and the great range of festivals and events taking place in Northern Ireland as part of ni2012. BIA based airlines participating in the initiative are Aer Lingus, easyJet, Jet2 and United. Another example of co-operation with BIA is Tourism Ireland's continued work with the airport in case-making for the restoration of routes such as a direct service from Toronto to Belfast.

My Department has also been working with BIA to build on the reduction in the rate of Air Passenger Duty (APD) applied to direct long haul flights operating in Band B. This has sent a very positive message to long haul airlines that Northern Ireland is a viable option for long haul business. The Programme for Government has reinforced this message by setting an objective to eliminate the duty applied to direct long haul flights once APD is devolved.

Irish Open Golf Tournament at Portrush

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the expected influx of visitors for the Irish Open Golf Tournament at Portrush, what additional action is being taken to maximise business and tourism potential before, during and after the competition.

(AQW 10184/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), Tourism Ireland and Invest NI are all working to maximise the opportunities presented by the Irish Open for tourism and business.

In April 2012 NITB will deliver the 'Our Time to T-Off' Irish Open Information Day in the North Coast area aimed at local frontline tourism industry. In addition, a bespoke World Host Customer service training

course will be rolled out to front line industry staff over the coming months in partnership with the Northern Regional College, People 1st and Department of Employment and Learning.

NITB is also working closely with the European tour and other stakeholders to ensure that all visitor information messages are sent out via social media and web channels before during and after the Irish Open event.

Tourism Ireland, as part of its “Home of Champions” golf campaign, is urging overseas golf enthusiasts to come and attend the Irish Open and to extend their trip to try out some of our other world class courses.

A specific campaign for GB has been developed to promote the Irish Open and will include a series of advertisements and advertorials promoting a number of special offers to Northern Ireland around the Irish Open on a new website www.discoverireland.com/irishopen.

In the North American market, Tourism Ireland's new 60-second Northern Ireland golf ad kicked off on the Golf Channel in February, airing to millions of golf enthusiasts. Tourism Ireland has arranged three separate Golf Channel special half-hour programmes on Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke which are each airing three times this spring. Tourism Ireland's media event at the US Masters in Augusta in April will include a special focus on the Irish Open; and key American golf journalists will be invited by Tourism Ireland to visit Northern Ireland in June.

Invest NI is also working alongside NITB and Tourism Ireland on a series of events around the Irish Open that will maximise the potential business opportunities arising from the tournament. The events will help to build and reinforce relationships with key decision makers within companies who are considering investing in Northern Ireland.

Belfast International Airport: Police Presence

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the importance of tourist confidence, what discussions she has had with Belfast International Airport concerning its proposal to reduce the police presence at the airport.

(AQW 10186/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Airport Constabulary is a private service recruited and paid for by the owners of Belfast International Airport and is independent of Government. I will be meeting with the airport regarding the proposed reduction in the level of Airport Constabulary given the importance of tourism to the economy.

Visitors to the Irish Open

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action is being taken to encourage visitors to the Irish Open to stay in accommodation in the Ballycastle area.

(AQW 10222/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) remit is to promote the whole of Northern Ireland to both the domestic and Republic of Ireland markets with a view to increasing visitor numbers and spend.

As one of the key events in the ni2012 programme the Irish Open will be promoted through a bespoke campaign to maximise participation and visitor numbers for the event. The campaign will be developed in conjunction with regional tourism partners, promoting accommodation offers provided across the north coast.

Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the proposed Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive; and when it will be introduced.

(AQW 10239/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Following the consultation last year on proposals, my Department has been undertaking further analysis on the potential design of the RHI, including a re-assessment of tariff levels, eligible technologies and banding.

This work has been completed and the design of the RHI scheme is being finalised and all necessary approvals are being sought. This includes the necessary State Aid approval, without which the scheme cannot be introduced. The Department is in contact with Brussels on this matter, while the timing of the approval is outside of our control, I would be hopeful that this would be obtained by June. I will therefore provide further information on the launch of the scheme as soon as all approvals are in place.

NI 2012 'Our time, Our Place'

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money the Irish News has received to market NI 2012 'Our time, Our Place'.

(AQW 10259/11-15)

Mrs Foster: To date the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has invested £832,000 in promoting the ni2012: Our Time, Our Place campaign. Of this £25,000 has been specifically channelled through the Irish News.

Fuel Tanker Drivers Strike

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of recent events in England regarding the striking of fuel tanker drivers, what contingency plans are in place to secure the supply, storage and distribution of fuel.

(AQW 10262/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department has a Major Emergency Response Plan in place if a national or regional disruption of oil, electricity, gas and other fuels affects Northern Ireland. It would undertake a lead role for fuel supplies under the Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework, coordinated by the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Geological Survey of Northern Ireland

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) how the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) is constituted; and (ii) whether there is a legal separation between the GSNI and her Department or whether they are the same entity.

(AQW 10270/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) provides advice to DETI on matters relating to geological mapping, assessment of mineral and energy resources and licensing of prospecting activities. It is currently staffed by 15 geologists and professionals seconded to DETI by the British Geological Survey, a component part of the Natural Environment Research Council.

GSNI is established in accordance with The Minerals (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1959, which states that: 'The Ministry of Commerce [now DETI] shall be the Ministry responsible for the establishment of the Geological Survey and for the administration of all matters relating thereto'.

Introduction of Social Tariffs

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions have taken place regarding the introduction of a social tariff for energy service providers.

(AQW 10275/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I am already on record as stating that the introduction of social tariffs would be extremely complex and unlikely to solve the hardships caused by fuel poverty. As such, I have had no recent discussions regarding the introduction of social tariffs and have no plans to introduce social tariffs at this time.

Extracting Gas Onshore

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the revenue streams that will flow to the Executive directly from any company extracting gas onshore.

(AQW 10330/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I would refer the Member to the reply I gave to AQW 3910/11-15.

Department of the Environment

Collection of Recyclable Waste from Schools

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the rate charged by each local council for the collection of recyclable waste from schools.

(AQW 2129/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): It is at the discretion of councils whether to charge for collection of recyclable waste from schools or to provide this service free of charge.

Decisions on the collection of waste are a matter for district councils as set out in The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

A breakdown of the charges levied by council area is attached for your information. At present 14 councils provide collections from schools free of charge.

Rates charged by local councils for the collection of recyclable waste from schools

Antrim	No charge
Ards	No charge
Armagh	No charge
Ballymena	Call out fee of £11.50, and this covers collection of either 1x 1100 litre Bin OR 3x 240 litre bins (Standard Wheelie Bin Size) OR 19 Bin bags Additional bins charged as follows 1100 litre - £9 Large Tote Sack - £9 Small Tote sack – £4.50 240 litre wheelie bin - £3.50 Bin bags - £0.60
Ballymoney	No charge
Banbridge	Charge a one off collection fee based on the number of black bins which they have and the recyclable waste is weighed and charged at 5p per kg for both green bins with dry recyclables and brown bins with organic waste

Antrim	No charge
Belfast	<p>Call out fee of £10.50, this covers collection of either</p> <p>1x 1100 litre Bin OR</p> <p>3x 240 litre bins (Standard Wheelie Bin Size) OR</p> <p>19 Bin bags</p> <p>Additional bins charged as follows</p> <p>1100 litre - £9</p> <p>Large Tote Sack - £9</p> <p>Small Tote sack – £4.50</p> <p>240 litre wheelie bin - £3.50</p> <p>Bin bags - £0.60</p>
Carrickfergus	<p>Call out fee of £10.50, and this covers collection of either</p> <p>1x 1100 litre Bin OR</p> <p>3x 240 litre bins (Standard Wheelie Bin Size) OR</p> <p>19 Bin bags</p> <p>Additional bins charged as follows</p> <p>1100 litre - £9</p> <p>Large Tote Sack - £9</p> <p>Small Tote sack – £4.50</p> <p>240 litre wheelie bin - £3.50</p> <p>Bin bags - £0.60</p>
Castlereagh	No recycling service to schools
Coleraine	No charge
Cookstown	<p>Current rates (which do not include landfill tax as the waste is recyclable) are based on the number/size of wheeled bin containers as shown below:</p> <p>120 litre £1.20 p/w</p> <p>240 litre £1.95 p/w</p> <p>360 litre £2.80 p/w</p> <p>660 litre £4.95 p/w</p> <p>1100 litre £8.00 p/w</p>
Craigavon	No charge
Derry	No charge
Down	No charge
Dungannon and S.Tyrone	No charge
Fermanagh	No charge
Larne	No charge

Antrim	No charge
Limavady	<p>As an incentive to recycle there is a reduction of 10% off the residual collection charge for collection.</p> <p>120 litre £3.03 p/w</p> <p>240 litre £4.31 p/w</p> <p>360 litre £5.37 p/w</p> <p>660 litre £9.94 p/w</p> <p>1100 litre £16.66 p/w</p>
Lisburn	£1.32 per 240l bin.
Magherfelt	No charge
Moyle	No charge
Newry and Mourne	<p>120 litre fortnightly 26 collections £79.30</p> <p>240 litre fortnightly 26 collections £84.50</p> <p>360 litre fortnightly 26 collections £113.10</p> <p>660 litre fortnightly 26 collections £221.00</p> <p>1100 litre fortnightly 26 collections £338.00</p>
Newtownabbey	<p>Call out fee of £10.50, and this covers collection of either</p> <p>1x 1100 litre Bin OR</p> <p>3x 240 litre bins (Standard Wheelie Bin Size) OR</p> <p>19 Bin bags</p> <p>Additional bins charged as follows</p> <p>1100 litre - £9</p> <p>Large Tote Sack - £9</p> <p>Small Tote sack – £4.50</p> <p>240 litre wheelie bin - £3.50</p> <p>Bin bags - £0.60</p>
N.Down	No charge
Omagh	<p>140 litre bin £1.05 per week</p> <p>240 litre bin £2.05 per week</p> <p>360 litre bin £3.00 per week</p> <p>660 litre bin £5.50 per week</p> <p>1100 litre bin £9.15 per week.</p> <p>Please note the recyclable and brown bin collections are based on a 20 week alternate collection with the black residual bins.</p>

Antrim	No charge
Strabane	240 litre bin £3.00 330 litre bin £4.00 750 litre bin £9.00 1100 litre bin £13.00

I apologise for the late reply in this AQ due to an oversight in not issuing the AQ to EPD in October 2011.

Taxi Licences

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment whether people with criminal convictions are eligible to apply for a taxi licence.

(AQW 6353/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Applicants with criminal convictions are eligible to apply for taxi licences. However, the Department, in assessing such applications through a robust process of checking, is required to assess whether an applicant can be considered to be a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence, and in practice seeks to maintain a balance between the need to ensure the safety of the public and the need to allow for the rehabilitation of offenders. I have asked officials to advise if fuller guidance or further legislation is required on this issue. In the meantime I attach an Annex outlining the current criteria for assessment. I accept that there is a need for clarity and certainty on this issue.

Criteria for the Licensing of PSV Drivers and Operators

Each individual's case will be considered on its merits and the Department's objective is always to ensure that the travelling public are not subjected to unnecessary risk from taxi drivers or operators. The basic statutory requirement placed on the Department of being satisfied that an individual is a "fit and proper person" to hold a taxi licence is best summarised by asking the question "would one be happy to have a member of one's family travel in a vehicle driven or operated by the particular individual".

Each individual must satisfy the relevant Licensing Officer that they are of good character and their previous convictions, if any, provide a good indication of an individual's mental or moral nature, tendency towards violence, dishonesty, or to other unacceptable conduct, together with their likely attitude towards the high level of responsibility placed on, and expected of, each taxi driver or operator. In assessing the merits of each individual's case their convictions, if any, will be taken at face value with the penalty imposed providing an indication as to the seriousness with which the Court viewed a particular offence.

Insofar as PSV licensing is concerned an individual's convictions are graded into "serious" or "minor" categories depending on the nature of the conviction. The brief guide set out below provides some examples of the typical classification given to particular offences:

Serious Convictions		Minor Convictions
*	Murder or Manslaughter	Excess Speed
	Any Alcohol related Driving offence	Careless or Inconsiderate Driving
*	Any offence involving Violence such as Wounding or Assault, Threats to Kill, Robbery, Criminal Damage or Harassment	Other Minor breaches of the Road Traffic and other related legislation
*	Any Public Order offence	Minor breaches of the Taxi Licence legislation

Serious Convictions		Minor Convictions
*	Any Sexual offence such as Rape, Gross Indecency, Indecent Assault, Indecent Behaviour	Insurance offences
*	Any Dishonesty offence such as Burglary, Theft, Handling, Fraud or State benefit related offences	Minor State Benefit related offences
*	Any Drugs related offence	
*	Any Arms or Explosive offence	
*	Any Terrorist related offence such as membership of a proscribed organisation	
*	Any serious driving offence such as Causing Death by Dangerous Driving or Dangerous Driving	
	Regular and repeated minor offending	
	Any series of motoring or other offences such as to reveal a low level of responsibility	
*	Particular consideration would apply where offences of this nature are involved and a longer period than 3 years may apply.	

New Applicants

Individuals applying for PSV licences are generally expected to have a clear record for at least 3 years in the case of a “serious” conviction and 12 months for “minor” convictions. In respect of “serious” convictions the Department, in the exercise of its discretion, when assessing the merits of each individual case, may require a much longer clear period than 3 years from the date of an individual’s last conviction, release from prison, or entitlement to an ordinary driving licence, for the individual to demonstrate that they are now a “fit and proper person” to hold a taxi licence. This would almost inevitably be so where the most serious of convictions are involved such as murder or serious sexual offences. Similarly, the Department may require a longer clear period than 12 months for a “minor” conviction. Equally, the Department may require a shorter period than 3 years or 12 months depending on the merits of each individual’s case. Further, in the exercise of the Department’s discretion, some “minor” convictions may be allowed subject to a Warning Letter being issued to the individual.

Offences committed by an individual during the Currency of a Licence

The above principles apply equally to convictions occurring during the currency of a licence that will result in the licence being suspended for the appropriate period or revoked entirely. Again, the Department may allow some “minor” convictions during the currency of a licence subject to a Warning Letter being issued. It will be a relevant consideration for the Department in reaching its decision as to whether a particular offence was committed while driving a Public Service Vehicle. Where an ordinary driving licence has been suspended by the Courts consideration will be given to whether the Court has restricted the suspension to certain vehicles for an employment related reason.

Failure to Declare Convictions to the Department

Failure by an individual to declare all convictions on an application, of whatever type, is taken seriously and is seen as an attempt to mislead the Department and obtain a licence by misrepresentation. In the case of “minor” convictions individuals will generally be given a second opportunity to declare their convictions although this will not preclude the Department from refusing, suspending or revoking a licence as appropriate because of the nature of the conviction or from the Department viewing the failure to declare as an attempt to mislead and a reason in itself for refusal, suspension, or revocation. For “serious” convictions the individual’s failure to declare will generally be taken as another reason to refuse an application, or suspend or revoke a current licence as appropriate.

Other Reasons for the Suspension or Revocation of a Current Licence

It should also be noted that Regulations provide for suspension or revocation of a licence in any of the following circumstances:

- a If the licence has been obtained by misrepresentation
- b If an individual fails to comply with any of the conditions upon which the licence has been granted
- c If the individual has been convicted of an offence under the legislation or any regulations made there under
- d If the individual, for any medical reason is unable to exercise his calling without risk to the public
- e If the individual by his conduct demonstrates that they are not a fit and proper person to hold a licence

Decision Making Process in respect of Taxi Licence Applications for Applicants with convictions

- 1 Consider each individual case on its own merits
- 2 Consider the contents of the Applicant's application form
- 3 Consider any representations made by the Applicant or any other person on his behalf
- 4 Compare and contrast the Applicant's application form against the PV8 obtained from the CRO
- 5 Apply the Guidelines in relation to the Applicant's convictions and his disclosure of same
- 6 Decide whether the conviction/s of the Applicant, if any, should be classed as serious or minor
- 7 Apply the appropriate general period of rehabilitation under the Guidelines to the Applicant's case
- 8 In making the assessment required by statute as to whether the specific Applicant is a "fit and proper person" to hold a taxi licence, consider whether there is any reason to depart from the Guidelines in the specific case by requiring the Applicant to undergo a shorter or longer rehabilitation period than would normally be the case under the Guidelines.
- 9 Make the decision and inform the Applicant in the normal way always stating the reason for the refusal and, if applicable at the time of the decision, the time when the Department will return the licence if suspended.
10. Be prepared to provide fuller reasons by reference to the Criteria etc. if asked by the Applicant or his legal representative.

Dipped Headlights

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has considered requiring drivers to drive with dipped headlights on, at all times between October and March.

(AQW 7242/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Drivers are required, under the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (NI) 2000, to use dipped headlights (in addition to their use at night) during daytime when visibility is seriously reduced, for example in adverse weather conditions or in dull daytime weather.

Under Directive 2008/89/EC all new types of passenger cars and small delivery vans must, from 7 February 2011, be equipped with Daytime Running Lights (DRL). New types of trucks and buses will be required to do so from 7 August 2012. Such lights are expected to increase road safety as they raise the visibility of motor vehicles for other road users. They also have a low energy consumption rate compared with existing "dipped-beam" headlights.

I consider it appropriate to rely on the requirement for manufacturers to fit dedicated DRL lights rather than dictate that drivers should turn on their headlamps during the day. Headlamp bulbs have a limited life and using them during the day would increase the frequency of bulb failure. The European Commission has estimated that headlight bulbs used in such a way would need to be replaced twice as frequently. This could result in a rise in the number of vehicles driven at night with malfunctioning headlights.

In addition, headlamps generally consume more power than DRL so there would also be an increase in fuel consumption as well as CO2 emissions. I understand from research carried out by Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) that dipped beam headlights consume approximately 160 watts of electrical power whereas DRL lights using filament lights consume 42 watts. It is therefore estimated that DRL lights consume 74% less power than dipped beams with the associated fuel consumption increase for DRL likely to be between 0.3% and 0.5%, and for daytime dipped beams between 1% and 1.8%.

I understand that the average driver uses around 1,275 litres of fuel each year, so even a 1% increase in fuel used could result in additional usage per driver of 12.75 litres per annum – at a price of over £1.40 per litre this could cost an NI motorist an extra £18 a year and NI motorists collectively in excess of £15 million per year. A requirement to use dipped headlights would effectively add a further 1.4p a litre to the NI fuel price. It could be argued that such an increase would inevitably be borne by the less well off, that is those who are more likely to have an older car.

I also consider that a requirement for drivers to switch on headlights during daytime hours could be time consuming and difficult for the police to enforce. In addition, the cycle and motorcycle lobbies are likely to be concerned at the relative lack of conspicuity that would be imposed on them were such a requirement to be imposed and the possible increase in accidents as a consequence. Pedal cycles do not have dipped headlights and motorcycles currently rely on being brighter than other vehicles to improve their conspicuity.

There might be some safety benefits from such a requirement, though most likely not as many as in countries with northern climates and daylight patterns or with large forest areas where vehicles can “vanish” into the background. The main benefits would be the ability to see other vehicles better and to distinguish the moving vehicle from parked ones.

I have sought the advice of the PSNI and AA on this issue. Both organisations are cautious about the proposal. Consequently, I do not intend to take this issue forward.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 6424/11-15, (i) to detail the chemical constituents, including CAS numbers, of the chemical compounds; and (ii) whether his Department has any more specific information on (a) where the fresh water was obtained; and (b) the disposal of the waste water and how it was treated prior to disposal.

(AQW 7524/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It has come to the attention of my Private Office that this AQW has not been answered. When the question was tabled on 1 February 2012, it should have been transferred to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) as the department which answered the original AQW (6424/11-15).

This transfer did not take place. To receive an answer to this AQW, the Member is requested to retable the question to DETI.

The Department's Private Office procedures have been reviewed and amended to ensure that a similar situation does not reoccur.

Extension of the Ulster Way

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to hold discussions with the Dublin Government in relation to the extension of the Ulster Way to all nine counties in Ulster.

(AQW 8166/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Officials have been in contact with the relevant County Councils in the Republic of Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and the National Trails Office and they have all indicated that they have no current plans to develop further off-road routes which could connect with or create new sections of the Ulster Way. The Republic of Ireland's future plans for long distance, quality trails are outlined in “Setting New

Directions, a review of National Waymarked Ways in Ireland” published in 2010 by the National Trails Office and the Irish Sports Council.

However, there are a number of National Waymarked Ways in the Republic of Ireland which have linkages to the Ulster Way or which are within 10 miles of it. These are:

- The Tain Way, a circular route around the Cooley Mountains, overlaps with a short part of the Ulster Way in Co Louth;
- The Monaghan Way which commences less than 10 miles from the Ulster Way;
- The Cavan Way which meets the Ulster Way in Blacklion and leads from Blacklion to Dowra; and
- The Bluestack Way from Donegal to Ardara which commences less than 10 miles from the Ulster Way.

While these provide interesting additional walking options none are well suited to be part of the circular Ulster Way. There are options to update the Ulster Way website to inform walkers of these routes and how they can connect with them and officials will arrange for this to be undertaken.

I am aware that there are two cross border proposals to use part of the current route of the Ulster Way. A route for the International Appalachian Trail from Slieve League to Ballycastle has been described but not signed. Officials in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency have received a request to discuss development of this route and a steering group meeting has been organised for 5 April 2012. The proposed St Patrick's Trail from Downpatrick to Armagh is under development by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board as a pilgrimage route which may be extended to Croagh Patrick, however officials understand that the Republic of Ireland is not currently in a position to develop this route.

I also met with Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs in Dublin on 28 March 2012 to discuss this matter.

District Councils: Legal Services

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the district councils that (i) tender; and (ii) do not tender for legal services.

(AQW 8684/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information requested is provided in the attached table.

Tender	Do not tender
Antrim Borough Council	Ballymoney Borough Council
Ards Borough Council	Banbridge District Council *
Armagh City and District Council	Belfast City Council ^
Ballymena Borough Council	Carrickfergus Borough Council
Cookstown District Council	Castlereagh Borough Council
Craigavon Borough Council	Coleraine Borough Council *
Lisburn City Council	Derry City Council
Newtownabbey Borough Council	Down District Council ^
North Down Borough Council	Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
	Fermanagh District Council *
	Larne Borough Council
	Limavady Borough Council

Tender	Do not tender
	Magherafelt District Council
	Moyle District Council
	Newry & Mourne District Council**
	Omagh District Council
	Strabane District Council

^ Please note Belfast City Council has its own in-house legal department and therefore does not need to tender. Down District Council also uses this legal facility.

* reported that although they do not formally tender they seek competition from a formal approved panel of solicitors.

** reported that it does tender for HR legal services.

I have asked for further information on this issue which may raise questions.

Marine Bill

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has consulted or has had any discussions with the Crown Estate in relation to the Marine Bill; and to outline what was consulted upon or discussed.

(AQW 8970/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Crown Estate is routinely consulted by the Department on a range of marine issues, such as the new marine licensing system which became operational in April 2011 and the Marine Policy Statement which was adopted in March 2011 under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Department consulted the Crown Estate on the policy proposals for the Northern Ireland Marine Bill.

The Crown Estate has also been notified of the intention to produce a Northern Ireland marine plan.

In addition, the Department has ongoing discussions on the Marine Bill and other marine issues with the adjoining administrations in Dublin, Edinburgh, London and Cardiff. Notification of the intention to produce a marine plan has also been sent to these administrations.

Marine Bill

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment whether the Marine Bill continues to give the Crown Estate, or its agent, exclusive leasing rights to the sea-bed.

(AQW 8971/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Crown Estate was established as a trust at arm's length from Government, which operates under a commercial mandate contained in the Crown Estate Act 1961.

The Northern Ireland Marine Bill does not alter the Crown Estate Act 1961.

Of course I have been following with interest the Scottish Government's attempts to press for devolution of the Crown Estate in Scotland.

I am of the view that the administration and revenues of the crown estate should be devolved to NI.

EU Rules and Regulations on Invasive Alien Species

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the EU rules and regulations on Invasive Alien Species.

(AQW 9178/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It is currently a requirement under both the 'Wild Birds' and 'Habitats' Directives that Member States seek to prevent the introduction of Invasive Alien Species that may pose a threat to native flora and fauna.

The European Commission (EC) recognises there is currently no comprehensive instrument at EU level to tackle invasive alien species from the perspective of protecting biodiversity. Responding to this gap, the EC adopted a Communication in 2008: "Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species" I

In 2011, the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 was launched, including the targets:

- by 2020, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and their pathways are identified and prioritised,
- priority species are controlled or eradicated,
- pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS

There is an overall action aimed at filling policy gaps in combating IAS by developing a dedicated legislative instrument by 2012. The EC launched a consultation on a dedicated legislative instrument on 27 January 2012.

The Department is monitoring developments carefully in order to assess what legislative implications may arise.

Aarhus Convention in Northern Ireland

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the terms of the Aarhus Convention in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 9189/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Aarhus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective. The UK ratified the Convention on 24 February 2005 and, in line with the Convention's procedures, became a full party to the Convention 90 days after this date, in May 2005. The Convention provides for:

- the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities ("access to environmental information").
- the right to participate in environmental decision-making ("public participation in environmental decision-making");
- the right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two above mentioned rights or environmental law in general ("access to justice").

The Aarhus Convention is applied throughout Europe mostly by way of a number of EU Regulations or Directives, which are required to be transposed into domestic legislation by Member States.

The most specific pieces of EU legislation which address the Aarhus Convention are the Environmental Information Directive (2003/4/EC), the Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC) and the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EC), which replaces the old Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive.

The Environmental Information Directive was transposed on a UK-wide basis by way of the Environmental Information Regulations 2005, under which public authorities must make environmental information available to the public by electronic means which are easily accessible. All public authorities – not just government departments - must also take reasonable steps to organize the environmental information they hold relevant to their functions with a view to the active and systematic dissemination of the information to the public. DOE and most other government departments have achieved this by way of publication schemes which are available on the various departmental websites.

The Environmental Information Regulations also require any public authority that holds environmental information to make it available on request, as soon as possible and no later than 20 working days after the date of receipt of the request, unless there are specific circumstances which prevent a reply within the timescale or there are exceptions to disclosure as set out in Part 3 of the Regulations. There is also a right of appeal for anyone who is not content with the information they receive, through the Information Commissioner.

The Public Participation Directive (PPD) has been transposed in a number of ways. For example, in 2009, public participation requirements were inserted after Article 19 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 and these changes ensure that all plans and programmes, such as the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy and NI Waste Prevention Programmes will undergo public participation activities and consultation during development. In fact, as part of the process of revising the NI Waste Management Strategy, which is required to be revised under the Waste Framework Directive by December 2012, DOE has held focus group meetings with key stakeholders in keeping with PPD requirements. Article 31 of the Waste Framework Directive specifically attracts the PPD.

So too do Articles 24 and 25 of the Industrial Emissions Directive, which has only recently come into force across Europe and, for the most part is not required to be transposed into NI legislation until January 2013. These requirements will, of course, be included in the transposing legislation, which, incidentally, is shortly to be consulted upon.

In summary, by placing documents and legislation on websites, by developing publications schemes and by making public registers readily available electronically, by responding to environmental queries in a timely and informative manner, by engaging in public participation activities in environmental decision making, such as carrying out consultation exercises and by providing access to justice, the Department of the Environment and other Government Departments, are continually striving to ensure compliance with the Aarhus Convention.

Convictions for Breaches of Tree Preservation Orders

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many people have been convicted for breaches of Tree Preservation Orders in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9373/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department's IT system was upgraded in March 2009 and only live case information as of the 1 April 2009 was backdated into the upgraded system; hence information is only available from that date.

During the last three business years, the number of enforcement cases investigated relating to the alleged cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree, or wilfully damaging, topping or lopping a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) are set out in the table below.

Table 1: Cases investigated	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
Work to Tree(s) in Conservation Area	5	8	7	20
Work to Tree(s) with TPO	38	32	39	109
Total	43	40	46	129

It is important to note that the vast majority of breaches of planning control are resolved informally through negotiation with the owner/occupier or through the submission and consideration of a retrospective planning application.

Of the 129 cases, one prosecution resulted from the destruction of trees protected by a TPO. In November 2011, a Co Tyrone man was fined £5,000 with court costs of £85 at Omagh Magistrates' Court for a breach of a DOE Tree Preservation Order.

Whilst only one prosecution has resulted from the above investigations on cases opened in the last three business years, 53 (41%) of the 129 cases when investigated did not breach planning control; and 17 (13%) were remedied/planning permission granted.

A summary of closure reasons are set out in table 2 below.

TABLE 2: REASON FOR CLOSURE

	No Breach	Not Expedient	Planning Permission Granted	Remedied/ Resolved	Immune from Enforcement Action	Total
Cases Closed	53	20	3	14	1	91

As of the 20 March 2012, 38 of the 129 cases relating to the alleged cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree, or wilfully damaging, topping or lopping a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order remain 'live'.

Illegal Car Parks

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many illegal car parks have operated outside Belfast since 2007; and how many have been closed down.

(AQW 9374/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Since becoming Minister I have made it clear that enforcement must be given high priority across my Department and have implemented a number of measures aimed at providing a more robust approach to unauthorised development.

Based on confirmation provided by each Area Office (excluding Belfast Area Office) 20 enforcement cases relating to alleged unauthorised car parks were investigated since 1 April 2009.

Of the 20 enforcement cases investigated since 1 April 2009, 8 have now been closed for the following reasons: -

In four cases, the breach was remedied/resolved in that the use ceased; no breach was identified in two cases and planning permission was granted in two cases.

The Department is committed to resolving all cases involving alleged unauthorised development, including any consequent enforcement action without undue delay.

Delay in Answering Questions

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 740/11-15, why there was a delay of over eight months in answering this question.

(AQW 9384/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I accept that there was an inordinate delay in providing a response to Assembly Question 740/11-15. Procedures have now been put in place to avoid such a reoccurrence. I regret the situation that arose.

In your original question you asked about cuts to two separate work areas – (a) the Historic Monuments Scheduling Programme, and (b) the Countryside Management Scheme, and for my assessment of how any cuts might impact on the conservation of archaeological sites and monuments.

At that time, you also asked about other cuts affecting the built heritage, specifically the archaeological heritage: AQWs 220/11-15 and 739/11-15 refer. The issues raised in the above AQWs were all inter-related.

The financial reductions that were being considered at the beginning of the 2011-12 financial year, which impacted on all areas of the Department, were as a consequence of the challenging financial position the Department faced following the outcome of the Executive's Budget process and the continuing decline in planning income which the Department was seeking to make good through internal reductions to other budgets. However, as previously stated, through the careful management of my Department's budget during the financial year, I have been able to re-instate some archaeological support in the areas concerned for the entire financial year.

The difficulties arising from the financial uncertainty were compounded by the ending of one set of contracts that had been used to deliver professional support to a range of work areas, and subsequent delays in the initiation of new contracts that would have covered, at least in part, some of those work areas. The alternative delivery mechanism has now been secured, as a result of a new Framework contract awarded in December 2011. The current position is that we now have a number of temporary workers in post, focusing on discrete work areas, including the Scheduling Programme and work on DARD's Countryside Management Scheme.

Road Safety Education Officers

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment how many visits Road Safety Education Officers have made to schools in the (i) 2009/10 academic year; (ii) 2010/11 academic year; and (iii) this academic year to date.

(AQW 9388/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The numbers of schools visits made by Road Safety Education Officers (RSEOs) are as follows:-

Academic Year	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012 (to date)
	4420	3677	238

School visits for the current academic year are significantly reduced due to the prioritisation being given to the implementation of the recommendations of a recent independent review of the Road Safety Education Officer Service.

Road Safety Education Officers (RSEOs) continue to provide schools with the same level of support for the various road safety schemes, such as the Cycling Proficiency Scheme, the Practical Child Pedestrian Safety Training Scheme and the Motor Vehicle Road User GCSE course, as they develop mechanisms to evaluate their effectiveness and efficiency.

However, in order to implement the recommendations and create a modernised Service, it has been necessary to make changes to how RSEOs currently operate in the short term. It is therefore not generally possible to facilitate routine visits to schools for the purpose of conducting road safety talks or interactive presentations.

In the current academic year, the traditional first contact visit by RSEOs was made through the post and the subsequent follow up contact was by way of phone or e-mail. This accounts for approximately 2,400 visits that do not appear in this year's figure of 238 visits. RSEO's are still available to provide advice, guidance and support throughout the year, by means of telephone and e-mail contact.

Recognising the service that RSEOs would not be able to provide during the implementation period, all schools were informed of the position and additional assistance to teachers was provided in the form of new Skooter Assembly Packs which were delivered to Primary Schools at the end of last academic year. This pack is interactive and covers the full range of road safety topics appropriate to all levels of Primary School Education. The modules contained within the Assembly Packs can be used by teachers as standalone modules or as part of a full road safety presentation.

In addition RSEO's are developing 'Road Safety' presentations which can be used by teaching staff to deliver road safety messages. These new resources should allow for the delivery of the road safety

message, in line with the best practice guidelines, by professional teaching staff on a regular structured way through the curriculum to continue.

It is the Department's aim to emerge from this transitional phase with a modern, improved Road Safety Education Officer Service that is more integrated, results focussed and better placed to play a key role in delivering evidenced based and fully evaluated activities that meet the demands of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy to 2020.

National Cycling Proficiency Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment for his Department's assessment of the training for teachers who are taking part in the National Cycling Proficiency Scheme, and whether the training ensures an acceptable overall standard throughout Northern Ireland.

(AQW 9389/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Approximately 580 primary schools participate in the Cycling Proficiency Scheme (CPS) with an average of 8,800 – 9,000 children trained each year. Teachers who are new to the subject are given extensive training on how to deliver the course. This training includes i) briefing on the forms and materials used and the general administrative requirements, ii) instruction on how to check bicycles for road worthiness and safety, iii) assistance on how to instruct the children complete the various exercises and iv) the final assessment, which places particular emphasis on the standard to be attained in order to pass the test. A training DVD is also provided, along with an instructor's pack, which is used by the teacher to prepare for and design future lessons.

Once the scheme starts further assistance is on hand, should the teacher require it, and the Road Safety Education Officer (RSEO) returns to the school to check on progress and to ensure that standards are maintained throughout the course. The RSEO carries out the initial testing of the pupils with the teacher observing. Only when the RSEO is satisfied that the teacher is capable of taking the course on their own are they allowed to carry out the training unsupervised. Teachers are assessed every four years as part of a rolling assessment programme carried out by the RSEO, all of which is designed to ensure that an acceptable overall standard is maintained throughout Northern Ireland.

Following a recent review of the Road Safety Education Officer Service, the Department commissioned an independent review of CPS to examine the content of the course and methods of delivery to ensure that these are up to date and are fit for purpose. The review will also evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme in terms of reducing child road safety casualties and to determine if the scheme appropriately addresses today's road safety issues. It is anticipated that the review team will report to the Department before the end of this calendar year.

Mandatory requirements for Taxi Drivers

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the benefits of (i) introducing mandatory requirements for taxi drivers to ensure that vehicle engines are running efficiently and thus creating fewer emissions; (ii) introducing a taxi clean-up programme which would involve cleaning the fuel pump and injectors, engine, gearbox, and EGR systems and the replacement where necessary of fuel, oil and air filters; (iii) demonstrating the effectiveness of such measures by carrying out an emissions test and fuel efficiency test before and after the clean-up; (iv) requiring taxi drivers to undertake the programme and introduce a charge to recoup the costs; and (v) promoting the programme with reference to studies which show that fuel efficiency can be increased by between 5-10 percent.

(AQW 9404/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am committed to encouraging all drivers to maintain their vehicles in good condition, one of the results of which is to support limiting the levels of vehicle emissions.

Turning specifically to taxis, they are subject to annual testing from new and not just from 4 years old as with the normal car MOT test. A more rigorous assessment therefore already exists for taxis than for private cars. Construction and Use Regulations require such vehicles to be maintained in good and

efficient working order and indeed it is an offence to use a taxi if its emissions exceed the emissions standards it was designed to meet due to inadequate maintenance.

Such taxi vehicle tests are intended to identify vehicles with major emissions control system failures. Whilst the test is not sensitive enough to detect or quantify small changes in emissions performance and cannot give an indication of fuel economy, using good quality fuel should nonetheless prevent excessive build-up of deposits on fuel injectors that may interfere with their good working. Regular engine lubricating oil changes may also minimise wear that can increase emissions.

There are a range of actions that taxi drivers – and indeed all drivers – can take to improve engine performance. I believe that these are best undertaken by individual drivers, taking appropriate advice from vehicle manufacturers and suitable qualified mechanics. These will include replacing oil in the gearbox and transmission system which might achieve a slight improvement in fuel economy, although I understand it is best to follow the manufacturer's recommendations as to how this can be achieved. Carrying out a programme as described in the question has appeal and may produce benefits, but may also result in increased fares to cover the cost, be placing an additional responsibility on an industry already facing difficulties in the current economic climate and at a time of radical change in taxi regulation. Clearly, making vehicles more efficient is desirable on financial and environmental grounds, but the measures suggested may be more than can be justified in current circumstances.

Water Management and Pollution of the Quoile River

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the issues identified in the Environment Agency's leaflet 'Quoile: Local Area Management Information' in relation to the water management and pollution of the Quoile River; and (ii) what action it has taken to address the issues.

(AQW 9405/11-15)

Mr Attwood: River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) were published in December 2009 to meet one of the key requirements of the Water Framework Directive. The Plans, which cover all of Northern Ireland, identify where the water environment needs to be protected or improved, the timeframe to make these improvements and how that can be achieved. The Plans included information leaflets for 26 Local Management Areas (LMAs).

The implementation of the RBMPs is being taken forward through the development and implementation of 26 LMA action plans over a three year rolling programme from 2010/11 to 2012/13. The Quoile LMA action plan is due to be completed by the end of March 2012. The main issues identified include elevated phosphorus levels, low dissolved oxygen and impacts in invertebrate communities. Implementation actions include additional targeted biological monitoring, awareness raising, targeted river walks to identify pollution hotspots and inspections of premises where there is the potential to cause water pollution.

Following a major fish kill in 2008, a Quoile Catchment Working Group was set up. The Group discussed the need to model different management options for improving water quality in the Quoile Pondage.

NIEA has recently commissioned the development of a computer model to assess different management scenarios (for example, improvements to the barrage, siphoning out deep de-oxygenated water, dredging etc.) to reduce the risk of the dissolved oxygen in the Pondage falling below the critical 4mg/l level required to support fish. This should be available for use by April 2012.

In addition, Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute operates a 'real time' telemetry buoy in the Quoile. If Dissolved Oxygen values change uncharacteristically then a call is automatically logged on the NIEA Water Pollution hotline so that it can be investigated.

All this work is coordinated through the Strangford & Lecale Catchment Management Officer and presented at bi-annual Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings. The Quoile LMA Action Plan, and an updated on the computer model will be discussed at the spring meeting, scheduled for 2 May 2012. Details of the meetings including a presentation given at the autumn meeting on water quality planning in the Quoile LMA are available on the DOE website. http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/strangford_and_lecale.htm.

Woodland

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment whether all the bodies or organisations within his Department's remit which own woodland are compliant with the UK Forestry Standard, including his Department, any arm's-length body and any organisation to which his Department provides grant aid.
(AQW 9581/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The significant areas of woodland within DoE ownership lie within the properties managed by The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) as country parks, nature reserves and historic monuments in state care or by other environmental bodies with which it has management agreements.

While NIEA has not yet applied to DARD Forest Service to register under the UK Forestry Standard the woodlands which it or its agents manage, the Agency believes that were it to do so the management would be compliant with all relevant legislation and with the UKFS guidelines save those relating to commercial timber production, in which neither NIEA nor its agents are engaged. As staff resources allow, NIEA intends to register its woodland holdings under the UKFS.

NIEA provides grant aid or management payments to approaching fifty organisations including: Local Councils, environmental NGOs, schools, community groups and education providers. Only a few have any involvement in forestry or woodland management. NIEA has provided grant support to one council and four e-NGOs for nine woodland projects since January 2011. It has management agreements with three NGOs over areas of woodland. Of the two main recipients, one is accredited under the independent UK Woodland Assurance Scheme and the other under the international Forest Stewardship Council.

NIEA letters of offer contain the following standard condition to ensure compliance with any relevant laws: The Applicant must comply with the provisions of all enactments, statutory provisions and other laws operating in Northern Ireland including, but not only, those relating to planning, nature conservation, animal welfare, access, equal opportunities, fair employment and health and safety. European law, where applicable, must also be followed.

This condition should ensure that any project currently funded by NIEA's natural heritage grant programme complies with any legislation included in the UKFS. NIEA will consider adding a condition requiring the registration under UKFS of woodlands for which it offers grant aid.

Non-Farming Rural Dwellers

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment what action he is taking to ensure that non-farming rural dwellers are able to build a dwelling in their local area.
(AQW 9593/11-15)

Mr Attwood: PPS21 already offers considerable development opportunities for non-farming rural people wishing to build a dwelling in the countryside, not just farmers. It does this by providing for: Replacement dwellings (Policy CTY 3); The conversion and reuse of non-residential buildings as dwellings (Policy CTY 4); New dwellings within an existing cluster or ribbon of buildings (Policy CTY 8); Social and affordable housing schemes (Policy CTY 5); Development within designated Dispersed Rural Communities (Policy CTY 2); and a dwelling to meet compelling personal or domestic circumstances (Policy CTY 6).

However, in recognition of the continued interest in this issue, I met with 3 of the members of the Independent Working Group on Non-farm Rural Dwellers set up by the previous Executive as part of my review of the operation of PPS21. I was interested to hear their expert perspectives first hand as too the views of MLAs, councillors and others with knowledge and interest and have taken these into account in the review. Work on the review is now nearing completion and I will be making a statement to the Assembly in the near future.

VehicleTax Renewal Fees

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment whether he intends to discuss the differing rates of vehicle tax renewal fees with the Secretary of State for Transport, given that people who are unable to afford the annual renewal fee opt for the six month option which is more expensive.

(AQW 9622/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am very aware of the difficulties being faced by many motorists from households and business across Northern Ireland in meeting the costs of keeping vehicles on the road.

The method of calculating the amount of duty chargeable for a six-month tax disc, at the rate of 55% of the annual rate, is set in the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994.

As responsibility for vehicle excise duty rests with the Department for Transport and the Treasury, I will write to the Secretary of State for Transport, highlighting the difficulties that many people in Northern Ireland are facing and urging her to review the charging mechanism for a six-month tax disc and to reduce the additional charge faced by drivers who cannot afford to buy 12-month discs.

Planning Permission

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many people have been granted planning permission under special circumstances in each of the last three years; and (ii) to provide details of the special circumstances.

(AQW 9631/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Table 1 below shows the number of planning applications approved under special circumstances in each of the last three years.

TABLE 1

Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Total no. of planning applications granted under special circumstances	35	21	13

Note: 2011/12 figures are up to December 2011.

Policy CTY6 (Personal and Domestic Circumstances) of Planning Policy Statement 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside will allow a dwelling to be permitted in the countryside for the long term needs of an applicant, where there are compelling and site specific reasons for this related to the applicant's personal or domestic circumstances.

Personal circumstances can include the debilitating effects of a slow illness and the consequent need for care by family. Such cases could also include instances where a young adult requires a continuing and high level of care, but who could also benefit from a greater degree of independent living. All permissions granted under Policy CTY 6 are subject to a condition restricting the occupation of the dwelling to a named individual and their dependents.

Of the 69 applications approved in Table 1, 58 were approved under personal and domestic circumstances.

Policy CTY 7 (Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises) of Planning Policy Statement 21 states that planning permission will be granted for a dwelling house in connection with an established non-agricultural business enterprise where a site specific need can be clearly demonstrated that makes it essential for one of the firm's employees to live at the site of their work.

Of the 69 applications approved in Table 1, 11 were granted subject to a condition restricting occupation of the dwelling for the use of the business.

There are a number of factors including special circumstances to be considered in reaching a balanced decision in a planning application. It is recognised that the final determination in relation to a planning application rests with DOE Planning who will consider all relevant material considerations.

Media Communications Protocols

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment what media communications protocols exist between his Department and each of its arm's-length bodies; and to publish these protocols.

(AQW 9656/11-15)

Mr Attwood: No media communications protocols exist between my Department and each of its arm's-length bodies.

Cycling Proficiency Scheme in Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment whether there are plans to include road training in the Cycling Proficiency Scheme in schools.

(AQW 9687/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Cycling Proficiency Scheme (CPS) already has an on-road element built into the training programme. It is offered to all of the 849 primary schools in Northern Ireland each year; however, the majority of teachers have been reluctant to include the on-road cycling experience for safety and public liability reasons. The CPS scheme equates to level 2 of the National Standards if on-road training is taken up by the school.

Road Safety

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how much his Department has spent in total on road safety in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9712/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department undertakes a wide range of activities to improve road safety which include:

- bringing forward a range of policy & legislation;
- employing Road Safety Education Officers;
- commissioning advertising and other media campaigns;
- engaging with stakeholders through various Forums;
- operating a community road safety grant scheme;
- undertaking research; and
- coordinating the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy.

The Department's estimated total expenditure within these activities in each of the last 5 years is as follows:

Year	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total Expenditure	£5.151m	£4.968m	£4.713m	£4.819m	£5.205m

The Road Safety campaign – particularly the 'Crashed Lives' campaign – has been a factor in the reduction of road deaths and serious injuries over recent years. That is why I believe the campaign budget of DOE needs to be safeguarded. That said, I am interrogating campaign costs, delivery options, the appropriate balance between television and other campaign outlets etc.

AQW 6675/11-15

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment when he intends to provide an answer to AQW 6675/11-15 which was due on 2 February 2012.

(AQW 9754/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The response to AQW 6675/11-15 issued on 29 March 2012.

Improved Use of Buildings in Rural Areas

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment what incentives are available to encourage the improved use of buildings in rural areas with a view to providing accommodation.

(AQW 9756/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department of the Environment provides funding for the repair and maintenance of listed buildings in the North, including those in rural areas. However, it does not offer financial incentives specifically for the improved use of buildings in rural areas for accommodation.

The existing planning policy framework does however support development proposals for the conversion and reuse of existing buildings in the countryside for the purposes of providing residential accommodation, including proposals for the use of existing buildings for tourism purposes.

PPS 21 'Sustainable Development in the Countryside' supports the sympathetic conversion and re-use of existing buildings in the countryside principally through policies CTY 3 'Replacement Dwellings', CTY 4 'The Conversion and Reuse of Existing Buildings', and CTY 11 'Farm Diversification'. Additional guidance and advice on 're-use' is contained within draft Supplementary Planning Guidance to PPS21 titled 'Building on Tradition' which will soon be published in final form, subject to Executive Committee endorsement.

PPS 6 'Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage' provides planning policies which support the retention of Listed Buildings with provisions for change of use, extensions and alterations where such development will safeguard the character of the building and secure its upkeep.

Draft PPS 16 'Tourism' provides for various forms of tourist accommodation through the sympathetic conversion and re-use of existing buildings in the countryside.

Finally, the Addendum to PPS 7 'Residential Extensions and Alterations', seeks to promote high quality design in such proposals and to ensure that development respects the character of the local area. This policy applies to both urban and rural areas.

Homes for Life

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has any plans to encourage the concept of homes for life in terms of layout, design and access.

(AQW 9757/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7) Quality Residential Environments and subsequent addendums, along with Creating Places sets out the current planning policy and supplementary planning guidance for the consideration and assessment of planning applications for residential development.

The application of space standards to all private housing as per the Lifetime Homes Standard is beyond the scope of current planning policy and is additional to that that required by Part R of the Northern Ireland Building Regulations.

Applying Lifetime Homes Standards is a fundamental change in approach to the provision of private housing and would require new planning policy and guidance. It would also necessitate a thorough economic analysis of the impact on the development industry.

The Department is supportive of and will encourage this concept where possible.

Landslide Incident in the Marlborough Terrace Area of Londonderry

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment why there has been disparity in terms of a co-ordinated response to the landslide incident in the Marlborough Terrace area of Londonderry in December 2011, and the response to a similar landslide in the Linen Fields development, Banbridge in January 2010.

(AQW 9766/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A landslip is a common factor in these two incidents, but the wider circumstances are different.

The Marlborough Terrace incident developed very suddenly, with the council having to react quickly to an emergency situation in order that public safety was restored. The Council also had to take steps to ensure the longer term safety of the area and to fund the works necessary to achieve both these objectives. The Department of the Environment's legislation enables it to provide supporting funding to councils in such an emergency situation. The funding was made against the condition that every attempt would be made to recover costs from private owners/insurers. Additionally, the departmental support funding was not to provide any betterment.

The situation at Linen Green is not an emergency situation as with Derry, has been on-going for some time and the local council has not been acting in relation to it.

Badger Baiting

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to combat badger baiting.

(AQW 9781/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Badgers are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 providing them with legal protection. The Department has made recent amendments to this legislation bringing in potential custodial sentences for certain offences including killing or injuring badgers. While it is the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) who undertake any wildlife crime investigations, wildlife experts within Northern Ireland Environment Agency provide scientific support and advice on request to the investigating team.

The Department also plays a key role in Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW NI). PAW membership comprises relevant Government Departments including the PSNI, Forest Service, DCAL, as well as representation from the local wildlife and animal welfare charities. The aim of PAW is to raise public awareness of wildlife crime, to publicize reporting mechanisms, to provide advice, information and expertise, and collect wildlife information.

The Department encourages anyone who sees what they suspect is badger baiting, or any other possible wildlife crime, to report the details to their nearest PSNI station 0845 600 8000 or by using the Crimestoppers number 0800 555 111.

Employment of Independent Advisors or Consultants

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether his Department will issue guidance to local councils advising them of best practice in relation to the employment of independent advisors or consultants under the Reform of Public Administration; and (ii) whether advisors or consultants will be granted full independence to report their findings.

(AQW 9842/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

- (i) The employment of consultants by local councils, which are stand alone corporate public bodies, essentially involves tendering to buy in services. The matter is therefore governed by public procurement law, notably the Public Contract Regulations 2006 (as amended) and various EU procurement Directives. I shall raise with councils the requirements of best practice and

procurement law in relation to this issue in the context of RPA. (ii) The terms of any consultancy awarded following a public procurement exercise would typically include a requirement to report findings to the public body based on their evidence gathering and assessments. It is to be hoped that independence will be at the heart of any work.

Departmental Appointments to Quangos

Mr Weir asked Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the quangos to which his Department makes appointments; (ii) how many members are appointed; and (iii) the remuneration paid to (a) the Chair; and (b) other members.

(AQW 9896/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As Minister of the Environment I have responsibility for appointing individuals to the following public bodies:

- The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC);
- The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (LGSC);
- The Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC);
- The Historic Buildings Council (HBC) and
- The Historic Monuments Council (HMC).

The number of members appointed to each of the bodies, as well as the names of the individuals appointed is detailed in the table below:

Public Body	Number of Members Appointed	Names of Individuals Appointed
NILGOSC	12	Trevor Salmon Julie Erskine Joe Donaghy Celine McCartan Colin O'Hare Bumper Graham Linda Neilan David Jackson Ciaran Quigley Peter Caldwell Peter McMurray Tom Irvine
LGSC	7	Mervyn Rankin Ashley Boreland Celine Connolly William Francey MBE Ald Nigel Hamilton Ald Geraldine Rice MBE Seamus Shields

Public Body	Number of Members Appointed	Names of Individuals Appointed
CNCC	14	Patrick Casement Peter Archdale Dr Tony Bazley Dr Richard Horton Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick Andrew Upton Dr Alan Cooper Shane Wolsey Prof Sue Christie John Witchell Prof Julian Orford Dr Jade Berman Andrew Cunningham Tony Traill
HBC	18	Frank Robinson Iona Andrews Prof Joe Fitzgerald Brian Green Dr Paul Harron Agnes Peacocke Ursula O'Hare Brian Banks Kenneth Boston Cathal Crimmins Joe Diamond Noelle Houston Hannah Kenny Alistair Lindsay Robert Martin Patrick McGuigan Robert Miles Dr Patricia Warke

Public Body	Number of Members Appointed	Names of Individuals Appointed
HMC	15	Prof Gabriel Cooney Henry Bell Michael Conway Tim Cunningham Suzanne Lyle Phillip Macdonald John McGillan Anne-Marie McStocker Stephen Russell Lesley Black Kathleen Lavery Sarah Witchell Nick Brannon Cormac Bourke William Darby

Remuneration for the Chair and members of each of the body is detailed as follows:

- NILGOSC – Chair receives £12,000 per annum. Members receive a daily allowance not exceeding £113 plus expenses;
- LGSC – Chair receives £14,114 per annum. Members receive a daily allowance not exceeding £113 plus expenses;
- CNCC – Chair receives £9,740 per annum. Deputy Chair receives £6,525 per annum. Members receive expenses;
- HBC – Chair and members receive expenses; and
- HMC – Chair and members receive expenses.

Presentations to Assembly Committees

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when his Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9929/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Since the start of the current Assembly mandate my Department has made presentations to the Environment Committee on thirty one separate occasions. All related papers, as agreed with Environment Committee staff, were provided at least 48hrs in advance.

Additionally, my Department has made one presentation to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. No supporting papers were provided for Committee members for this presentation.

Sprucefield Centre Limited Planning Application

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Sprucefield Centre Limited planning application; and how many jobs the development is likely to create.

(AQW 9937/11-15)

Mr Attwood: This planning application was submitted to the Department on 26 October 2009. On 17 December 2009 the Department requested that the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) hold a public local inquiry to consider the application. However, the convening of the Inquiry has been delayed by a combination of judicial review proceedings and a need to consider further environmental information submitted by the applicant.

Further environmental information was submitted in August 2011 and again in February 2012. The details of the information have been advertised by the Department in accordance with statutory requirements and the information is presently under consideration by the Department. Once this stage of the process has been completed, the Department will be writing to the PAC to request a new date for the Inquiry.

With regard to job creation opportunities associated with the proposed development, the applicant estimates that up to 890 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the development with up to a further 1,616 jobs created when it is operational.

Tourism Issues

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the formal links which exist between his Department and other Departments in relation to tourism issues.

(AQW 9938/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has a number of formal links with other departments in relation to tourism issues including:

- ongoing consultation with DETI, including the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) since the publication of draft PPS 16 – Tourism Development;
- consultation with the NITB on tourism related planning applications to ensure full consideration of development proposals citing a tourist need or other tourism related issue; and
- membership alongside NITB of the Historic Environment Strategic Ministerial Forum along with its Economic Sub Group and a Departmental Sub Group chaired by the Permanent Secretary.

The Department is also working with OFMDFM, DCAL and DETI (NITB) to promote NIEA's events, sites and properties. This activity will be mutually beneficial, in terms of the London 2012 Olympics and the NITB 2012 campaign 'Our Time Our Place'.

Staff Responsible for Access to the Countryside

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment which councils have (i) staff whose sole responsibility is in relation to access to the countryside; and (ii) staff who are responsible for access to the countryside as part of their wider duties.

(AQW 9940/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information that has been provided by Councils is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Council	Sole Duty	Wider Duties
Antrim BC		Countryside Recreation Officer
Ards BC		Project Officer
Armagh C & DC		Leisure Facilities Manager
Ballymena BC		(1)Assistant Director Development, Leisure & Cultural Services. (2)Countryside and Access Officer.

Council	Sole Duty	Wider Duties
Ballymoney BC	Access Officer (Part Time)	
Banbridge DC	Countryside Officer	
Belfast CC	Countryside Officer	
Carrickfergus BC		Parks & Countryside Officer
Castlereagh BC		Countryside Officer
Coleraine BC		Countryside & Marine Manager
Cookstown DC		Tourism Officer
Craigavon BC		Recreation Development Officer
Derry CC	Access Officer	
Down DC	Countryside Access Officer	Also has Warden of Delamont Country Park & Tyrella who is responsible for delivering access to the country in respect of these two locations.
Dungannon & South Tyrone BC		Presently handled by Manager within Parks & Tourism. Council is restructuring and the function of an Access Officer will be addressed.
Fermanagh DC		Environment Officer
Larne BC	Countryside Officer	
Limavady BC	Countryside Services Officer	
Lisburn CC		Countryside Officer
Magherafelt DC		Head of Community Services
Moyle DC	Countryside Officer	
Newry & Mourne DC	Rights of Way/ Countryside Officer	
Newtownabbey BC		Rural Project Officer
North Down BC	Countryside Recreation Officer	
Omagh DC	Sports Development & Recreation Officer	
Strabane DC	Countryside Access Officer	

Planning Permission

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the announcement by the Republic of Ireland's Minister Hogan that, following the European Court of Justice ruling C-125-06, he is introducing legislation that will no longer allow developers to apply for retention planning permission when an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required under the Environmental Assessment Directive

85/337/EEC, for his assessment of the implications that the judgement will have on the many retrospective applications for EIA development currently in the planning system.

(AQW 9965/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Part 7 of the the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 provide for the consideration of EIA for development which is the subject of a planning enforcement notice. Where such development requires EIA, it is referred to as unauthorised EIA development. A failure to enforce where a development is unauthorised EIA development would be in breach of the Directive.

In *Ardagh Glass v Chester City Council*, the High Court held, on 8 April 2009, that retrospective planning permission could lawfully be granted for EIA development as long as the competent authorities paid careful regard to the need to protect the objectives of the EIA Directive.

This was upheld by the Court of Appeal on 29 January 2010 for three reasons -

- i) Common sense - It would not make sense to require all unlawful EIA development to be removed. At one extreme, development causing serious environmental damage with flagrant disrespect for the Directive should be the subject of removal. However, at the other extreme, there might have been an inadvertent failure to comply with the Directive, and the development may not be causing environmental harm and may actually be enhancing the environment. In such circumstances the Court of Appeal held that it would be an affront to common sense to require its removal.
- ii) Disproportionate - It is a fundamental principal of European Community law that any measures taken are proportionate. A prohibition on the grant of retrospective permission for EIA development, regardless of the circumstances and the environmental consequences thereof, would be wholly disproportionate.
- iii) The Ireland case - The Court of Appeal accepted passages from the Court of Justice of the European Union case (ECJ) in *Commission v Ireland* (a case relied upon by both sides in the High Court) to the effect that, subject to certain conditions, there may be exceptional circumstances in which a retrospective permission may be granted for EIA development.

Having considered both the Ireland case and the *Ardagh Glass Ltd* ruling, I am content that the acceptance of retrospective applications is not in itself a breach of the EIA Directive and that there are no implications for cases to arise from past decisions as a result of the acceptance of such applications.

Illegal Drinking

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to his plans to curb illegal drinking, whether he will consider provisions to allow newly married couples to enjoy a wedding toast whilst travelling in vehicles operated by private hire companies and coach operators.

(AQW 9998/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Currently regulation 51(1)(k) of the Public Service Vehicles Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 prohibits passengers on public service vehicles (PSVs) from consuming alcohol.

The department is currently undertaking a wide ranging review of arrangements for licensing bus operators with a view to developing a fair and proportionate regulatory regime. Extensive public consultation has been undertaken and the issue of alcohol being carried in public service vehicles as well as the issue of wedding toasts have been raised and are being considered.

In parallel with this review, officials from the Department are working with PSNI and the bus industry to agree shorter-term appropriate changes to the current legislative and enforcement regimes to tackle irresponsible drinking on public service vehicles. This process will take full account of the safety of passengers.

I acknowledge the proposal outlined by the Member, would have sympathy with the sentiment, but have to ensure that mixed messages are not conveyed by me and the department about alcohol consumption in a vehicle.

Hydroelectric Scheme on the River Camowen, Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any environmental concerns in relation to the recently installed hydroelectric scheme on the River Camowen, Omagh, by Omagh District Council.
[R]

(AQW 10002/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Omagh District council's hydroelectric scheme on the Camowen River was issued with an Abstraction and Impoundment Licence by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) on 23 June 2011 under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The licence specifies the maximum amount of water the turbine can take and also the amount of water that must remain in the river when the turbine is operating.

In determining this licence, NIEA consulted both internally in relation to Natural Heritage, Built Heritage, and hydrology and externally with the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure, DARD Rivers Agency, the Lough's Agency, the Ulster Angling Federation and the Foyle Association of Salmon and Trout Anglers.

An assessment under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 [as amended], conducted by NIEA to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive, found that the scheme, as proposed, would have no likely significant effects on the environment.

A hydrology assessment indicated that, with the application of appropriate water resource standards in the licence, this activity would be unlikely to impact upon the hydrological status of the water body in which it operates.

As a result NIEA determined that there were no significant environmental concerns so long as the conditions of the licence are adhered to.

On 16 March 2012, NIEA was made aware of a potential breach of the licence conditions. In relation to this incident, a Stop Notice was issued to Omagh District Council by NIEA on 21 March 2012 under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

Omagh District Council has 28 days to formally respond. In the interim, NIEA will be gathering further evidence as part of the investigation in accordance with its Enforcement Policy into this incident and it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

Planning Service Meetings

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of the Environment whether arrangements for Planning Service meetings are standard across all 26 council areas.

(AQO 1633/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Arrangements for consultation with Councils are standard across the 26 Council areas in that Council meetings are held on a monthly basis with the exception of Belfast city Council which meets every 2 weeks.

The Department has established consultation arrangements designed to ensure that elected representatives have an important input to the decision-making process. Guidance on this agreed process has been made available to all DOE Planning staff and Councils which helps to ensure greater consistency and more meaningful consultation with councils.

If a Council opposes the Department's opinion on a planning application it can seek a deferral at a council meeting. Where an application is deferred, an office meeting, or exceptionally a site meeting, will be arranged to discuss the issues.

While it is important that Councils provide planning reasons for seeking a deferral in line with the Departments established guidelines, the Department will apply a flexible interpretation of the agreed criteria, where appropriate, to ensure that Councils continue to have a full and meaningful role in the development management process.

Access to the Belfast Hills

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department has taken to ensure that residents of the Greater Shankill area have access to the Belfast Hills.

(AQW 10142/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The DOE supports district councils in developing and promoting access to the countryside. The Department also currently funds the Belfast Hills Partnership. The City Council has been working with the Belfast Hills Partnership to negotiate with a local landowner to allow for access from the greater Shankill area to the Belfast Hills. It has not proved possible for them to reach agreement with the landowner to date. The Department would consider a grant application to contribute to developing an access route in this area once landowner agreements are in place. I am however looking to help in other ways in the short and medium terms.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10155/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations (NI) 1982 the Department must provide adequate first aid cover for all its employees. There are currently 326 staff trained to administer first aid to the whole Department including those staff who work outside or whose duties require them to travel frequently across Northern Ireland.

Managers within the Department carry out assessments to determine the level of first aid cover required within their business area and practitioners are then sought to provide that cover.

Two levels of training are provided - 'Emergency First Aid' which lasts one day and 'First Aid at Work' which lasts three days. The more advanced course is approved by the Health and Safety Executive and on successful completion, staff are issued with an accredited certificate of competence which is valid for 3 years. Refresher training is provided once the certificate expires.

We have 249 accredited staff, but both levels of training referred to above cover Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and on completion of these courses, practitioners are competent in administering this procedure.

PPS21 Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance

Mr Molloy asked the Minister of the Environment to give an overview of the responses to the consultation on PPS21 draft Supplementary Planning Guidance.

(AQO 1626/11-15)

Mr Attwood: 'Building on Tradition' a draft sustainable rural design guide for the Countryside was published for 3 months public consultation ending on 8 July 2011. There was a good response to the public consultation exercise with the Department receiving a total of 28 responses from a broad range of interests.

Overall, the draft guidance has been positively received, with around two-thirds of respondents expressing broad support for its contents. Many respondents made suggestions however on how particular aspects of the draft guidance could be improved upon. In the main, the comments received related to relatively minor points concerning for example, terminology and the use of language, as opposed to fundamental concern with the overall approach,

I have recently agreed amendments to the Design Guide which has been refined and improved. Subject to Executive endorsement, it is my intention that the design guide is published in final form before the summer recess.

Marine Bill

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the possible inclusion of a Marine Management Organisation provision in the Marine Bill.

(AQO 1627/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I intend to continue my conversations with the Executive as the Marine Bill is making its passage through the Assembly. I hope that it will ultimately include provisions on a Marine Management Organisation.

I believe strongly that a Marine Management Organisation is a necessary managerial model going forward. It is the best vehicle by which to manage and reconcile the many interests and needs of the marine environment.

PPS 21

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of the Environment to outline any plans he has to relax PPS21 to allow more suitable placement of dwellings on farms, given the difficulties in relation to clustering new dwellings with existing farm buildings.

(AQO 1628/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Members will be aware that in June last year I launched a review of how PPS21 was operating in practice.

I will shortly complete this review with the intention of ensuring consistency of application of the PPS and appropriate flexibility on its operation in line with its content and substance.

I intend to make a statement to the Assembly in that regard as soon as practicable.

Antrim, Ballymena and Larne Area Plan 2016

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Antrim, Ballymena and Larne Area Plan 2016.[R]

(AQO 1629/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Work on the draft Antrim Ballymena Larne Area Plan 2016 ceased during 2008. This was due to implications arising from a High Court decision relating to the transposition of European Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment into Northern Ireland law. When the Department subsequently appealed this judgement the NI Court of Appeal decided to seek a preliminary ruling from the European Court of Justice. The ruling in October 2011 broadly found in favour of the Department's position. The Department is now awaiting the final ruling of Court of Appeal. If the outcome is as is anticipated, then the Department will need to review its overall Development Plan Programme considering the competing demands arising from the current plan coverage and resource implications before committing to and commencing any new development plan work.

Road Safety: Cyclists

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment what additional resources his Department will allocate to improving road safety for cyclists.

(AQO 1630/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The DOE has a statutory duty to promote road safety. One of the ways it raises awareness of road safety issues is through the Department's road safety advertising campaigns.

Cyclists are particularly vulnerable and as such the Department has recently allocated resources to increase awareness amongst all road users, including drivers, of the risks cyclists face on the road.

In October 2011 the Department launched the 'Be Cycle Aware' campaign, employing radio and bus rear advertising, in order to remind drivers and cyclists alike to pay attention when sharing the road.

A radio advert targets drivers as they travel in the car during daytime hours when they would be expected to share the road with cyclists.

A second radio advert and bus rear advertising targets cyclists, reminding them of their vulnerability and the need to pay attention and stay safe on the roads.

This activity is in line with Action Measure 124 of the Road Safety Strategy 2020 - "We will give consideration to measures that improve the safety of cyclists; including what cyclists can do to keep themselves safe and what other road users can do".

Currently all road users are provided with detailed guidance through the current edition of the Highway Code which contains rules, information and advice that helps prepare them for the demands of today's roads. Advice on how drivers should treat vulnerable road users, including cyclists, with extra care and attention is covered specifically by Rules 204 to 218 of the Code. Advice for cyclists can be found under Rules 59-82.

Resources have been directed towards the 'Be Cycle Aware' campaign so that it will be added to the monthly road safety intervention radio activity throughout the coming year.

All of this is in addition to the Department's Cycle Proficiency Scheme (CPS) which is delivered to approximately 580 primary schools with an average of 8,800 – 9,000 children trained each year at a cost of around £84,000 per annum.

Review of Public Administration

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions he has had with NILGA about resources to implement the changes resulting from the Review of Public Administration.

(AQO 1631/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am meeting NILGA on 27 March 2012 to discuss a number of business issues relating to the reform of local government that will include resources for the Association over the next three years.

I have also informed Council representatives, including NILGA, of the Executive's decision that the implementation of the reform programme will not be financially assisted by central government. In doing so, I have confirmed that I agree with this approach and that collectively we need to look at other funding opportunities, including early savings from the sector's Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency programme, as well as the use of reserves and loans.

I wish to assure you of my commitment to working closely with the local government sector in identifying practical models to finance the programme.

Built and Natural Heritage Assets

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of the Environment to outline how built and natural heritage assets can be leveraged, including relevant enforcement activity, to contribute to general economic development.

(AQO 1632/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Built and Natural Heritage constitutes an important resource which already makes a significant contribution to the Northern Ireland economy. A report quantifying impact in regard to the Built Heritage has been commissioned by the Historic Environment Strategic Forum which I chair, and this will be published later this year.

Areas to which the sector makes a significant contribution include:

- Stimulating Tourism. All of the 'Signature Projects' currently being promoted by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board have a strong built and natural heritage element. NITB research has shown that both built and natural heritage are a major draw- particularly for visitors from outside the region.

- Added Value to regeneration schemes. Historic buildings and monuments and natural heritage features provide great character to a place. Such character can have a positive impact upon rents, and also upon the reputation of businesses or agencies located in them.
- Attracting business. Inward investment is increasingly mobile. The historic and natural environments help to distinguish Northern Ireland from elsewhere. This can contribute to attracting business to the region.
- Direct contribution to economy. Significant funds are invested in the historic environment every year in Northern Ireland. This sustains jobs, skills and knowledge. For example, NIEA's listed building grant scheme, leverages an average investment of £7.65 for every £1 of grant-aid provided for the repair and maintenance of historic fabric. This is an important contribution to sustaining the building industry.

Realising and leveraging this potential requires action across a range of fronts:

- Government can lead by example and ensure that the Monuments in State Care and Country Parks - which it owns - are well interpreted and are able to realise their full potential as a tourism draw.
- Government can continue to work strategically with key partners to ensure tourism potential is realised for initiatives such as the Signature Projects, the Irish Open Golf Tournament; and the City of Culture in Derry/Londonderry.
- DOE can highlight the potential of the historic and natural environment to others, through its publications, events, and website.
- Owners can ensure that the historic buildings they own are kept to a good standard and, as a result, contribute – positively - to the character of their surroundings. DOE can encourage this through grant-aid for repairs to listed buildings, and in the worst cases, help deter deterioration and neglect through actions such as the issue of Urgent Work's notices.
- DOE can help stimulate the construction sector, through ensuring that its grant-aid schemes are well targeted.
- The Department will investigate all alleged breaches of planning control. However, when determining what (if any) action is to be taken, the Department has a general discretion on whether to take enforcement action against a breach of planning control. It does so when it considers it expedient, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and any other material consideration.
- Priority will be given to those breaches where, in the Department's opinion, the greatest harm is being caused. Where the extent of the breach is considered, by the Department, to be minor in nature and the impact on the environment minimal, the Department may consider that it is not expedient to take formal enforcement action. This consideration must be made on a case by case basis.
- In terms of enforcement, all breaches are categorised on the Planning Portal with a Breach Type value of Works to Listed Building.

Planning Process: Renewable Energy

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment whether he would consider speeding up the planning process for renewable energy applications.

(AQO 1634/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department welcomes the contribution that renewables make to the drive to reduce carbon emissions and acknowledges the importance of processing these types of applications in a timely manner.

A number of short term reform measures have been initiated to improve performance and speed in decision making and to stimulate and support economic recovery in the region. A range of measures

are currently in place which is intended to improve the speed of decision making for renewable energy project applications.

A Sub Group of the Planning Forum is considering development proposals for renewable energy development in the context of planning applications, licensing requirements and resources and structures for dealing with such proposals.

Planning staff are actively engaging with consultees to the planning process to ensure that any relevant information required in respect of renewable energy is submitted at the beginning of the process and consultation is focused and timely.

The specialist teams in Planning Headquarters who deal exclusively with specific types of renewable energy applications ensure that a consistent approach is taken. Specific training to planning staff on the assessment of planning applications for single wind turbines has just been completed and this will ensure consistency throughout Area Planning Offices.

In preparation for the transfer of planning functions to Local Councils, the Department will be fundamentally reviewing the system for measuring planning application processing targets.

North-South Electricity Interconnector

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the planning application for a North-South electricity interconnector, following the recent public inquiry.

(AQW 10273/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department asked the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) to conduct a public inquiry for the purpose of considering representations made in respect of this major planning application. The inquiry opened on 6 March 2012 but was adjourned on 20 March 2012. The PAC recommended that the ES and addendum should be readvertised, and that the environmental statement is consolidated and updated to take account of changes put forward by the applicants in their evidence to the inquiry. The PAC proposes to take no further action in relation to the inquiry until the application and environmental statement have been readvertised and the PAC has been so advised.

Prior to the inquiry being adjourned, on 16 March 2012 objectors to the planning application applied for a judicial review of decisions taken by the Planning Appeals Commission and by the Department of the Environment. This application is currently on hold.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Civil or Public Servant's Salaries Paid Through Private Companies

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether any civil or public servant's, including staff in arm's-length bodies, salaries are paid through private companies.

(AQW 8394/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): All NICS departments have confirmed that they are not aware of any civil or public servants in departments or arm's-length bodies whose salaries are paid into private companies. It should be noted that staff have the facility to alter their own bank account details through the online HR facility, although no salaries are paid outside the PAYE system.

Jobs Created As A Result of Wind Energy Production

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many jobs have been created as a result of wind energy production over the past five years.

(AQW 9601/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007 used in surveys that provide estimates of employee jobs classifies businesses by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. Wind energy production is grouped with similar businesses and therefore it is not possible to determine how many employee jobs there are in this industry alone.

Civil or Public Servant's Salaries Paid Through Private Companies

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) how many civil or public servants', including staff in arm's-length bodies, salaries are currently paid through private companies and not through the PAYE arrangements, broken down by (a) Department; (b) arm's-length body; and (c) grade; and (ii) how many civil or public servants', including staff in arm's-length bodies, salaries have been paid through private companies and not through the PAYE arrangements in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) Department; (b) arm's-length body; and (c) grade.

(AQW 9668/11-15)

Mr Wilson: All Northern Ireland Civil Service departments have confirmed that they have no staff, and that their arm's length bodies have no staff, whose salaries have been paid through private companies and not through the PAYE arrangements in any of the last five years, with the exception of OFMDFM. One of OFMDFM's arm's length bodies, the Strategic Investment Board (SIB), previously had 4 staff members who were employed on fixed term contracts and were paid through their own companies. As at 31 March 2011, SIB no longer had any staff being paid in this way and will not employ people on this basis in the future. For ease of reference I have detailed this information in the table overleaf.

		2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012
(a) Departmental Staff		0	0	0	0	0
(b) Strategic Investment Board	Grade 6 equivalent	4	3	2	1	0
Total		4	3	2	1	0

Number of People of Working Age who are Employed

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 8540/11-15, why his Department can only provide estimates of the percentage and number of people of working age who are employed in each district council area; and (ii) what plans he has to provide accurate figures on employment statistics broken down by council area.

(AQW 9759/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a voluntary sample survey carried out by interviewing individuals in private households and is the most comprehensive source of information on their circumstances and work. It is the largest regular household survey in Northern Ireland, providing a rich source of information on the labour force using internationally agreed concepts and definitions.

There is no legislative basis for carrying out a census of households on a monthly basis in order to provide accurate employment information and the cost in terms of finance and staff resource would outweigh any benefits that would accrue. Survey estimates, such as the Labour Force Survey, provide valuable information in regular timely intervals, at much less cost than a complete census and through a relatively less resource intensive process.

Accurate figures for employment will however be available from the Census of Population. The most recent Census of the population in Northern Ireland took place on Sunday 27 March 2011. Data from the Census will provide important information on the population and nature of Northern Ireland as well as small areas and population groups.

Companies Under-Pricing Public Sector Tenders

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what processes and procedures are in place to prevent companies from under-pricing public sector tenders in order to secure work.

(AQW 9820/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Where the tender is assessed as being abnormally low the Contracting Authority, before rejecting the tender, will seek an explanation from the tenderer as to how the contract can be delivered for the offer price.

The Contracting Authority may ask for details of the proposed methodology or technical solution proposed and any exceptionally favourable factors which the tenderer is reliant upon.

The evidence provided by the tenderer will be taken into account and the tender either accepted, where appropriate justification has been provided, or rejected, where the offer has been verified with the tenderer as being abnormally low.

Providing the tenderer is able to provide assurance that the contract can be satisfactorily met, the submission of a low price in order to secure work would not normally constitute grounds for rejection of the tender.

2012 Business Cases for North-South Bodies

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when the 2012 business cases for the North-South bodies were approved; and how many have been approved to date.

(AQW 9825/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I am making the assumption that you are referring to the Business Plans for each of the North South Bodies.

To date, the NSMC has approved one North South Body 2012 Business Plan. Tourism Ireland's 2012 Business Plan was approved on 1st March 2012.

Vacant Non-Domestic Properties in Larne

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of vacant non-domestic properties in Larne town centre.

(AQW 9828/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the number of vacant non-domestic properties in Larne Town Centre is not available as information is collated by Land & Property Services at District Council and Ward levels only. The number of vacant non-domestic properties in each Ward in the Larne Borough Council area as at 18th March 2012 is given in the table overleaf.

Ward/Council	Number of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties
Antiville	*
Ballycarry	8
Ballyloran	*
Blackcave	*
Carncastle	*
Carnlough	18
Central	119
Craigyhill	*

Ward/Council	Number of Vacant Non-Domestic Properties
Gardenmore	6
Glenarm	20
Glynn	11
Harbour	28
Islandmagee	*
Kilwaughter	22
Townparks	14
Ward Area not known	*
Larne Borough Council	259

* 5 properties or less

Hamill/Brennan versus DFP Tribunal

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in relation to the Hamill/Brennan versus DFP Tribunal (i) whether the complaint was withdrawn by the claimants or a settlement was reached; (ii) whether his Department conceded in order for the case to be withdrawn or settled; (iii) for how many days the case ran before being withdrawn or settled; and (iv) to provide an estimate of the cost of the tribunal and who will bear the costs.

(AQW 9847/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The cases were withdrawn by the claimants. This was without settlement or concession. The Industrial Tribunal sat for four days.

In accordance with normal procedures in the Industrial Tribunal each side met its own costs. DFP's legal costs amounted to £68,260. The Department has no record of the claimants' costs.

Special Advisers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 1711/11-15, to detail (i) whether the First Minister and deputy First Minister were consulted about the increase; and (ii) whether other Ministers were consulted.

(AQW 9919/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I took the decision in my role as Minister with responsibility for civil service pay to set the upper limit of the pay band B for Special Advisers at £90,000.

Reduction in Income Tax Personal Allowance

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the number of pensioners that will be impacted by the reduction in Income Tax Personal Allowance.

(AQW 9942/11-15)

Mr Wilson: HMRC have published a summary of impacts of the reduction in the Income Tax Personal Allowance which states that in 2013-14, 4.41 million people aged 65 and over will be worse off compared to 2012-13 when RPI indexation to the age-related allowances is taken into account.

Devolution of Corporation Tax Powers

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the potential impact of the cost of devolving corporation tax, following the Chancellor's announcement of a reduction in corporation tax.

(AQW 9943/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Full revised estimates of the impact of the Chancellor's announcement in the budget of a further percentage point reduction in the UK's main rate of corporation tax on the cost of devolving these powers to Northern Ireland have not yet been produced. This will be done as part of the work of Joint Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy which has a specific workstream on costs.

Broadly speaking, the lower rate for the UK has a first downward effect as the difference between the UK rate and any reduced rate for Northern Ireland will be smaller. However, alongside the budget, the Office of Budget Responsibility published revised increased (since their last estimate in November) estimates of future UK Corporation Tax receipts. Together these changes will impact on the other elements of the cost estimates such as profit shifting, tax motivated incorporation and the revenues from other taxes such as income tax and national insurance.

The Joint Ministerial Working Group aims to report during the summer and a decision will be taken by the Government on whether it will agree to the devolution of these powers following this. No updated cost estimates will be available until the final report of the Working Group.

Reduction in the Top Rate of Tax

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the number of people in Northern Ireland that will be affected by the reduction in the top rate of tax from 50 percent to 45 percent.

(AQW 9944/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There are currently no estimates of the number of people in Northern Ireland affected by the reduction in the top rate of tax from 50 per cent to 45 per cent. However as part of Budget 2012, HMRC published a paper on 'The Exchequer effect of the 50 per cent additional rate of income.' This paper was used to inform the Exchequer estimates for the Budget 2012 measure to reduce the top rate of tax and gives further information on the reasons behind the reduction.

Suicide

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 9335/11-15, what analysis he has carried out on the upward trend in suicide among the (i) under 25; and (ii) over 45 age groups.

(AQW 9945/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of deaths registered and the death rate due to 'suicide and self-inflicted injury'¹ or 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'² has more than doubled between 2003 and 2010 – Table 1.

TABLE 1: REGISTERED DEATHS DUE TO 'SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURY'¹ OR 'UNDETERMINED INJURY WHETHER ACCIDENTALLY OR PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED'² AND RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION, 2003-2010.

Registration Year	Number of Suicides	Rate per 1,000 Population
2003	144	0.08
2004	146	0.09
2005	213	0.12

Registration Year	Number of Suicides	Rate per 1,000 Population
2006	291	0.17
2007	242	0.14
2008	282	0.16
2009	260	0.15
2010	313	0.17

On average there are around 3 male suicides for every female suicide - Table 2.

TABLE 2: REGISTERED DEATHS DUE TO 'SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURY'1 OR 'UNDETERMINED INJURY WHETHER ACCIDENTALLY OR PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED' BY SEX, 2003-2010.

Registration Year	Numbers		Percentages	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2003	112	32	78%	22%
2004	105	41	72%	28%
2005	167	46	78%	22%
2006	227	64	78%	22%
2007	175	67	72%	28%
2008	218	64	77%	23%
2009	205	55	79%	21%
2010	240	73	77%	23%
Average	1,449	442	77%	23%

Over the last eight years the number of suicides registered has increased across all age-groups. However the proportion of suicides by age group has not changed markedly – Table 3.

TABLE 3: REGISTERED DEATHS DUE TO 'SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURY'1 OR 'UNDETERMINED INJURY WHETHER ACCIDENTALLY OR PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED'2 BY AGE-GROUP, 2003-2010 – NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

Age Group	Registration Year - Numbers								Average
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Under 25	24	24	35	60	41	48	42	71	43
25-34	33	28	44	55	43	60	59	57	47
35-44	35	33	45	69	52	75	63	65	55
45+	52	61	89	107	106	99	96	120	91
All ages	144	146	213	291	242	282	260	313	236

Age Group	Registration Year - Percentages								Average
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Under 25	17%	16%	16%	21%	17%	17%	16%	23%	18%
25-34	23%	19%	21%	19%	18%	21%	23%	18%	20%
35-44	24%	23%	21%	24%	21%	27%	24%	21%	23%
45+	36%	42%	42%	37%	44%	35%	37%	38%	39%
All ages	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Suicide varies by area. Generally the more deprived an area the more suicides there are to people living there. Over the last eight years 10% of suicides were to people living in the 20% least deprived areas. Three times more suicides (32%) were to people living in the 20% most deprived areas. In addition whilst the numbers have increased, the distribution across deprived areas has not changed over the last eight years – Table 4.

TABLE 4: REGISTERED DEATHS DUE TO ‘SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURY’¹ OR ‘UNDETERMINED INJURY WHETHER ACCIDENTALLY OR PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED’² BY DEPRIVATION QUINTILE, 2003-2010 – NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

Registration Year	Deprivation Quintile				
	Band 1: 20% Least Deprived Areas	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5: 20% Most Deprived Areas
2003	15	30	34	23	42
2004	13	22	27	37	47
2005	27	39	36	60	51
2006	29	50	51	63	97
2007	22	34	38	65	83
2008	31	40	47	67	97
2009	18	37	53	64	87
2010	39	52	56	57	109
Average	194	304	342	436	613

Registration Year	Percentages				
	Band 1: 20% Least Deprived Areas	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5: 20% Most Deprived Areas
2003	10%	21%	24%	16%	29%
2004	9%	15%	18%	25%	32%
2005	13%	18%	17%	28%	24%

Registration Year	Percentages				
	Band 1: 20% Least Deprived Areas	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5: 20% Most Deprived Areas
2006	10%	17%	18%	22%	33%
2007	9%	14%	16%	27%	34%
2008	11%	14%	17%	24%	34%
2009	7%	14%	20%	25%	34%
2010	12%	17%	18%	18%	35%
Average	10%	16%	18%	23%	32%

1 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes X60-X84, Y87.0

2 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes Y10-Y34, Y87.2

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 9970/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There is no statutory requirement for employers to train their staff in CPR techniques. There is however a statutory requirement to comply with first aid at work regulations – The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982. Employers have a legal duty to make arrangements to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or become ill at work.

In compliance with those regulations, DFP has a network of first aiders across the various departmental sites. All these staff are trained in CPR as part of their first aider training.

Departmental Appointments to Quangos

Mr Weir asked Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the quangos to which his Department makes appointments; (ii) how many members are appointed; and (iii) the remuneration paid to (a) the Chair; and (b) other members.

(AQW 9990/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information about public appointments made by my Department to the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee, the Statistics Advisory Committee, the NI Authority for Utility Regulation and the Lay Observer for NI is set out in the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report, published by OFMDFM. The most recent report covers the period 2010/11 and is available from the OFMDFM website or from the Assembly Library's reference collection (Reference number R351.41609 NOR).

There are a further two bodies for which my Department makes appointments, the Public Service Commission and the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) Governance Group. The number of members appointed to each body and the remuneration paid is listed in the table below.

Bodies for which DFP make appointments	Number of members and remuneration			
	Chair	£	Members	£
NI Building Regulations Advisory Committee	1	Expenses only	17	Expenses only
Statistics Advisory Committee	1	Expenses only	7	Expenses only
NI Authority for Utility Regulation	1	33,996	9	9,521 each
Lay Observer	1	Fee basis depending on no. days worked & cases reviewed	-	-
Public Service Commission for NI	1	15,000	6	10,800 total
Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) Governance Group	1	Fee basis depending on no. of days	6	Unpaid

Meetings Attended by Special Adviser

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 2596/11-15, whether the information requested is available and can be provided only for the period from the date of appointment of his current Special Adviser to 27 September 2012.

(AQW 10010/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested is not readily available and can only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in each council area, with more than three premises at the same address, will not qualify for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme from 1 April 2012 but would have qualified if the premises housed separate businesses.

(AQW 10050/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Land & Property Services (LPS) is currently preparing to issue rate demands for the 2012/2013 rating year. In line with the Rates (Small Business Hereditament Relief) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, LPS has taken steps to exclude businesses who occupy more than three premises (multiples) from entitlement to Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR).

Provision has been made, reflecting concerns raised during consultation, to deal with cases where a number of low value properties are situated together in one location. The Regulations provide that where each property within a group of properties is contiguous (generally adjoining) with another property in the group, the properties in the group have a combined Net Annual Value (NAV) not exceeding £10,000 and are occupied by the same person, the properties can still be treated as a single property for the purpose of the multiples exclusion. This is in line with the upper threshold for the scheme.

It has not been possible, in the time available and based solely on existing data, to determine exactly which of the properties excluded by LPS might be multiple units at the same location. It is anticipated that the numbers affected are very small.

Where LPS is made aware that the multiple properties are adjoining properties (contiguous) and the above criteria are met, LPS will amend the ratepayer's account to ensure that the relevant properties benefit from SBRR.

Reform of Apartment Development Management Companies

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 5197/11, what progress has been made on the reform of apartment development management companies.

(AQW 10055/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I indicated in response to AQW 5081/11-15 that the Northern Ireland Law Commission had agreed to issue its consultation paper on multi-unit developments in June of this year.

My officials are in ongoing contact with the Commission and the stated timescale still stands.

Council Tax Relief for Service Personnel Serving Abroad

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in relation to the Council Tax Relief in the rest of the UK for service personnel serving abroad, whether he intends to introduce similar provisions.

(AQW 10110/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I would refer the Member to the reply I gave to AQW 10011/11-15 on 30 March 2012.

Regional Pay for the Public Sector

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the Budget Statement, what discussions he intends to have with Treasury about regional pay for the public sector.

(AQW 10125/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have already raised a number of serious concerns about any plans to move towards regional public sector pay rates, as did the Scottish and Welsh Finance Ministers, when we met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, prior to the Budget in March. I am very concerned the introduction of such a measure and any related block adjustment would have damaging implications for our local economic recovery. I also made it clear that I do not accept that national pay agreements harm the private sector in terms of staff recruitment or retention.

The Chancellor has asked the independent Pay Review Bodies to look at this issue and report their findings by July 2012. We have been advised that this work is at a very early stage and that there will be negotiations with each of the Devolved Administrations before a final decision is taken.

I can assure you that I will oppose any changes that I believe would harm Northern Ireland's economic recovery and I am sure that my Scottish and Welsh counterparts as well as representatives from a number of English regions will be doing the same.

Public Sector Workers Salaries Paid By Private Companies

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in relation to the delay in answering AQW 8394/11-15 and AQW 9668/11-15, whether he can confirm that the delay is not due to the existence of individuals being paid through limited companies in the last five years.

(AQW 10130/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I can confirm that the delay in answering AQW 8394/11-15 and AQW 9668/11-15 is not due to the existence of individuals being paid through limited companies in the last five years.

Unemployed People

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many young people in (i) North; and (ii) West Belfast are currently unemployed; and what these figures represent as a percentage of the unemployed people in each constituency.

(AQW 10137/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The official measure of unemployment is sourced from the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, as a sample survey the LFS is not designed to provide unemployment for young people at parliamentary Constituency Area.

The following table is sourced to the claimant count measure of unemployment. This shows the number of young people (under 24) claiming unemployment related benefits in Belfast North and Belfast West at February 2012 and these figures as a percentage of the total claimant in each constituency.

Parliamentary Constituency Area	Number Of Youth Claimants	Total Claimants in that Area	Percentage of Total Claimant
Belfast North	1,515	5,235	28.9
Belfast West	1,660	5,220	31.8

Data rounded to 5.

Figures do not include clerical claimants which make up less than 1% of total.

Percentage of total claimants is calculated using unrounded data.

Special EU Programmes Body for Peace III Funding

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the women's organisations that applied to the Special EU Programmes Body for Peace III funding in the last five years; (ii) the successful applications; and (iii) the level of funding awarded to each organisation.

(AQW 10143/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Women's organisations that have applied for PEACE III funding in the past five years.

The following women's organisations applied directly to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) for PEACE III funding.

- Shankill Women's Centre
- Training for Women Network (TWN)
- Women's Aid Foyle

The following women's organisations applied for PEACE III funding under the Programme Theme Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past. This is delivered on behalf of SEUPB by a Consortium comprising the Community Relations Council (CRC) and Pobal.

- Falls Women's Centre
- Inishowen Women's Information Network
- Newry and Mourne Women Ltd
- South Armagh Rural Women's Network
- Training for Women Network (TWN)
- Women in Agriculture
- Women's TEC

Finally, there are 14 Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans developed at local authority level and approved by SEUPB. The following women's organisations applied for funding under these Plans.

- ATLAS Women's Centre
- Ballybeen Women's Centre
- Cookstown & District Women's Group
- Falls Women's Centre
- Irish Country Women's Association

- Kilcooley Women's Centre
- Kilcooley Women's Education & Development Group
- Louth Women's Network
- Mid Ulster Women's Network
- Newry and Mourne Women Ltd
- North Down & Ards Women's Forum
- North Leitrim Women's Centre
- Omagh Women's Area Network
- Second Chance Education for Women
- Shannon Valley Women's Group
- South Armagh Rural Women's Network
- Training for Women Network (TWN)
- Women of the World
- Women's Aid Foyle
- Women's Information Northern Ireland
- Women's Resource and Development Agency
- Women's TEC

Successful applications and level of funding awarded.

The following women's organisations were successful with their PEACE III applications and were awarded the amounts indicated.

Successful PEACE III applications to SEUPB

Organisation	Project title	Total Award £
Shankill Women's Centre	Small Wonders Childcare II	700,740.00
Training for Women Network (TWN)	Positive Relations Project	2,766,645.00
Training for Women Network (TWN)	Extending Positive Relations	2,864,137.00

Successful PEACE III applications to the Consortium

Organisation	Project title	Total Award £
Falls Women's Centre	Training & Employment Project	155,661.57
South Armagh Rural Women's Network	Behind the Masks	317,593.14

Successful applications under the Local Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans

Organisation	Project title	Total Award £
ATLAS Women's Centre	Past, Present, Future	27,345.04
ATLAS Women's Centre	Tree mend us	64,384.00
Ballybeen Women's Centre	Ballybeen Women's Centre - Good Relations Project	23,735.00

Organisation	Project title	Total Award £
Cookstown & District Women's Group	Step by Step Together	29,997.00
Irish Country Women's Association	Women Together	4,086.96
Kilcooley Women's Centre	The Horizon Project	49,413.05
Kilcooley Women's Centre	Priority 6 Support for Representative, Inclusive and Effective Decision Making - The 1325 Project	263,998.29
Kilcooley Women's Centre	KCF - Supporting Women	270,965.00
Louth Women's Network	Cultural Exchange with rural women in Northern Ireland	26,086.96
Mid Ulster Women's Network	Lets Listen - A talking beyond the boundaries Programme	27,544.83
Newry & Mourne Women Ltd	Women celebrating Intercultural Diversity Together	21,739.13
Newry & Mourne Women Ltd	Newry & Mourne Women Ltd	21,739.13
North Down & Ards Women's Forum	The 1325 Project	50,315.10
North Leitrim Women's Centre	Leitrim Women on the Web	5,217.39
Second Chance Education for Women	Cross Border Women's Reconciliation project	13,344.64
South Armagh Rural Women's Network	One Small Step	18,956.28
Women's Resource and Development Agency	Good Relations - Politics and Progress	24,793.00
Women's TEC	Bits & Pieces-BAP	25,000.00

Complaints About the Special EU Programmes Body's Peace III Managing Authority

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of complaints his Department has received about the Special EU Programmes Body's Peace III Managing Authority; (ii) the nature of each complaint; and (iii) what action his Department has taken in relation to each complaint.

(AQW 10144/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Department of Finance and Personnel has received eight complaints regarding the Special EU Programmes Body in its role as PEACE III Managing Authority.

The nature of each complaint and the action taken by the Department are detailed overleaf.

Year	Nature of complaint	Action taken
2007	Insufficient guidance for local authorities in relation to PEACE III cluster arrangements.	Written response from Minister's Private Secretary advised of the guidance in place and responded to the specific queries raised.

Year	Nature of complaint	Action taken
2007	Community background of PEACE III Monitoring and Steering Committee members.	Written response from Minister advised of the membership structure and the nominations process, and confirmed the responsibilities of SEUPB and DFP Minister to ensure that all groups are appropriately represented and all voices heard.
2008	Community uptake of PEACE III funding.	Written response from Minister noted importance of participation by all sections of the community and outlined research findings showing both main communities participating significantly. Also advised of SEUPB's outreach work with previously under-represented groups and communities.
2008	Community background of PEACE III Steering Committee members.	Written response from Minister.
2009	Implementation of Freedom of Information Code of Practice.	Written response from Minister noted that a DFP review of appropriateness of Freedom of Information Code of Practice to the North South and European Programmes work of SEUPB was in progress. Advised that consideration of the correspondent's request for information would be considered following completion of the review.
2009	Implementation of Freedom of Information Code of Practice.	Written response from Minister's Private Secretary advised of DFP review of Freedom of Information Code of Practice, and advised that SEUPB would contact the correspondent following conclusion of the review.
2011	European Regional Development Fund publicity associated with an event perceived to be political in nature.	Correspondent's concerns raised with SEUPB. Written reply from Minister advised that SEUPB had written to the project expressing concern and requesting no such inappropriate use of Programme logos should be made in future. Minister also noted recent introduction by SEUPB of a code of conduct for projects in receipt of PEACE funding which should allow action to be taken in the event of similar situations in future.
2012	SEUPB handling of withdrawal of funding from PEACE III projects with irregular expenditure.	Correspondent's concerns noted and raised with SEUPB.

Further Review of the Special EU Programmes Body's Staffing

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when a further review of the Special EU Programmes Body's staffing will take place.

(AQW 10145/11-15)

Mr Wilson: A further review of the Special EU Programmes Body's staffing will begin summer 2012 and will report before the end of the year.

Vacant Retail Premises in Co Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number and percentage of vacant retail premises in Co Fermanagh in each of the last eight years; (ii) the total floor space of all

the current vacant retail premises; (iii) what action is being taken to ensure that the vacant premises do not detract from the appearance of towns and villages; and (iv) what action is being taken to fill the premises.

(AQW 10156/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the number of vacant retail premises by county is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only. Information is not available for the past eight years.

The table overleaf lists (i) the number, and (ii) associated floor space, of vacant retail premises in Fermanagh District Council as at 31st March 2010, 31st March 2011 and 25th March 2012 (which includes the earliest and latest dates for which comparable information is available).

Information on the total number of retail premises, and therefore the percentage which is vacant, in Fermanagh District Council is not available.

VACANT RETAIL PREMISES IN FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

	Number of Vacant Retail Premises	Total Floor Space (m2)
As at 31st March 2010	147	71,368
As at 31st March 2011	162	66,014
As at 25th March 2012	178	81,442

Government at any level, is unable to interfere with the rights of private property owners, unless the property in question is dangerous in terms of posing a significant public safety or health risk. However, the Assembly has recently passed legislation from my Department that will encourage long term empty retail property back into use. 50% empty property relief will be available to new occupiers for the first year and this concession can be applied for during the current rating year, that is, to the end of March 2013. To qualify, the property must have been empty for at least a year and last used for retail purposes, however, there are no restrictions on the use that the property can be put to when reoccupied. Also, from 1st April, window displays in empty shops can be used to brighten up shopping areas without incurring full occupied rates. The display must be for community, artistic or non-commercial purposes in order to avail of the relief.

In addition, the Enterprise Minister recently announced that she will be carrying out a comprehensive consultation with the independent retail sector to identify areas of difficulty, develop a co-ordinated approach to helping the sector and explore what the Executive can do to help.

It is a matter for individual property owners to take action to encourage occupation of their premises. However, the measures outlined above should assist property owners to do so.

Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the annual additional cost to his Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10170/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for my Department to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Former Department Employees

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 7969/11-15, to detail (i) which branch each of the staff were employed in (a) prior to retirement; and (b) after retirement; and (ii) why the role for which they were rehired could not be carried out by a current member of staff.

(AQW 10245/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested is detailed in the attached tables.

PERSON 1

(ia)	Central Support Division
(ib)	Information Management Unit
(ii)	Section 45 of the FOI Act Code of Practice places a duty on the Department to put in place an appeals process to ensure applicants are able to ask for an internal review, if they are not content with the Department's decision on release. The review must be a fair and impartial means of reviewing decisions made during the original consideration. These reviews are time consuming and it is difficult for nominated senior staff to fit into their normal duties. This individual was rehired to carry out these reviews.

PERSON 2

(ia)	Departmental Solicitors Office
(ib)	Departmental Solicitors Office
(ii)	The Business Case, approved by the Permanent Secretary, demonstrated that the officer had specific skills and intimate knowledge of the project on which he was involved prior to retirement. No other member of staff possessed the necessary mix of skills and knowledge.

PERSON 3

(ia)	Land Registry (LPS)
(ib)	Land Registry (LPS)
(ii)	<p>Land Registry was experiencing unprecedented demand for services and the number of applications received was at its highest ever. Many of the applications were complex and required consideration by the small legal team in Land Registry. At this time, the legal team were reduced in numbers due to staff being away from the office on maternity leave.</p> <p>The retired individual has extensive knowledge of Land Registration legislation, Land Registry practice and procedure and had previously used the Land Registry IT system on a daily basis.</p> <p>The Legal Team are qualified Solicitors/Barristers who deal with the most difficult cases in the Registry. There were no other staff within the Registry who could undertake work of this complexity.</p>

PERSON 4

(ia)	Census Office (NISRA)
(ib)	Census Office (NISRA)
(ii)	There were no appropriate members of staff available to carry out the role.

PERSON 5

(ia)	DSD - Analytical Services
(ib)	Demography and Methodology Branch (NISRA)

(ii)	The work was part of the review of the Noble or NI Multiple Deprivation Measures 2010. The work had a deadline for completion of the review and there were limited staff available. The retired person had five years experience in the Department for Social Development in a key element of the review having published a number of NICS wide reports in the period prior to his retirement.
------	--

Negotiations Between the Irish Bank Officials Association, the Allied Irish Bank and the First Trust Bank: Redundancy

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Republic of Ireland in relation to the negotiations between the Irish Bank Officials Association, the Allied Irish Bank and the First Trust Bank regarding the settlement for bank officials who face the prospect of redundancy, following the announcement by the Chief Executive of AIB to cut 2,500 jobs in the AIB/First Trust Group in order to deliver a fair and reasonable outcome for all stakeholders, including customers and staff.

(AQW 10280/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Department of Finance and Personnel has no role in redundancy settlement negotiations for any staff group and I have not been involved.

North-South Ministerial Sectoral Finance Meeting: Job Cuts in the Banking Sector

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps he will take to ensure that the decision of Allied Irish Bank Ltd to cut jobs in the banking sector on the island of Ireland, which will impact on the First Trust Bank, will be discussed at the next North-South Ministerial Sectoral Finance meeting and the North-South Ministerial Council meeting,

(AQW 10281/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I wrote to the Irish Minister for Finance on banking issues on 26th March 2012 and suggested in that we have a bilateral meeting in the margins of the next North-South Ministerial Council Plenary or Institutional meeting that we both attend. The next Institutional Meeting is scheduled for 27 April 2012 and the next Plenary meeting for 15th June 2012. I can assure you that we will discuss the issue of staffing levels at both AIB and First Trust.

In my previous discussions with Michael Noonan TD (Irish minister for Finance) and his predecessor regarding the potential impact of restructuring we have agreed that Northern Ireland should not be disproportionately affected.

There is no North South Ministerial Finance Sector. Special EU Programmes Sector meetings are attended by the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and not the Minister of Finance.

Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many small businesses previously in receipt of the Small Business Rate Relief have been excluded from the scheme under the three or more premises rule introduced in 2012.

(AQW 10304/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The agreed policy is that businesses that occupy four or more properties (multiples) will be excluded from Small Business Rate Relief.

The number of small businesses previously in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief that have now been excluded from the scheme under the 'multiples' rule is 770.

This information is based on LPS initial investigations and may be subject to change after rate demands issue in April 2012.

Common Strategic Framework

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the status of the Common Strategic Framework.

(AQO 1766/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Common Strategic Framework, a key guide to producing Cohesion Policy Programmes post 2014, is defined in Article 10 of the European Commission's draft Common Provisions Regulation for the 2014-2020 period which says: In order to promote the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the Union, a Common Strategic Framework shall translate the objectives and targets of the Union Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth into key actions for the CSF Funds.

The Common Strategic Framework will be adopted in final form only once the legislative package on Cohesion Policy Funding for the next Multiannual Financial Framework period 2014-2020, proposed on 6th October 2011, has been agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.

On 14 March 2012 the European Commission published a 'Staff Working Document on the Common Strategic Framework' and invited comments from European Institutions. As 'staff working documents' have no formal status this is for the purpose of promoting discussion.

The method by which the Common Strategic Framework will be adopted has not yet been agreed.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Abortions

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why detailed records are not available to explain why individual abortions are carried out at hospitals.

(AQW 9812/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): At present, details explaining why abortions are carried out in Northern Ireland are held on the patient's medical records. This information is not currently recorded on the Patient Administration System (PAS) which provides data for the statistics collected by the Department.

Statistics collected by the Department do not currently allow for analysis of the reason that an abortion was carried out.

Given the clear public interest in this issue, I have asked officials to bring forward options for developing a new recording system.

Clinical Lead Specialist for Pain Management

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to appoint a clinical lead specialist for pain management.

(AQW 9901/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are no plans to appoint a clinical lead specialist for pain management in Northern Ireland at the present time; a number of specialist pain management clinics are provided by the HSC Trusts and GPs can refer patients to these clinics where they feel that their current pain management treatment is proving ineffective.

Human Embryos

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many human embryos have been destroyed in each year since the introduction of publicly funded IVF treatment.

(AQW 9917/11-15)

Mr Poots: It should be noted that the most common reasons that embryos are allowed to perish include that embryos are of poor quality and not suitable for transfer to the patient or cryopreservation, the end of the legal consent period for embryo storage has been reached or the couple withdraw consent to continued storage.

The figures for the numbers of embryos that have been discarded in the course of publicly funded treatment in Northern Ireland are given below (only available from 2006) –

Year of treatment	Number of embryos discarded
2006	1
2007	74
2008	1151
2009	916
2010	811
2011	1207*
2012	225*

* Figures given for 2011 and 2012 are provisional.

Committee Papers Presented by the Department

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when his Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.
(AQW 9931/11-15)

Mr Poots: Since the beginning of the current mandate, my Department's records indicate that there have been 44 evidence sessions where my Department has made a presentation to the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Of these, there have been four occasions where unavoidable circumstances meant that the relevant papers were provided to the Committee less than 48 hours beforehand. These were as follows;

- (i) A paper on Capital Priorities and 2011/12 Resource Budget was provided to the Committee on the morning of 15 June 2011 for consideration at its meeting held on the afternoon of 15 June 2011;
- (ii) A paper on 2010/11 Resource Spend and 2011/12 Budget was provided to the Committee on 19 September 2011 for consideration at its meeting held on 21 September 2011;
- (iii) A paper on the October Monitoring Round was provided to the Committee on 24 October 2011 for consideration at its meeting on 26 October 2011; and
- (iv) A paper on Primary Care Partnerships was provided to the Committee on 28 November 2011 for consideration at its meeting on 29 November 2011.

My Department endeavours to adhere at all times to the timescales set in Executive guidance for the provision of information between departments and committees.

Lambrum Tear to the Hip

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the procedure from diagnosis to surgery of a lambrum tear to the hip; (ii) where surgery would take place; and (iii) all associated costs.

(AQW 9958/11-15)

Mr Poots: A labrum tear to the hip can be treated in a number of ways including a hip arthroscopy procedure.

Hip arthroscopy is a relatively new procedure and is currently only being performed by a few orthopaedic surgeons in the UK with the equipment and training available to carry out the procedure.

A hip arthroscopy service is not currently commissioned in Northern Ireland. In these circumstances the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has a process in place which supports referrals from clinicians to NHS providers in Great Britain. This process is facilitated via the Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) arrangements and requires a clinician responsible for the care and treatment of an individual patient to write to the HSCB making a request on clinical grounds for treatment by another provider.

The majority of transfers have been to Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge, Epsom General Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust, and Wrightington Hospital.

The cost of a hip arthroscopy procedure is £ 5795.00. Due to the nature of travel arrangements for patients it is not possible to identify all costs specific to ECRs relating to this procedure.

The HSC Board is currently exploring opportunities with HSC Trusts to introduce this service locally.

Lambrum Tear Surgery

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why lambrum tear surgery is not carried out in out hospitals; and why all such surgery is carried out in England.

(AQW 9959/11-15)

Mr Poots: A labrum tear to the hip can be treated in a number of ways including a hip arthroscopy procedure.

Hip arthroscopy is a relatively new procedure and is currently only being performed by a few orthopaedic surgeons in the UK with the equipment and training available to carry out the procedure.

A hip arthroscopy service is not currently commissioned in Northern Ireland. In these circumstances the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has a process in place which supports referrals from clinicians to NHS providers in Great Britain. This process is facilitated via the Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) arrangements and requires a clinician responsible for the care and treatment of an individual patient to write to the HSCB making a request on clinical grounds for treatment by another provider.

The majority of transfers have been to Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge, Epsom General Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust, and Wrightington Hospital.

The cost of a hip arthroscopy procedure is £ 5795.00. Due to the nature of travel arrangements for patients it is not possible to identify all costs specific to ECRs relating to this procedure.

The HSC Board is currently exploring opportunities with HSC Trusts to introduce this service locally.

Lambrum Tear Surgery

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide estimated comparative costings for lambrum tear surgery, if it was available in our hospitals, with the cost of the surgery and travel for patients who have travelled to England, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 9960/11-15)

Mr Poots: A labrum tear to the hip can be treated in a number of ways including a hip arthroscopy procedure.

Hip arthroscopy is a relatively new procedure and is currently only being performed by a few orthopaedic surgeons in the UK with the equipment and training available to carry out the procedure.

A hip arthroscopy service is not currently commissioned in Northern Ireland. In these circumstances the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has a process in place which supports referrals from clinicians to NHS providers in Great Britain. This process is facilitated via the Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) arrangements and requires a clinician responsible for the care and treatment of an individual patient to write to the HSCB making a request on clinical grounds for treatment by another provider.

The majority of transfers have been to Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge, Epsom General Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust, and Wrightington Hospital.

The cost of a hip arthroscopy procedure is £ 5795.00. Due to the nature of travel arrangements for patients it is not possible to identify all costs specific to ECRs relating to this procedure.

The HSC Board is currently exploring opportunities with HSC Trusts to introduce this service locally.

Departmental Appointments to Quangos

Mr Weir asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the quangos to which his Department makes appointments; (ii) how many members are appointed; and (iii) the remuneration paid to (a) the Chair; and (b) other members.

(AQW 9992/11-15)

Mr Poots: In my capacity as Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety I have responsibility for the appointment of the 17 Chairs and 138 Members of Arm's Length Bodies as detailed in Table 1 below: in addition, a Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland is to be established in 2012 and a Chair 'Designate' has been appointed.

TABLE 1

(i) Name of organisation	(ii) Membership	(iii) (a) & (b) Remuneration
Belfast HSC Trust	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £34,333 per annum Members: £7,803 per annum
South Eastern HSC Trust	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £29,131 per annum Members: £7,803 per annum
Northern HSC Trust	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £29,131 per annum Members: £7,803 per annum
Southern HSC Trust	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £29,131 per annum Members: £7,803 per annum
Western HSC Trust	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £29,131 per annum Members: £7,803 per annum
Health & Social Care Board	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £33,000 per annum Members: £8,827 per annum
Patient & Client Council	Chair & 16 Members	Chair: £16,500 per annum Members: £3,530 per annum
Public Health Agency	Chair & 7 Members	Chair: £33,000 per annum Members: £8,827 per annum
Business Services Organisation	Chair & 8 Members	Chair: £22,000 per annum Members: £5,296 per annum
NI Guardian Ad Litem Special HSC Agency	Chair & 4 Members	Chair: £7,014 per annum Members: £2,922 per annum

(i) Name of organisation	(ii) Membership	(iii) (a) & (b) Remuneration
NI Blood Transfusion Services Special HSC Agency	Chair & 3 Members	Chair: £7,014 per annum Members: £1,754 per annum
NI Fire & Rescue Service Board	Chair & 10 Members	Chair: £25,195 per annum Members: £5,845 per annum
NI Ambulance Service HSC Trust	Chair & 5 Members	Chair: £22,544 per annum Members: £5,845 per annum
NI Practice & Education Council for Nursing & Midwifery	Chair & 14 Members	Chair: £10,521 per annum Members: NIL – expenses only
NI Medical & Dental Training Special HSC Agency	Chair & 5 Members	Chair: £13,687 per annum Members: £2,922 per annum
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	Chair & 12 Members	Chair: £17,684 per annum Members: £5,845 per annum
NI Social Care Council	Chair & 12 Members	Chair: £17,060 per annum Members: £6,242 per annum
Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland	Chair Designate	Chair: £34,333 per annum

Children Transferred by Ambulance to the Republic of Ireland for an MRI Scan

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children were transferred by ambulance to the Republic of Ireland for an MRI scan (i) in 2011; and (ii) to date this year. **(AQW 10019/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, information is available on the number of children currently waiting¹ for an MRI scan at each HSC Trust, and is given in the table below with the median waiting time band:

HSC Trust	No. children currently waiting for MRI scan²	Median waiting time band (weeks)
Belfast	332	6-9 weeks
Northern	11	0-6 weeks
South Eastern	17	0-6 weeks
Southern	72	0-6 weeks
Western	58	0-6 weeks
Northern Ireland	490	6-9 weeks

Source: HSC Trusts

- 1 Position as at 20th February 2012 for the Belfast HSC Trust and 8th March 2012 for the other HSC Trusts
- 2 Children are categorised as patients aged between 0 and 16 years of age, with adults categorised as patients over 16 years of age.

Group B Streptococcus Infection

Ms Brown asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the measures of prevention and services provided for new-born babies with a Group B Streptococcus infection.

(AQW 10020/11-15)

Mr Poots: The approach used throughout the UK to prevent Group B Streptococcal (GBS) in newborn babies is based on the identification of clinical risk factors.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) published a guideline in 2003 on the "Prevention of Early Onset Neonatal Group B Streptococcal Disease". It advises healthcare professionals on the clinical assessment of individual women, including risk factors for GBS, and the indications for offering antibiotics during labour. Over 60% of cases of early-onset GBS infection are associated with identifiable risk factors and it is thought that the majority of severely affected cases could be prevented by targeting this group. The RCOG are currently updating their guideline and the revised version is expected to be published in the near future.

In Northern Ireland, the Chief Medical Officer and the acting Chief Nursing Officer have written to healthcare professionals to highlight the clinical management of GBS in pregnancy to ensure that those who are at risk are managed appropriately, and to emphasise the importance of pregnant women being made aware of the risks of GBS in pregnancy as part of their routine antenatal care.

All babies that are unwell will be assessed and treated depending on their clinical needs. Assessment will include testing for infections if this is clinically indicated. A baby with confirmed Group B Streptococcus infection will have treatment based on his or her individual clinical condition. This may include admission to a neonatal unit and treatment with antibiotics.

Screening Programme for Group B Streptococcus

Ms Brown asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his Department's assessment of the benefits of introducing a Group B Streptococcus screening programme.

(AQW 10021/11-15)

Mr Poots: In Northern Ireland routine screening for Group B Streptococcal infection (GBS) is not provided. This policy is based on the advice of the UK National Screening Committee (NSC), the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

The NSC is an expert body which advises the four UK Health Departments on screening programmes. The NSC has kept under review the evidence for screening for GBS infection and following the most recent review in 2008 the NSC re-affirmed its earlier advice that screening for GBS should not be offered. A further review is currently underway and the review report is expected to be available for consultation this spring.

I will consider carefully all opinions and scientific advice presented to me before making a final decision for Northern Ireland.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Contractors

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what procedures the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has in place to check (i) if main contractors have paid electrical and mechanical sub-contractors; and (ii) the timescale within which the sub-contractors are paid.

(AQW 10057/11-15)

Mr Poots: Construction contracts entered into by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust after March 2010 contain a number of provisions that relate to the payment of subcontractors. These are as follows:

- A requirement that the Contractor will comply with the 'Code of Practice for Government Construction Clients and their Supply Chains' that includes a 'Model Fair Payment Charter' which sets out the values and arrangements relating to Fair Payment commitments and practices; and
- The Contractor will provide the (Design Team) Lead Consultant with access to accounts to allow timeliness of payments to subcontractors and suppliers to be verified.

Construction contracts entered into by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust after January 2012 require the Contractor to provide at monthly intervals, an update on the payment status of first tier subcontractors using a 'Contractor's Subcontract Payment Report' template.

Treatment in Hospitals in Great Britain

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) the number of times patients from Northern Ireland have received treatment in hospitals in Great Britain; and (ii) the types of treatment received.

(AQW 10074/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below shows, for each year and specialty, the number of times patients from Northern Ireland have been transferred to hospitals in Great Britain for inpatient treatment.

Specialty	Year				
	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
General Surgery	24	134	38	5	3
Urology	34	200	251	48	37
T & O Surgery	22	4,575	1,052	858	996
ENT	200	37	20	24	2
Ophthalmology	11	308	72	49	25
Oral Surgery	0	6	8	3	0
Restorative Dentistry	4	0	0	0	0
Paediatric Dentistry	0	1	0	0	0
Orthodontics	0	0	0	0	0
Neurosurgery	91	209	220	149	155
Plastic Surgery	978	639	42	12	12
Cardiac Surgery	91	114	121	163	140
Paediatric Surgery	12	81	65	57	63
Thoracic Surgery	7	0	0	0	0
Accident & Emergency	0	0	0	0	0
Anaesthetics	1	7	3	0	1
Pain Management	2	9	7	3	0
General Medicine	24	39	38	4	2
Gastroenterology	15	21	28	10	35

Specialty	Year				
	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Endocrinology	2	4	6	1	0
Haematology	15	28	19	10	22
Audiological Medicine	0	2	3	5	4
Clinical Genetics	10	22	17	37	53
Rehabilitation	3	0	0	0	0
Palliative Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiology	0	0	0	0	0
Dermatology	0	67	92	80	43
Thoracic Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Genito-Urinary Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Nephrology	2	6	16	5	20
Medical Oncology + Clinical (all oncology)	9	66	64	10	31
Neurology	0	0	0	0	0
Clinical Neuro-Physiology	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	14	10	6	2
Paediatrics	0	0	0	0	63
Paediatric Neurology	0	0	0	0	0
Geriatric Medicine	0	1	2	0	0
Dental Medicine Specialties	0	0	0	0	0
Gynaecology	24	47	47	16	28
Obstetrics (Ante Natal)	0	0	0	0	0
Obstetrics (Post Natal)	0	0	0	0	0
Learning Disability	0	0	0	1	1
Mental Illness/ Mental Health HCC	40	29	25	19	23
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry CAMHS	3	10	1	1	4

Specialty	Year				
	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Physical Disability	7	2	4	3	4
Psychotherapy	0	0	0	0	0
Old Age Psychiatry	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical Pathology	3	0	0	0	0
Haematology	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Consultant Clinic	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,634	6,678	2,271	1,579	1,769

Source: HSC Board

Prisoners Overdosing on Prescription Medicines

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many prisoners have overdosed on prescription medicines in each of the last three years.

(AQW 10076/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is responsible for the provision of prison healthcare services. The number of prisoners who have overdosed on prescription medicines across the three prison establishments is detailed in the table below:

Year	Number of prisoners who have overdosed on prescription medicines ¹
2009/10	23
2010/11	25
2011/12	35

1. These figures include confirmed overdoses along with alleged and suspected overdoses on prescription medicines.

Accident and Emergency Managers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to bring Accident and Emergency Department managers together to share good practice.

(AQW 10077/11-15)

Mr Poots: I want to ensure that the A&E services as currently commissioned maximise the opportunity for delivery of standards at acceptable levels of quality and safety and therefore the HSC Board has been asked for an assessment of each Trust's application of evidence based good practice in respect of optimising unscheduled care. In addition, the Health and Social Care Board, in liaison with the Public Health Agency has been asked to provide a robust action plan with immediate effect. A key initiative is to establish an Improvement Action Group with the aim of ensuring that long waiting times are addressed and the patient experience is improved. The Group will work with all Trusts across Northern Ireland and is intended to support Trusts in developing sustainable approaches to managing patient flow and will deal with all issues affecting emergency departments.

Waiting Times in Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the process through which patients are kept informed of waiting times whilst in triage at Accident and Emergency Departments.

(AQW 10078/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that the clinical staff in emergency departments keep patients regularly informed of expected waiting times. Monitors located in emergency departments also display the expected length of wait.

I have asked the HSC Board to provide a robust plan of immediate actions to secure Improvement in Emergency Departments. A key initiative is the establishment of an Improvement Action Group. The aim will be to ensure that long waiting times in Emergency Departments are addressed. I want to see a number of areas explored including the triage process.

Triage Process for Patients at Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to reform the triage process for patients at Accident and Emergency Departments.

(AQW 10079/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that the clinical staff in emergency departments keep patients regularly informed of expected waiting times. Monitors located in emergency departments also display the expected length of wait.

I have asked the HSC Board to provide a robust plan of immediate actions to secure Improvement in Emergency Departments. A key initiative is the establishment of an Improvement Action Group. The aim will be to ensure that long waiting times in Emergency Departments are addressed. I want to see a number of areas explored including the triage process.

Victims of Human Trafficking

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he is implementing the Human Rights Commission 2009 recommendation that a multi-agency approach led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, together with the PSNI, should be established to co-ordinate services for victims of trafficking to and within Northern Ireland.

(AQW 10112/11-15)

Mr Poots: Responsibility for implementing the Council of Europe “Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings” in Northern Ireland primarily falls to the Department of Justice. In February 2011, my Department with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) issued “Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Safeguarding of Child Victims/Suspected Victims of Human Trafficking”.

This Guidance sets out the actions to be taken by the PSNI and Health and Social Care Trusts in relation to lone or unaccompanied children, children in the care of an unsuitable adult and children who are recovered during Police operations where there is reasonable cause to believe that the child may be the victim of trafficking. The arrangements outlined in the Guidance are consistent with current child protection and looked after children guidance in Northern Ireland and the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

My Department, in partnership with the Department of Justice, is currently developing guidance with regard to responding to the needs of adult victims of human trafficking. We expect to be in a position to consult on this guidance later in the year.

Cancer Patients in North Antrim

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of cancer patients in the North Antrim area (i) who are currently receiving treatment; and (ii) who have died in each of the last three years, broken down by electoral ward.

(AQW 10115/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Table A below outlines the number of cancer patients¹ who received surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy in the years 2007-2009 in North Antrim Assembly Area by Electoral Ward. For patient confidentiality reasons, the years have been grouped. The figures have been supplied by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and are the most up to date available.
 - (ii) Table B below outlines the number of deaths registered due to cancer¹ in North Antrim Assembly Area for each year between 2008 and 2010 by Electoral Ward. The figures have been supplied by the General Registry's Office and relates to the year of registration of death.
- 1 The ICD10 codes used to classify cancer are C00-C97. For a listing and explanation of ICD-10 codes see International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, 3rd Edition, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 2000. For an explanation of ICD-10 codes see: <http://www.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10online/>

TABLE A: THE NUMBER OF CANCER PATIENTS¹ WHO RECEIVED TREATMENT WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF DIAGNOSIS IN THE YEARS 2007-2009 IN NORTH ANTRIM PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, BY ELECTORAL WARD

Electoral Ward Code	Electoral Ward Name	Number receiving treatment*
95DD01	Academy	39
95DD02	Ahoghill	30
95DD03	Ardeevin	35
95DD04	Ballee	20
95DD05	Ballykeel	12
95DD06	Ballyloughan	35
95DD07	Broughshane	43
95DD08	Castle Demesne	19
95DD09	Craigyarwarren	32
95DD10	Cullybackey	38
95DD11	Dunclug	13
95DD12	Dunminning	21
95DD13	Fair Green	25
95DD14	Galgorm	36
95DD15	Glenravel	30
95DD16	Glenwhirry	43
95DD17	Grange	23
95DD18	Harryville	24
95DD19	Kells	33

Electoral Ward Code	Electoral Ward Name	Number receiving treatment*
95DD20	Moat	25
95DD21	Park	27
95DD22	Portglenone	31
95DD23	Slemish	20
95DD24	Summerfield	29
95EE01	Ballyhoe and Corkey	17
95EE02	Benvardin	20
95EE03	Carnary	15
95EE04	Clogh Mills	13
95EE05	Dervock	25
95EE06	Dunloy	20
95EE07	Fairhill	27
95EE08	Glebe Ballymoney	25
95EE09	Killoquin Lower	27
95EE10	Killoquin Upper	14
95EE11	Knockaholet	18
95EE12	Newhill	23
95EE13	Route	23
95EE14	Seacon	26
95EE15	Stranocum	20
95EE16	The Vow	18
95UU01	Armoy	10
95UU02	Ballylough	15
95UU03	Bonamargy and Rathlin	16
95UU04	Bushmills	15
95UU05	Carnmoon	10
95UU06	Dalriada	23
95UU07	Dunseverick	16
95UU11	Glenshesk	10
95UU12	Glentaisie	22
95UU13	Kinbane	13
95UU14	Knocklayd	14
95UU15	Moss-Side and Moyarget	8

* Treatments consisted of surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy.

TABLE B: NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS DUE TO CANCER¹ IN NORTH ANTRIM ASSEMBLY AREA FOR EACH YEAR BETWEEN 2008 AND 2010 BY ELECTORAL WARD.

Ward Code	Ward Name	Registration Year		
		2008	2009	2010
95DD01	Academy	5	5	7
95DD02	Ahoghill	12	12	4
95DD03	Ardeevin	10	8	6
95DD04	Ballee	6	6	7
95DD05	Ballykeel	3	7	2
95DD06	Ballyloughan	7	8	7
95DD07	Broughshane	6	9	13
95DD08	Castle Demesne	6	5	5
95DD09	Craigwarren	7	6	7
95DD10	Cullybackey	8	5	8
95DD11	Dunclug	1	1	2
95DD12	Dunminning	4	3	4
95DD13	Fair Green	4	10	6
95DD14	Galgorm	5	5	6
95DD15	Glenravel	2	3	7
95DD16	Glenwhirry	6	8	9
95DD17	Grange	4	3	4
95DD18	Harryville	8	5	3
95DD19	Kells	5	4	7
95DD20	Moat	5	5	9
95DD21	Park	5	2	3
95DD22	Portglenone	5	2	8
95DD23	Slemish	3	7	3
95DD24	Summerfield	3	1	4
95EE01	Ballyhoe and Corkey	2	1	3
95EE02	Benvardin	5	5	4
95EE03	Carnany	6	4	6
95EE04	Clogh Mills	1	3	4
95EE05	Dervock	4	2	4
95EE06	Dunloy	5	3	2
95EE07	Fairhill	4	6	6
95EE08	Glebe Ballymoney	3	2	5

Ward Code	Ward Name	Registration Year		
		2008	2009	2010
95EE09	Killoquin Lower	3	4	2
95EE10	Killoquin Upper	7	1	2
95EE11	Knockaholet	1	5	4
95EE12	Newhill	2	7	6
95EE13	Route	6	6	8
95EE14	Seacon	5	7	5
95EE15	Stranocum	3	4	2
95EE16	The Vow	2	8	4
95UU01	Armoy	1	4	3
95UU02	Ballylough	8	2	1
95UU03	Bonamargy and Rathlin	2	4	3
95UU04	Bushmills	3	3	3
95UU05	Carnmoon	1	3	2
95UU06	Dalriada	2	1	3
95UU07	Dunseverick	1	2	2
95UU11	Glenshesk	2	2	4
95UU12	Glentaisie	3	1	6
95UU13	Kinbane	1	5	1
95UU14	Knocklayd	5	3	3
95UU15	Moss-Side and Moyarget	2	2	4

Ambulance Downtime

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 9768/11-15, what was the longest ambulance downtime at each hospital, and on how many occasions downtime exceeded two hours.

(AQW 10116/11-15)

Mr Poots: In February 2012, the longest ambulance turnaround times at each site were as follows:

Location of attendance	Longest turnaround time (hr:min:sec)
Altnagelvin Hospital	01:49:07
Antrim Area Hospital	01:39:52
Ards Hospital	00:18:45
Bangor Hospital	00:33:54
Belfast City Hospital	02:34:00
Belfast International Airport	00:25:00

Location of attendance	Longest turnaround time (hr:min:sec)
Causeway Hospital	01:58:17
Craigavon Area Hospital	03:51:23
Daisy Hill Hospital	03:05:49
Dalriada Hospital	00:20:47
Downe Hospital	00:52:29
Downshire Hospital	00:17:44
Erne Hospital	01:07:12
Forster Green	00:17:52
Foyle Hospice	00:06:09
Gransha Hospital	00:20:00
Holywell Hospital	00:38:14
Knockbracken Healthcare Park	00:28:15
Lagan Valley Hospital (inc. Lagan Valley GU)	01:33:49
Lurgan Hospital	00:20:14
Mater Infirmorum	01:35:53
Mid-Ulster Hospital	00:30:03
Muckamore Abbey Hospital	00:35:33
Musgrave Park Hospital	00:29:23
Northern Ireland Cancer Centre	01:09:04
Omagh General Hospital	00:11:04
R/Belfast Hosp For Sick Children	02:03:59
Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital	02:54:11
Royal Victoria Hospital	03:20:00
South Tyrone Hospital	00:25:46
St John's House	00:10:16
St Luke's Hospital	00:40:00
Tyrone County Hospital	01:22:13
Tyrone Fermanagh Psych Hospital	00:22:05
Ulster Hospital (inc. Ulster GU)	05:26:15

Source: NIAS

In total, out of 12,798 attendances by a resource at a hospital, turnaround time exceeded two hours on 72 occasions (this represents 0.6% of all attendances across the region).

Minimum Price Structure for Alcohol

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the potential impact of EU competition rules on the introduction of a minimum price structure for alcohol. (AQW 10117/11-15)

Mr Poots: Addressing the harm related to alcohol misuse is a key priority for my Department. To drive forward action on this issue, I recently launched the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 (NSD), which is a cross-sectoral strategy to reduce the harm related to alcohol and drug misuse.

I am particularly concerned about how some alcohol products are priced, promoted and marketed, and the NSD Phase 2 raises these issues. Therefore, my Department has been working closely with the Department for Social Development who led a joint consultation on the principle of introducing minimum unit pricing in Northern Ireland.

Given the link between consumption and harm and the evidence that affordability is one of the drivers of increased consumption, addressing price could be a key component in any long-term strategic approach to tackling alcohol misuse. I believe that minimum unit pricing has the potential to be compatible with EU Competition requirements, however, the challenge is finding an appropriate balance between the promotion and protection of population health while not disproportionately interfering in the market or affecting competition.

That is why my Department and the Department for Social Development will shortly commission research to model the likely impact of this in Northern Ireland. This will help inform our future decisions in this area, and allow us to bring forward proposals which are proportionate, have a positive impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing and the criminal justice system, and are compatible with EU competition regulations.

It is important to note, however, that minimum unit pricing is only one part of our approach to this issue, and it is important we take a range of actions to address alcohol misuse across the population.

Assessment of the Main Building at Holywell Hospital, Antrim

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the last assessment of the structure, décor, patient comfort and safety and overall suitability of the main building at Holywell Hospital, Antrim, was carried out; and to detail its findings. (AQW 10118/11-15)

Mr Poots: The latest assessment carried out by the Northern Trust and issued to my Department was received in May 2011. This recorded the following assessment for the Main Building at Holywell Hospital, Antrim.

The Block was assessed and graded under the following headings:

Physical Condition	Building Graded 'D' (Unacceptable) Engineering Graded 'D' (Unacceptable)
Functional Suitability	Graded 'CX' (Below a standard that is reasonable and adequate and would be impossible or impractical to improve.)
Statutory Standards	Graded 'C' (Does not conform to statutory legislation but is capable of being upgraded to that level with minor expenditure.)
Space Utilisation	Graded '3' (Adequate, in both provision and use.)

Overall Condition Indicators based on Physical Condition:

Rated as Red (Will reflect a building that is, or is becoming largely untenable as a point for the delivery of an HSS service or contains serious inherent risks to life.)

In addition, separate Patient Environment Surveys were carried out by the Department in March 2010. These surveys considered internal finishes and fittings including ceilings, walls, floors, lighting and sanitary ware etc. The following wards which are within the main block were graded as follows:

		Beds	Rating
Inver 4	Continuing care/dementia	18	2
Inver 3	Male continuing care	12	2
Inver 1	PICU female	6	2
Carrick 1	Addictions	10	2
Carrick 3	Rehab	14	2
Carrick 4	Male challenging behaviour	12	2
Lissan 1	Male PICU	9	2

Rating 2 – Good condition, minor upgrade required such as repair and repaint <25% of walls/replace <10% of floor finishes/minimal replacement of furniture, notice boards etc.

The Department is progressing the replacement of this facility and has asked the Northern Trust to submit a Strategic Outline Case for this project.

Patients Transferred from the Downe Hospital, Downpatrick to Hospitals in Belfast

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been transferred from the Downe Hospital, Downpatrick, between the hours of 10.00 pm and 8.00 am, to hospitals in Belfast in each month between 1 April 2011 and 29 February 2012.

(AQW 10119/11-15)

Mr Poots: In responding to this question, 'hospitals in Belfast' include those within the greater Belfast area (Royal Victoria, RBHSC, Mater, Royal Maternity and Ulster).

Information on the number of patients transferred from the Downe hospital to hospitals in the greater Belfast area between 10pm and 8am, each month since April 2011, is detailed below:

Month	Number of Patients
April 2011	19
May 2011	11
June 2011	11
July 2011	20
August 2011	13
September 2011	19
October 2011	16
November 2011	12
December 2011	17
January 2012	14
February 2012	20
Total	172

Source: Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS)

Patients Transferred from the South Down Area to Hospitals in Belfast

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been transferred from the South Down area, between the hours of 10.00 pm and 8.00 am, to hospitals in Belfast in each month between 1 April 2011 and 29 February 2012.

(AQW 10120/11-15)

Mr Poots: In responding to this question, ‘hospitals in Belfast’ include those within the greater Belfast area (Royal Victoria, RBHSC, Mater, Royal Maternity and Ulster), and the ‘South Down area’ is defined as the South Down Parliamentary Constituency.

It should be noted that information relates to calls responded to by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) in the South Down Parliamentary Constituency, excluding transfer activity from Downe and Downshire hospitals.

Information on the number of patients transported by the NIAS to hospitals in the greater Belfast area from the South Down Parliamentary Constituency between 10pm and 8am, each month from April 2011, is detailed below:

Month	Number of Patients ¹
April 2011	47
May 2011	36
June 2011	43
July 2011	51
August 2011	64
September 2011	54
October 2011	63
November 2011	43
December 2011	58
January 2012	61
February 2012	52
Total	572

Source: Northern Ireland Ambulance Service HSC Trust

- 1 Figures exclude transfer activity from Downe and Downshire Hospitals and include all emergency, urgent and routine attendances.

Public Consultation on a UK Plan for Rare Diseases

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the public consultation on a UK plan for rare diseases.

(AQW 10121/11-15)

Mr Poots: The UK-wide public consultation on the UK plan for rare diseases was launched on 29 February 2012. All responses to the consultation are being submitted directly to the Department of Health in England to co-ordinate on behalf of the four UK Health Departments. When the consultation period ends on 25 May 2012, the four UK Health Departments will assess these responses to inform the final version of the plan and resulting implementation plan.

Impact of Alcohol Intake on Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what analysis he has carried out of the impact of patients' excessive alcohol intake on the pressures on Accident and Emergency Departments.

(AQW 10122/11-15)

Mr Poots: A study undertaken at Altnagelvin Hospital in 2009 indicated that around one third of all attendances had a direct link to alcohol. Studies in England and Scotland have sought to quantify the proportion of emergency department visits which are linked to alcohol misuse but these estimates showed a wide degree of variation. The Scottish Government has estimated that 25% of all attendances at emergency departments are alcohol related.

The alcohol consumption of people attending emergency departments, particularly those who accompany patients, can often result in nuisance and disturbance behavior which affects both staff and patients. I am meeting with the Minister of Justice on 16 April to discuss further how the problems caused by those threatening staff and patient safety can be addressed

I have not carried out an analysis of the impact of alcohol pricing on pressures on emergency departments.

Alcohol Pricing

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has carried out any analysis of the impact of alcohol pricing on the pressures on Accident and Emergency Departments.

(AQW 10123/11-15)

Mr Poots: A study undertaken at Altnagelvin Hospital in 2009 indicated that around one third of all attendances had a direct link to alcohol. Studies in England and Scotland have sought to quantify the proportion of emergency department visits which are linked to alcohol misuse but these estimates showed a wide degree of variation. The Scottish Government has estimated that 25% of all attendances at emergency departments are alcohol related.

The alcohol consumption of people attending emergency departments, particularly those who accompany patients, can often result in nuisance and disturbance behavior which affects both staff and patients. I am meeting with the Minister of Justice on 16 April to discuss further how the problems caused by those threatening staff and patient safety can be addressed

I have not carried out an analysis of the impact of alcohol pricing on pressures on emergency departments.

Health and Social Care Trusts: Best Practice When Freeing Up Hospital Beds

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how Health and Social Care Trusts work together to ensure that best practice is followed when freeing up hospital beds
(AQW 10124/11-15)

Mr Poots: Trusts adhere to a hospital discharge policy whereby hospital, social work and community staff work closely together to undertake a multidisciplinary assessment in partnership with patients and families. Depending on this assessment, the Trust will discharge the patient either into intermediate care or other discharge pathways.

The HSC Board works with Trusts in a variety of ways to help ensure that best practice is followed when freeing up hospital beds. On an ongoing basis the Board works with Trusts to ensure that best practice approaches are deployed. The Board's unscheduled care audit team conducts a comprehensive audit with hospitals to ensure demonstrable improvement is evidenced.

In addition the HSC Board, in liaison with the Public Health Agency, have established an Improvement Action Group with the aim of ensuring that long waiting times are addressed and the patient experience

is improved. The Group will work with all Trusts across Northern Ireland and is intended to support Trusts in developing sustainable approaches to managing patient flow and will deal with all issues affecting emergency departments

Training: Pain Management

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he intends to take to improve education and training for healthcare professionals in pain management.

(AQW 10133/11-15)

Mr Poots: Specific training in pain management in undergraduate and postgraduate education programmes is carried out across the range of healthcare professions. The training provided is subject to regular review and updated as necessary in line with emerging technologies.

Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Drug Abuse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients, under the age of 18, have been treated in Accident and Emergency Departments in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area for the effects of illegal drugs in each of the last 12 months.

(AQW 10134/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Alcohol Abuse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients, under the age of 18, have been treated in Accident and Emergency Departments in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area for the effects of alcohol in each of the last 12 months.

(AQW 10136/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that this question refers to the number of people under the age of 18 who have attended Accident and Emergency Departments in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area as a result of the effects of alcohol in each of the last 12 months.

The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Alcohol Consumption

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any statistics his Department holds on the level of alcohol consumption per capita; and how this compares with the Irish Republic, the United Kingdom as a whole, and other EU regions.

(AQW 10146/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the level of alcohol consumption per capita is not available for Northern Ireland. However, information from the following sources is available on the proportion of the Northern Ireland population who drink alcohol:

1. Adult drinking patterns in Northern Ireland - This report examines the amount of alcohol respondents consumed, when, where and what they drank, who they drank with, together with binge and problem drinking. The latest report is available at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/adult_drinking_patterns_in_northern_ireland_2011.pdf.
2. Health Survey Northern Ireland – Summary information on the percentage of respondents who reported drinking in excess of the weekly drinking limits can be found at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/health_survey_northern_ireland_-_first_results_from_the_2010-11_survey.pdf

Information on the proportion of people who drink alcohol in each UK jurisdiction and the Republic of Ireland is presented below:

PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO DRINK ALCOHOL IN NORTHERN IRELAND, ENGLAND AND THE REPUBLIC IRELAND

Base Year	Country	% of males who drink alcohol	% of females who drink alcohol	% of population who drink alcohol
2011	Northern Ireland ²	78	72	74
2010/11	Republic of Ireland ³	76	65	71
2008	England ⁴	71	56	-
2007	Wales ⁵	88	80	-
2008/09 ¹	Scotland ⁶	90	86	88

1 Refers to two years worth of survey data.

2 Source: Adult Drinking Patterns in Northern Ireland 2011, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

3 Source: Drug Prevalence Survey in Ireland 2010/11, National Advisory Committee on Drugs, Dublin.

4 Source: Statistics on Alcohol: England 2010.

5 Source: A Profile of Alcohol and Health in Wales (2009), Wales Centre for Health.

6 Source: Scottish Health Survey 2009.

Information on alcohol consumption on other EU regions is contained within the following report published in 2011 by the World Health Organisation, available at:

http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/global_alcohol_report/msbgsruprofiles.pdf

Alcohol Consumption

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of alcohol consumption per capita in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 10147/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the level of alcohol consumption per capita is not available. However, information is available on the proportion of the Northern Ireland population who drink alcohol and those who exceeded the daily and weekly recommended drinking levels for 2005, 2008 and 2011.

PROPORTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND POPULATION WHO DRINK ALCOHOL AND THOSE WHO EXCEEDED THE DAILY AND WEEKLY RECOMMENDED DRINKING LEVELS

	% of population who drink alcohol in the week prior to the survey	% who exceeded recommended daily drinking levels on at least one occasion ¹	% who exceeded recommended weekly drinking levels ²
2005	73	82	29
2008	72	81	24
2011	74	78	23

1 The current daily sensible drinking levels are no more than 4 units of alcohol for males and no more than 3 units of alcohol for females.

2 The current weekly sensible drinking levels are no more than 21 units of alcohol for males and no more than 14 units of alcohol for females.

Source: Adult Drinking Patterns Surveys, NISRA.

Alcohol Related Admissions for Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of alcohol related admissions for Accident and Emergency Departments in each of the last ten years, broken down by hospital.

(AQW 10148/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that this question refers to the number of alcohol related attendances at Accident and Emergency Departments in each of the last ten years, broken down by hospital.

The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Delayed Discharges from the Antrim Area Hospital

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide a breakdown of the reasons for delayed discharges from the Antrim Area Hospital in each of the last three years.

(AQW 10151/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department currently monitors information on delayed discharges from acute hospitals against the standard that:

‘90% of complex discharges from an acute hospital setting take place within 48 hours of the decision to discharge; all non-complex discharges from an acute hospital setting take place within six hours of being declared medically fit; and, no discharge from an acute hospital setting takes longer than seven days.’

A delayed discharge refers to any patient remaining in hospital after the time they were deemed medically fit for discharge.

The table below presents information on the main reasons for discharges being delayed longer than the agreed length of time outlined above, at Antrim Area Hospital, during each of the last three years.

Reason for Discharge Delay	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 ¹
Awaiting ambulance	16.0%	21.0%	11.2%
Pharmacy delay in patient receiving drugs	27.8%	16.4%	4.1%
Awaiting tertiary care bed	0.3%	2.5%	26.4%
Awaiting transport from family or friends	12.1%	13.4%	7.5%
No suitable step down bed available	0.0%	1.3%	11.9%
Essential equipment/adaptations not available/completed	4.5%	5.3%	4.4%
No capacity in domiciliary care providers	4.5%	3.9%	3.8%
Care planning incomplete	4.7%	2.0%	4.7%
Funding issue	5.6%	4.4%	1.4%
Assessment of appropriate care requirement incomplete	2.1%	3.1%	2.1%
No nursing home bed available	0.7%	2.0%	2.0%
Patient/family resistance	1.5%	1.9%	0.9%
Other	20.2%	22.8%	19.6%

Source: Admissions & Discharges Universe

1 Includes delayed discharges between 1st April 2011 and 29th February 2012 (inclusive).

Patients Presented at Accident and Emergency Departments at Acute Hospitals

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the change in the numbers and percentage increase of patients who presented at Accident and Emergency Departments in each of the acute hospitals between 1 September and 1 March in (i) 2011; and (ii) 2012.

(AQW 10152/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below details the change in the number of new and unplanned review attendances at emergency care departments for the six month period from the start of September to the end of February in (i) 2010/11; and (ii) 2011/12:

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT EMERGENCY CARE DEPARTMENTS (1ST SEPTEMBER 2010 TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2011 AND 1ST SEPTEMBER 2011 TO 29TH FEBRUARY 2012) 1

Emergency Care Department	Number of New and Unplanned Review Attendances		Change	
	1 Sept2010 - 28 Feb 2011	1 Sept 2011 – 29 Feb 2012	Number	%
Belfast City Hospital	21,758	6,783	-14,975	n/a
Mater Hospital	19,953	21,490	1,537	7.7%
Royal Hospital	35,895	43,258	7,363	20.5%
RBHSC	15,754	16,329	575	3.6%
Antrim	34,547	34,377	-170	-0.5%
Whiteabbey	4,088	4,073	-15	-0.4%
Mid Ulster	2,843	2,944	101	3.6%
Causeway	20,339	19,835	-504	-2.5%
Ulster Hospital	36,010	38,441	2,431	6.8%
Ards MIU	4,155	4,347	192	4.6%
Bangor MIU	5,791	5,761	-30	-0.5%
Lagan Valley Hospital	15,660	11,909	-3,751	-24.0%
Downe Hospital	10,013	9,401	-612	-6.1%
Craigavon Hospital	34,794	34,720	-74	-0.2%
Daisyhill Hospital	17,063	17,674	611	3.6%
South Tyrone Hospital	7,711	8,661	950	12.3%
Armagh/Mullinure	3,523	3,611	88	2.5%
Altnagelvin	25,484	25,296	-188	-0.7%
Erne Hospital	12,503	12,778	275	2.2%
Tyrone County	6,318	6,963	645	10.2%

Source: EC1 Return DHSSPS

- Information for January and February 2012 is provisional and may be subject to change.
- Belfast City emergency care department closed on a temporary basis on 1st November 2011.

Provision of Services in our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an estimate of the annual additional cost to his Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10171/11-15)

Mr Poots: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for DHSSPS to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Antrim Area Hospital

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) Mr Ian Rutter's role at the Antrim Area Hospital in the last three months; (ii) when he was appointed to the role; (iii) whether his role was related to the assessment carried out by Mrs Mary Hinds; (iv) when he will report his findings; (v) to whom he will report; and (vi) whether his report will be published.

(AQW 10179/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern HSC Trust has advised that Dr Ian Rutter visited the Trust on 1 March 2012. He has been asked by the Trust and the HSC Board to provide support to the Trust in reviewing the interface between the acute sector and primary care. This role is in no way related to the recent support and assistance provided by Mrs Mary Hinds, which had a particular focus on unscheduled care at Antrim Area Hospital. Dr Rutter will report to the HSC Board public meeting in April 2012 and details of this report will be published

Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Drug Abuse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people under the age of 18 have been admitted to Accident and Emergency Departments in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area as a result of drug abuse in each of the last 12 months.

(AQW 10201/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that this question refers to the number of people under the age of 18 who have attended Accident and Emergency Departments in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area as a result of drug abuse in each of the last 12 months.

The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Alcohol Abuse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients, under the age of 18, have been treated in Accident and Emergency Departments in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area for the effects of alcohol in the last 12 months.

(AQW 10202/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that this question refers to the number of people under the age of 18 who have attended Accident and Emergency Departments in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area as a result of the effects of alcohol in each of the last 12 months.

The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Dementia Services

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any of the enhanced budget for research into dementia recently announced at Westminster will benefit dementia services in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 10203/11-15)

Mr Poots: I welcome the recent announcement from Mr Cameron detailing an increase in funding for dementia research. Research into dementia is vitally important if we are to provide improved diagnosis, more effective treatments and better outcomes for people living with dementia. Any developments resulting from research into this condition, whether they are made locally or internationally, will benefit people living with dementia everywhere through good practice and dissemination of new ideas.

While this research budget will have no direct impact on the levels of funding in Northern Ireland, the impact of dementia in the UK, and indeed world-wide, calls for a co-ordinated approach to research. Northern Ireland researchers and professionals will continue to collaborate with others to maximise the impact of research funding and expertise.

Rathfriland Fire Station

Mr Brady asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether smoke alarms are routinely installed in all fire stations; and (ii) whether a smoke alarm was installed at Rathfriland Fire Station where fire damage occurred recently.

(AQW 10205/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) All two-storey and refurbished Fire Stations are fitted with fire alarms; these alarms include both smoke and heat detection. Non-refurbished single storey Fire Stations do not have a fire alarm system.
- (ii) Rathfriland Fire Station was a single storey station and, at the time of the fire in July 2009, no fire alarm was fitted. The current refurbishment programme for Rathfriland includes a fire alarm system providing smoke and heat detection.

Mid Ulster Hospital: Salaried Dental Service

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the salaried dental service at the Mid-Ulster Hospital, Magherafelt, to detail (i) the number of adult and child patients currently registered; (ii) the costs, including building and capital costs, incurred in the set-up of this service; (iii) the total running costs incurred by the service in the last 12 months, including staff, maintenance, laboratory and materials; and (iv) the gross Health Service item of service fees generated by the service, including the patient contribution to Health Service charges, between 1 February 2011 and 31 January 2012.

(AQW 10208/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information to answer this question is set out below:

- (i) At 29 March 2012 there were 1,593 adult patients and 336 child patients registered with the Salaried Dental Service at the Mid-Ulster Hospital.
- (ii) The building costs for conversion of Ward 1 at the Mid-Ulster Hospital, including construction work and Estates Services costs, to two dental surgeries with a local decontamination unit, store, waiting area, reception and plant house was £161,137. The equipment/medical devices costs for two fully equipped dental surgeries including digital radiography were £101,415.
- (iii) The total running costs for the service in the last 12 months were £89,700.
- (iv) The gross Health Service item of service fees generated by the service, including the patient contribution to Health Service charges for the period 1 February 2011 to 31 January 2012 were £52,370. These fees are for activity associated with a dentist in place 3 days a week for 8 months, and 1 full time for the remaining 4 months.

Departmental Staff Paid Over £100,000 Per Annum.

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many departmental staff are paid over £100,000 per annum.

(AQW 10213/11-15)

Mr Poots: Two senior officials in my Department are currently paid in excess of £100,000 per annum.

Consultants Specialising in Gastroenterology

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many consultants specialising in gastroenterology are employed by the Health Service.

(AQW 10219/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trusts have advised that at April 2012, there were a total of 36 (34.0 Whole-time equivalent) consultants specialising in Gastroenterology employed within Northern Ireland Health and Social Care (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust return included joint academic appointments and Hepatology).

Encouraging Shops to Display Healthy Foods

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps his Department is taking to encourage shops to display fruit and other healthy foods more prominently where customers queue to pay for goods.

(AQW 10221/11-15)

Mr Poots: I launched the cross-sectoral Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022: A Fitter Future for All on 9 March 2012. This Framework contains outcomes regarding the accessibility of foods within a variety of settings and includes specifically:

- food retailers encouraged and enabled to consider reducing point of sale placement of foods which are high in fat, salt, sugar and increasing exposure to promotion of healthier foods;
- increased availability and consumption of healthy foods, particularly fruit and vegetables; and
- healthier food options are available and accessible to the whole population.

My Department has no specific authority to impose restrictions on what is available to customers at Point-of-Sale, however we are working closely with key stakeholders to encourage shops make healthier options more accessible. Implementation of the outcomes above will be primarily led by the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland (FSANI) and the Public Health Agency (PHA).

The FSANI is working towards encouraging the promotion of healthy foods in a variety of settings and is working with the PHA to achieve this. In relation to Point-of-Sale choices the FSANI are currently:

- arranging one-to-one information meetings with retailers;
- setting up a retailing forum group representing retailers in Northern Ireland; and
- working jointly with the PHA to support Dietitians and Environmental Health Officers in the delivery of food labelling workshops and supermarket tours for targeted groups of consumers.

At present, the PHA is not engaged in activity directly with retailers, however it is engaged in a range of activity focussed on the wider food sector and in particular the catering sector including actions such as:

- working in partnership with HSC Trusts and the Food Standards Agency to deliver accredited nutrition training for Environmental Health Officers from local councils;
- working in partnership with local councils and HSC Trusts to develop a new healthier catering award for Northern Ireland; and
- contributing to the implementation of policies and guidelines for a number of key groups and settings, including health service facilities, leisure facilities in councils and schools.

Assistance Provided for Families in Which Members Suffer from Mental Health Problems

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assistance is provided for families in which members suffer from mental health problems.

(AQW 10233/11-15)

Mr Poots: Community mental health staff are encouraged to involve families in treatment and care plans where this is acceptable to all parties. Carer advocates can also provide support and advice.

Northern Ireland is well served by a number of voluntary organisations working in the mental health field. The key organisations include: The Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health, Action Mental Health, Aware Defeat Depression, Threshold, Mindwise and CAUSE. Each organisation provides a range of advice, community services to help individuals, families and carers with mental health needs recover from their illness and rehabilitate them to enjoy fulfilling lives in the community. CAUSE provides services specifically for carers of people with mental health problems.

Brain Injuries

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assistance is provided for families in which members suffer from brain injuries.

(AQW 10234/11-15)

Mr Poots: The HSC across NI provides a comprehensive range of services both for people who have suffered brain injuries and their families. Services provided range from domiciliary care, respite care, day opportunities, in-patient care, supported living options, multi-professional support, and aids and equipment commensurate with their assessed needs.

In addition, my Department published a two-year Acquired Brain Injury Action Plan on 5 July 2010, following public consultation the previous year. The main purpose of the Action Plan was to provide clear, time-bound goals to drive service improvement and to coordinate action in order to improve outcomes for patients (regardless of age), their families and carers.

Respite Services for People with Brain Injuries and Mental Health Problems

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what respite services are available for people with (i) brain injuries; and (ii) mental health problems who are aged (a) under 35; (b) between 35 and 60; and (c) over 60.

(AQW 10235/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not available in the format requested.

Brain Injuries

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been treated for brain injuries in each of the last five years.

(AQW 10236/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of people who have been treated in an inpatient setting during each of the last five years where brain injury was recorded as the primary diagnosis is shown in the following table:-

Year	Individuals Treated for Brain Injuries
2006/07	466
2007/08	555
2008/09	578
2009/10	568
2010/11	537

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

Oasis Dental Care Limited

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to Oasis Dental Care, to detail (i) the number of adult and child patients currently registered; (ii) the costs, including building and capital costs, incurred in the set-up of this service; (iii) the total running costs incurred by the salaried dental service at Oasis Dental Care in the last 12 months, including staff, maintenance, laboratory and materials; and (iv) the gross Health Service item of service fees generated by Oasis Dental Care, including the patient contribution to Health Service charges, between 1 February 2011 and 31 January 2012.

(AQW 10247/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information to answer this question is set out below:

- (i) In March 2012, there were 37,938 adult and 9,423 child patients registered with Oasis Dental Care practices.
- (ii) & (iii) The set up and running costs for Oasis Dental Care practices are met by Oasis Dental Care as part of their contract with the HSC Board and are not held by my Department or the HSC Board. The value of the contract with Oasis Dental Care for the provision of dental services is £5.7 million per year.
- (iv) Oasis Dental Care are paid on the basis of their contract with the HSC Board and do not receive item of service payments. However, based upon the item of service treatments carried out by Oasis practices between 1 February 2011 and 31 January 2012, the gross Health Service item of service fees, including patient contributions, which would have been generated by Oasis Dental care work is estimated at £1,520,000.

Abiraterone for Prostate Cancer Patients

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration his Department has given to providing abiraterone for prostate cancer patients, given that it has been made available on prescription in Wales.

(AQW 10257/11-15)

Mr Poots: Any decision on the provision of abiraterone for prostate cancer patients is a matter for each Health jurisdiction to determine separately.

I can advise that the prostate cancer abiraterone whilst not currently approved by NICE, can be accessed by patients in Northern Ireland through the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process if their consultant considers the drug to be of benefit to them. All cases are dealt with on an individual basis and considered on its merits.

NICE published a draft technology appraisal on 1st February 2012 which does not recommend the use of abiraterone. This guidance has now been issued for consultation. NICE is due to publish the final guidance in June 2012; however this date may change should any revisions to the guidance be required as a result of the consultation.

Review of Occupational Therapy Provision

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Public Health Agency review of occupational therapy provision at special educational needs and mainstream schools.

(AQW 10258/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following Belfast Health and Social Care Trust's review of occupational therapy provision in special schools in Belfast, the Public Health Agency (PHA) on behalf of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has been tasked to undertake a regional review of how Allied Health Professional (AHP) services, including occupational therapy, are accessed by children in mainstream and special schools. The aim is to ensure equity of access to these key services for all children across Northern Ireland, based on need and irrespective of what kind of school they attend. It is hoped that the review will get

under way shortly and the PHA will seek to employ a collaborative, multi-agency approach and plans to work in partnership with the Department of Education and the Education Library Boards.

Pharmacies: Annual Rural Payment

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the pharmacies that will receive an annual rural payment from his Department.

(AQW 10268/11-15)

Mr Poots: I announced to the Assembly on the 13 March 2012 that an additional £8m funding was to be made available in the 2011/2012 financial year to support new services, improve premises and support staffing of community pharmacies particularly in rural and deprived areas. I can confirm that some 73 pharmacies have received the rural support payment in 2011/12. This payment, the criteria for which will be subject to review, is tiered to reflect dispensing activity and payable to pharmacies greater than 1km away from the nearest pharmacy.

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 it would be inappropriate for me to release data relating to payments made to any named pharmacy practice or individual as the information is considered commercial in confidence.

Slievemore Nursing Unit

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has any plans to close the Slievemore Nursing Unit in the Foyle constituency.

(AQW 10269/11-15)

Mr Poots: Slievemore Nursing Unit is a unit providing specialist services for people with dementia who present with challenging behaviour. Placements in the unit are allocated on a temporary basis and are kept under continual review with a view to returning people to their own accommodation or nursing care home where their needs can be met appropriately in the long term.

The Trust is currently in the process of reviewing Older Peoples Mental Health Services for both inpatient and community services including Slievemore Nursing Unit. No decision has been made regarding the future provision of services at Slievemore Nursing Unit

Termination of Pregnancies

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last five financial years, to detail (i) the number of pregnancies terminated in each Health and Social Care Trust area, and the reasons for the procedures; (ii) for an estimate of the number of pregnancies terminated in the private sector; and (iii) the number of patients treated by each Health and Social Trust area in connection with a termination not carried out by Trust.

(AQW 10274/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- i) The number of pregnancies terminated, in each Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last five years is shown below. Information on the reasons for the procedures is not collected currently centrally, but I have asked officials to consider how this can be introduced.

HSC Trust	Number of Abortions				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Belfast	26	22	*	11	*
Northern	15	23	16	*	18
South Eastern	23	20	22	21	17

HSC Trust	Number of Abortions				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Southern	*	16	16	23	21
Western	*	10	*	*	*
Northern Ireland Total	79	91	77	67	75

Source:- Hospital Inpatient System (HIS)

- * In line with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) guidance, appropriate cells have been masked to protect patient confidentiality.
- ii) It is not possible to provide an estimate of the number of pregnancies terminated in the private sector.
- iii) Information is not available on the number of patients treated by each Health and Social Care Trust area in connection with a termination not carried out by the Trust.

Accident and Emergency Services at Causeway Hospital

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff worked in the Accident and Emergency Department at the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine, in January (i) 2004; (ii) 2006; (iii) 2008; (iv) 2010; and (v) 2012.

(AQW 10286/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is provided in the tables below. This information has been obtained directly from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and has not been validated by the Department.

MEDICAL STAFF EMPLOYED AT CAUSEWAY HOSPITAL BY GRADE AND YEAR

Grade	Causeway Hospital Medical Staff		
	Consultants	Middle Grade Doctors	Trainee Grade Doctors
	WTE	WTE	WTE
2004	2.00	1.00	7.00
2006	3.00	1.00	7.00
2008	3.00	1.00	7.00
2010	3.00	1.00	7.00
2012	3.00	1.00	7.00

Source: Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Notes:

- 1 WTE = Whole-time Equivalent.
- 2 All figures above are as at January.
- 3 In January 2010, one of the Trainee Grade Doctor posts was filled by a General Practitioner Trainee via the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA), with the remaining 6 posts filled as Locum Appointment for Training via Locum Agencies and internal locums.
- 4 In January 2012, one of the Trainee Grade Doctor posts was filled by a General Practitioner Trainee via NIMDTA, with the remaining 6 posts filled as Locum Appointment for Service via Locum Agencies and internal locums.

NURSING STAFF EMPLOYED AT CAUSEWAY HOSPITAL BY GRADE AND YEAR

	Causeway Hospital Nursing Staff			
Grade Year	Qualified Nurses		Nurse Support Staff	
	HC	WTE	HC	WTE
2004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008	40	32.92	5	4.32
2010	39	32.83	4	2.52
2012	38	31.35	4	3.52

Source: Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Notes:

- 1 WTE = Whole-time Equivalent.
- 2 Figures for 2004 and 2006 are not available. Figures for 2008 are as at March and figures for 2010 and 2012 are as at January.

Ministerial Cars and Drivers

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of departmental staff who have availed of ministerial cars and drivers in each of the last three years; (ii) the cost of providing the service; and (iii) whether the benefit derived is subject to income tax.

(AQW 10296/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department does not maintain detailed records of officials who use the Ministerial car. At all times, however, the car is used only for Departmental business.

During 2011/12 the cost to the Department of providing the service was £34,178. Prior to April 2011, DFP met the cost of the Ministerial car service.

The occasional use of the Ministerial car by officials provides good value for money for the Department, as it reduces the level of travel costs incurred by those officials. There are no income tax implications.

Nursing Homes: Running Costs

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the percentage increase in the running costs of nursing homes for elderly people in each of the last two years.

(AQW 10317/11-15)

Mr Poots: All nursing homes for elderly people in Northern Ireland are run by the independent sector. As such the Department does not have details of the costs of running these homes.

Collection of School Children's Oral Health Data

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) his Department's policy in relation to the screening of school children to collect data on oral health; (ii) what school screening was carried out in 2011/12 and who provided the service; and (iii) what programme of school screening is planned for 2012/13 including who will provide the service.

(AQW 10326/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- The DHSSPS discontinued routine school dental screening in 2008 following advice from the National Screening Committee (NSC) to the UK Chief Dental Officers that there is no evidence to

support the continued population screening for dental disease among children aged 6-9 years. The Health and Social Care Board plan to pilot new arrangements to collect robust oral health data from school children and it is hoped to commence this pilot in autumn 2012.

- ii. No school screening was carried out in 2011/12.
- iii. The HSCB is planning a pilot programme in 2012/13 for the collection of oral health data from school children. It is proposed that the pilot programme will be undertaken by general dental practitioners contracted to the HSCB.

Department of Justice

Driving Without Insurance

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 7874/11-15, on how many occasions in the last ten years a fine of £5000 has been imposed for driving without insurance; and, in the absence of a maximum fine being imposed during this time, what was the highest fine imposed.

(AQW 8658/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): Uninsured driving is an offence under Article 90(4) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

The table below gives the maximum fines imposed for the offence of using a motor vehicle without insurance for the calendar years 1999 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

MAXIMUM FINES FOR UNINSURED DRIVING, 1999-2008

Year	Size of maximum fine	Frequency of convictions
1999	£2000	1
2000	£1500	1
2001	£1000	2
2002	£5000	1
2003	£800	2
2004	£1000	5
2005	£5000	1
2006	£3505	1
2007	£1500	1
2008	£1000	9

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.

Incident in HMP Maghaberry on 30 June 2011

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the incident in HMP Maghaberry on 30 June 2011 (i) what damage was caused; (ii) what was the cost of repairing the damage; (iii) in what section of the prison the incident occurred; (iv) whether any staff were injured; (v) how many prisoners were involved; and (vi) what action was taken against those involved.

(AQW 9693/11-15)

Mr Ford: Parts (i), (iv), (v) and (vi) were answered in AQW 4125/11-15. Part (ii) was answered in AQW 3777/11-15. (iii) Roe House.

Badger Baiting

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department is taking to combat badger baiting.

(AQW 9777/11-15)

Mr Ford: The most relevant statutory protection for badgers is contained in the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. In particular, Article 10 of the Order makes it an offence intentionally to kill, injure or take a badger. The maximum punishment for this summary offence is a level 5 fine (currently £5,000). Policy responsibility for the protection of wild animals does not lie with my Department, but the police have powers of enforcement under the Order. The exercise of these powers is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

Release of Sex Offenders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether, as a matter of public protection, he will communicate to victims through the Department's agencies the reasons why sex offenders are being released from prison.

(AQW 9792/11-15)

Mr Ford: Sentenced offenders are released in line with statutory requirements.

A range of information on release dates and conditions is provided to those victims who register with the statutory victim information schemes run by the Northern Ireland Prison Service, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Department of Justice.

Prisoners Convicted of Murder or a Sexual Offence

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the standard procedure that is followed when a prisoner convicted of murder or a sexual offence is being (i) prepared for release; and (ii) released; and whether such prisoners will remain on licence after they are released.

(AQW 9794/11-15)

Mr Ford: Following a prisoner's assessment and committal, a sentence plan is devised which sets out the work to be undertaken in custody to address offending behaviour and meet other needs. The prisoner would then be referred to appropriate interventions to assist them address their risk of re-offending and support their resettlement. Prior to release their risk of reoffending is assessed and plans developed for their release from custody. Where appropriate, cases are referred to the Parole Commissioners for Northern Ireland and/or to Local Area Public Protection Panel meetings.

In many cases individuals will be released on licence and supervised by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. The length of the licence period is dependent on the type of sentence imposed. Life sentence prisoners remain on licence for the rest of their lives.

Prison Service Staff: Personal Protection

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether Prison Service staff will continue to receive firearms and security equipment for their homes for personal protection.

(AQW 9808/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is not appropriate for me to comment on issues of personal protection.

Prison Service's Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline the decision process used to select the first officers to leave under the Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme.

(AQW 9813/11-15)

Mr Ford: A Voluntary Early Retirement Panel, which included representatives from the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of Justice ensured that individuals were released from NIPS in line with the criteria outlined in the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme launch documentation. The criteria followed are:

- 1 the number of staff, as far as possible, to match the required reductions in the number of posts in that grade;
- 2 account to be taken of the NIPS operational requirements;
- 3 in the event of a greater number of eligible staff applying than can be released for each grade, selection to be made on a least cost basis.

During the selection process a number of staff at the Principal Officer and Main Grade Officer grades were identified as being of equal ranking in terms of cost and operational requirements. The VER Panel used a random selection process to determine which officers would leave on the 31 March 2012. This is in line with the Northern Ireland Civil Service procedures.

Case of Ewa Pietrzycka

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for a breakdown of the costs associated with the case of Ewa Pietrzycka, who was acquitted of a charge of theft for goods totalling £10.18.

(AQW 9852/11-15)

Mr Ford: Final costs in the case of Ewa Pietrzycka are not yet known. A breakdown of the estimated costs associated with the case is set out in the table below.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
PPS Prosecution ¹	£500.00
PSNI Prosecution ²	£714.30
Defence (Legal Aid Costs) ³	£7,140.00
Court: Judiciary, Staff	£871.16
Jury Costs	£201.89
Facilities (e.g. Courtroom Accommodation)	£220.00
Total	£9,647.35

Notes:

- 1 The PPS does not hold records of total time spent preparing the case but the final cost of the case is unlikely to exceed £500.00.
- 2 These are the only identifiable PSNI costs and include the investigation of the offence, attendance at court and administrative costs.
- 3 As this case only concluded on 5 March, the claims for payment have just recently been submitted. As such, the final legal aid fees have not yet been assessed and paid.

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many cases involving alleged breaches of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders are currently in the (i) Magistrates'; and (ii) Crown Court systems, broken down by court division.

(AQW 9853/11-15)

Mr Ford: As of 25 March 2012 there were 18 prosecutions for breach of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order before the courts. The table below details the breakdown by court tier and County Court Division.

Court Tier	Division	Number of Cases
County Court (Appeal)	Craigavon	1
Crown Court	Antrim	2
	Belfast	1
Magistrates' Court	Antrim	2
	Ards	1
	Armagh & South Down	1
	Belfast	4
	Fermanagh & Tyrone	1
	Londonderry	5
Total		18

Magistrates' Court Cases: Forensic Evidence Delays

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Magistrates' Court cases, in each of the last five years, have been adjourned two or more times due to forensic evidence delays, broken down by court division.

(AQW 9854/11-15)

Mr Ford: The reasons for adjournments in the Magistrates' Court are not recorded in this level of detail and therefore information is not available to answer the question in the format sought.

However, an adjournment monitoring exercise is currently operating in Londonderry Magistrates' Court and records cases where the reason for an adjournment is that the case is 'Not Ready – Forensics'.

As of 29 February 2012 there were ten cases in Londonderry Magistrates' Court which were adjourned on two or more occasions for this reason. The table below sets out the breakdown by calendar year.

Year ^[1]	Number of cases adjourned on two or more occasions
2010 ^[2]	1
2011	8
2012 (up to 29.02.2012)	1

[1] 2011 and 2012 figures are provisional

[2] Fully operational in late 2010

Contraband Items in Prisons

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Justice to list every contraband item discovered in each prison facility in the past 12 months.

(AQW 9904/11-15)

Mr Ford: A list of contraband items discovered in the 12 months up to 29 February 2012 is set out in the tables at Annex A. The finds are grouped according to type. Many of the items confiscated are not prohibited items but were in excess of entitlements.

ANNEX A MAGHABERRY

Nature of Find	
Alcohol	38
Allen key	0
Blades/knives	215
CDs/DVDs/tapes/videos	20
Cash	5
Cigarettes/lighters	56
Cleaning materials	93
Clothing	56
Containers (such as empty water bottles)	90
Information technology equipment	14
Documents/letters	39
Drug related items	128
Drugs/tablets	227
DVD player	7
Electrical wires/batteries	65
Excess bedding/towels	397
Excess crockery/cutlery	103
Excess/broken furniture	86
Excess handicrafts	192
Excess rubbish	226
Food	88
Furniture polish	2
Games console/digi box	21
Games console accessories	4
Homemade tools	229
Improvised gym equipment	106
Improvised smoking device	55

Nature of Find	
Inappropriate posters/material	28
Make-up/toiletries/air fresheners	127
Mirror/glass	45
Mobile phone/charger	29
Padlock/key	6
Photographs/pictures	8
Radio/stereo	27
Screwdriver	5
SIM card	2
TV/TV aerial/remote	48
Unknown substance/liquid	30
Total	2,917

These figures relate to the number of finds rather than the quantity of items confiscated.

MAGILLIGAN

Nature of Find	
Alcohol	4
Allen key	1
Blades/knives	6
CDs/DVDs/tapes/videos	3
Cash	2
Cigarettes/lighters	1
Cleaning materials	3
Clothing	1
Containers (such as empty water bottles)	0
Information technology equipment	2
Documents/letters	0
Drug related items	8
Drugs/tablets	34
DVD player	0
Electrical wires/batteries	2
Excess bedding/towels	2
Excess crockery/cutlery	0
Excess furniture	0

Nature of Find	
Excess handicrafts	1
Excess rubbish	0
Food	0
Furniture polish	1
Games console/digi box	7
Games console accessories	0
Homemade tools	3
Improvised gym equipment	1
Improvised smoking device	8
Inappropriate posters/material	14
Make-up/toiletries/air fresheners	1
Mirror/glass	0
Mobile phone/charger	31
Padlock/key	0
Photographs/pictures	0
Radio/stereo	7
Screwdriver	2
SIM card	2
TV/TV aerial/remote	7
Unknown substance/liquid	4
Total	158

These figures relate to the number of finds rather than the quantity of items confiscated.

HYDEBANK WOOD

Nature of Find	
Alcohol	3
Allen key	0
Blades/knives	17
CDs/DVDs/tapes/videos	7
Cash	2
Cigarettes/lighters	38
Cleaning materials	15
Clothing	3
Containers (such as empty water bottles)	0

Nature of Find	
Information technology equipment	2
Documents/letters	2
Drug related items	63
Drugs/tablets	31
DVD player	0
Electrical wires/batteries	12
Excess bedding/towels	19
Excess crockery/cutlery	14
Excess furniture	26
Excess handicrafts	41
Excess rubbish	35
Food	7
Furniture polish	0
Games console/digi box	10
Games console accessories	2
Homemade tools	50
Improvised gym equipment	0
Improvised smoking device	38
Inappropriate posters/material	5
Make-up/toiletries/air fresheners	7
Mirror/glass	8
Mobile phone/charger	2
Padlock/key	1
Photographs/pictures	1
Radio/stereo	9
Screwdriver	1
SIM card	0
TV/TV aerial/remote	15
Unknown substance/liquid	6
Total	492

These figures relate to the number of finds rather than the quantity of items confiscated.

White Cigarettes

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Justice how many prosecutions and convictions there have been for the sale or importing of illegal 'white' cigarettes in each of the last five years.

(AQW 9911/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is not available from the Department of Justice's databases. Court conviction and sentencing datasets do not distinguish cigarette smuggling from other evasion of duty or intent to defraud offences which would be prosecuted under the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and/or the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

HM Revenue & Customs has provided the following data on tobacco duty convictions. These convictions relate to all types of non UK duty paid tobacco products including cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco. It is not possible to identify the numbers of prosecutions brought nor is it possible to distinguish the brands or type of goods involved in each of these individual cases.

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS FOR UK DUTY PAID TOBACCO PRODUCT OFFENCES BY CALENDAR YEAR, 2006/07 – 2010/11

Calendar year	Convictions
2006/07	8
2007/08	16
2008/09	25
2009/10	12
2010/11	7

White Cigarettes

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department has taken, in conjunction with the PSNI, to tackle the increasing prevalence of illegal 'white' cigarettes.

(AQW 9912/11-15)

Mr Ford: Tobacco fraud is primarily a matter for HMRC; however in 2009 at the Cross Border Organised Crime Seminar law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border formed a Cross Border Tobacco Fraud Enforcement Group. The aim of the group is to identify key criminal gangs involved in this activity and to use a partnership approach to ensure their disruption.

Members of the Enforcement group include representatives of HMRC, Revenue Commissioners, An Garda Síochána, PSNI, SOCA, UKBA and the Criminal Assets Bureau.

Gerry McGeough

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 3357/11-15, what action he intends to take to address the disparities in the matter.

(AQW 9920/11-15)

Mr Ford: In AQW 3357/11 I provided an answer which clearly set out the conditions for this prisoner. This information is a matter of public record and I do not intend to take any further action.

Pre-Sentence Reports

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many pre-sentence reports were ordered at (i) Magistrates Courts; and (ii) Crown Courts in 2011, broken down by court division.

(AQW 9922/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below details the total number of court ordered pre-sentence reports ordered during calendar year 2011, broken down by court tier and County Court Division.

Table: Number of Pre-Sentence Reports Ordered in calendar year 2011

Court Tier	Division	Total
Crown Court	Antrim	174
	Ards	166
	Armagh & South Down	126
	Belfast	533
	Craigavon	166
	Fermanagh & Tyrone	158
	Londonderry	144
Total		1,467
Magistrates' Court	Antrim	655
	Ards	865
	Armagh & South Down	302
	Belfast	3,065
	Craigavon	1,225
	Fermanagh & Tyrone	1,155
	Londonderry	772
Total		8,039

Thomas Ward

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) why Thomas Ward qualified as rehabilitated on release; (ii) why, in spite of assessments, he remained classed as a Category 3 sex offender; and (iii) whether he will order a Serious Case Review into this matter.

(AQW 9924/11-15)

Mr Ford: I cannot comment on the detail of individual cases, but refer the Member to my answers to AQW 9695/11-15 and AQW 9331/11-15.

Policing Partnerships

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice to detail the cost of (i) restructuring the District Policing Partnerships; and (ii) recruiting independent members of the reformed Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

(AQW 9932/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) There is no cost directly attached to this reform, as activity and funding previously related to DPPs will now be transferred directly to PCSPs.

- (ii) The process of appointing independent members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) is a function of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. As the process is not yet complete, the final costs are not available.

Detecting Drugs in Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 9007/11-15, what quantity of the stated drugs were found and over what period of time.

(AQW 9982/11-15)

Mr Ford: Pursuant to AQW 9007/11-15 the tables below outline the quantities of drugs found for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011.

Maghaberry	No. of Finds	Amount
Amphetamines	2 4	20 tablets unspecified
Barbiturates	1	unspecified
Benzodiazepines	4	268
Cannabinoid	27 22	93.39g unspecified
Cocaine	4	20.8g
Opiates	7 49	5.8g and 49 tablets
Steroid	2 1	3 tablets unspecified
Non specified	1 2 1 86	23 excess paracetamol 16 seroquel 32 unspecified tablets unspecified

Magilligan	No. of Finds	Amount
Amphetamines	3	329 tablets
Barbiturates	2	unspecified
Benzodiazepines	4	251 tablets
Buprenorphine	2 1	56.5 tablets unspecified
Cannabinoid	13 12	97.8g unspecified
Cocaine	1 1	1.3g unspecified
Opiates	3 12 4	16.8g Tablets unspecified
Steroid	2	115 tablets

Magilligan	No. of Finds	Amount
Non specified	2 5 48	21 capsules 174 tablets/ a white paste unspecified

Hydebank	No. of Finds	Amount
Amphetamines	1	unspecified
Benzodiazepines	1	1 tablet
Cannabinoid	14	unspecified
Cocaine	1	unspecified
Steroid	2	unspecified
Non specified	3 48	3 tablets unspecified

* Non specified drugs – not identified at time of find.

* Unspecified amounts – finds not counted or weighed.

Legal Highs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he will introduce legislation to ban the sale, possession and supply of legal highs.

(AQW 9983/11-15)

Mr Ford: Under section 151 and Schedule 17 of the Policing and Social Responsibility Act 2011, legislative amendments were made to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to introduce Temporary Class Drug Orders to tackle the issue of legal highs across the whole of the United Kingdom. These Orders, which commenced on 15th November 2011, temporarily ban, up to a maximum period of twelve months, any substance or product that was not already a classified substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act and any substance that could be misused and is having or is capable of having harmful effects.

Northern Ireland is subject to these regulations and it is my understanding that there is no need for separate legislation at this time.

Analysis of Evidence by Forensic Science NI

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what is the average time taken by Forensic Science NI to analyse evidence; and what case is currently waiting the longest within the system.

(AQW 9984/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is not possible to provide an average time taken for the analysis of evidence as FSNI conducts a broad range of examinations and analyses across many different science specialisms. Many of the investigations are also bespoke and involve multiple sequential examinations on multiple exhibits.

The oldest case currently being analysed relates to an exhibit submitted to FSNI for drugs analysis on 6 July 2011. The case involves a new designer drug and FSNI is awaiting production by a national reference standard synthesis laboratory of a certified reference sample of the new substance in order to finalise the analysis and interpretation to evidential standards.

Deliberate Damage to Prisons Caused by Inmates

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 9460/11-15, how many instances of deliberate damage have occurred in these facilities in the last five years; and how many criminal charges were brought as a result.

(AQW 9985/11-15)

Mr Ford: Table A below details the number of instances of deliberate damage which have occurred in each prison facility in the last five years.

TABLE A

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Maghaberry	86	53	70	208	197
Magilligan	6	15	22	12	26
Hydebank Wood	45	89	101	142	190

Woodlands does not hold separate records regarding deliberate damage caused by a child. The majority of work would be deemed as operational routine maintenance.

There have been a total of 50 crimes reported to the police over the past five years regarding damage caused at each prison facility.

Table B below shows the progress to date in investigating and prosecuting individuals for these offences:

TABLE B

Persons convicted	1
Persons charged	3
Reported to PPS – decision pending	12
Reported to PPS – summons issued	11
Reported to PPS – no prosecution decision returned	2
Investigation ongoing	6
Investigation filed pending further evidence	1
Investigated – no persons made amenable	9
Prison declined to make statement/dealing with through internal process	5

Woodlands may report incidents of criminal damage to the PSNI when deemed necessary. There have been five reported incidents since 2007.

Juvenile Cases

Lord Morrow asked Minister of Justice how many cases involving juveniles are currently in the (i) Magistrates'; and (ii) Crown Court systems, broken down by court division.

(AQW 9986/11-15)

Mr Ford: As of 26 March 2012 1,018 cases involving 1,022 youth defendants were in the court system. The table below details the breakdown by court tier and County Court division.

County Court Division	Crown Court	Magistrates' Court	Totals
Antrim	3	112	115
Ards	6	146	152
Armagh & South Down	2	76	78
Belfast	7	332	339
Craigavon	0	121	121
Fermanagh & Tyrone	5	138	143
Londonderry	0	70	70
Total	23	995	1018

Notes:

- 1 Data is extracted from a live operational database and will change on a daily basis.
- 2 Data includes cases where a youth defendant is charged with an adult

For the purposes of this question, a youth defendant is defined as a defendant under the age of eighteen years.

Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice when he intends to consult on the amendments to the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, particularly in regard to Sections 104 and 105.

(AQW 9994/11-15)

Mr Ford: A consultation document on proposals to vary firearms licensing fees and on a limited number of miscellaneous amendments to the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 is currently being finalised. There are ongoing exchanges on the fees element with PSNI and the Department of Finance and Personnel consultant. When a final draft of the document is available, comments will be invited from the Justice Committee and, subject to those comments, a public consultation will follow.

Offensive Weapons in Prisons

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 8930/11-15, (i) how many prisoners did this involve in each facility; (ii) how many were charged with criminal offences; and (iii) how each case was handled.

(AQW 10024/11-15)

Mr Ford: Possession of unauthorised or prohibited articles would ordinarily be dealt with as a breach of Prison Rules. The information requested is not available without an individual check on each adjudication record for offences under Prison Rule 38 (12) Possession of Unauthorised Articles. Not all finds have occurred in circumstances where a prisoner can be made amenable.

There is no cross referencing of finds with charges dealt with under prison rules or referred to the police.

Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice from which bodies, individuals, consultative or representative groups his Department is awaiting feed back before a public consultation is launched on the proposals to amend the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, specifically in regard to Sections 104 and 105.

(AQW 10026/11-15)

Mr Ford: A consultation document on proposals to vary firearms licensing fees and on a limited number of miscellaneous amendments to the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 is currently being

finalised. There are ongoing exchanges on the fees element with PSNI and the Department of Finance and Personnel consultant. When a final draft of the document is available, comments will be invited from the Justice Committee and, subject to those comments, a public consultation will follow.

Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice whether there is any legislative or other reason for not proceeding with a public consultation on the proposals to amend the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, specifically in regard to sections 104 and 105.

(AQW 10027/11-15)

Mr Ford: A consultation document on proposals to vary firearms licensing fees and on a limited number of miscellaneous amendments to the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 is currently being finalised. There are ongoing exchanges on the fees element with PSNI and the Department of Finance and Personnel consultant. When a final draft of the document is available, comments will be invited from the Justice Committee and, subject to those comments, a public consultation will follow.

Complaints Against Prison Service Officers

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 8928/11-15, for his assessment of why the number of complaints against Prison Service officers rose from 382 in 2010 to 665 in 2011.

(AQW 10028/11-15)

Mr Ford: The complaints procedure was changed in 2010 to ensure that all complaints were recorded on the prison service Prison Record Information and System Management (PRISM) database. This includes verbal as well as written complaints. Previously many of these would have been resolved informally without being recorded.

The change in the complaints procedure was accompanied by additional training for staff and management, including use of PRISM. The change was also communicated to prisoners.

Review of Police Injury Award Arrangements

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice what was the outcome of the Review of Police Injury Award Arrangements which was to be undertaken after June 2010.

(AQW 10043/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Panel responsible for conducting the Review of the Police Injury Award Arrangements issued an interim report in June 2010. The final report, which issued on 30 September 2010, included 17 recommendations for improving the injury on duty award process. A copy of the report is available on the Department's website.

The average appeal processing time at the time of the Review was 62 weeks.

Since June 2010 the average processing time has been reduced to 24 weeks.

Case of Gerry McGeough

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 9334/11-15, for a breakdown of the £8034.78 paid from legal aid on disbursements.

(AQW 10053/11-15)

Mr Ford: The amounts paid in disbursements at the Crown Court total £6,851.67 and are detailed as follows:

Cardiologist report	£350.00
Cardiologist report	£400.00

Hospital Notes	£30.00
GP report	£60.00
Law searcher	£5250.00
Translation	£761.67
Total	£6851.67

The amounts paid in respect of the Judicial Review total £660.65 and are detailed as follows:

Stamp Duty	£598.65
Copy Order	£10.00
Ex parte Docket	£52.00
Total	£660.65

Disbursements were paid under the Green Form Scheme in relation to advice and assistance provided in relation to the Court of Appeal as follows:

Copy transcript of original trial - £419.64

In addition mileage paid under The Green Form Scheme (PACE) is treated as a disbursement. The amount paid in respect of mileage was £102.82.

Gerry McGeough

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether prisoner Gerry McGeough is on protest; and if so, when his protest began and what is the nature and manner of his protest.

(AQW 10054/11-15)

Mr Ford: Gerry McGeough is not currently engaged in the “dirty protest” that is being staged by a number of separated prisoners in Roe House, Maghaberry Prison.

Human Trafficking

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice what his Department is doing to assist in the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of victims and survivors and prosecution of the perpetrators of this crime.

(AQW 10081/11-15)

Mr Ford: The OCTF, which I chair, has an Immigration and Human Trafficking sub group which brings together a range of organisations, including representatives from the Department of Justice, to work in partnership to identify opportunities to arrest, disrupt and seek prosecution of traffickers.

A number of initiatives have either been taken or are in train. For instance, I launched the “Blue Blindfold” campaign last year to raise awareness of human trafficking. The OCTF has also produced a leaflet for potential victims, “Visitor or Victim?” Opportunities are taken to raise awareness by attendance at conferences and other events on human trafficking. For example, a police representative and I spoke at an event, “Beautiful Slave” in Bangor on 29 March.

The OCTF is also taking forward an initiative called “Changing the Mindset” which is a research project seeking to identify ways in which the OCTF can better engage with the public to raise awareness of organised crime, including human trafficking. In addition, I will be consulting shortly on proposed offences concerning trafficking to ensure that Northern Ireland is compliant with the EU Directive on Human Trafficking. This consultation document will also invite comments on how the Department might better engage with non-governmental bodies on the topic.

My Department funds a comprehensive support package for adult victims of human trafficking, currently delivered by Migrant Helpline and Women's Aid, and is working with DHSSPS, Amnesty International and the Law Centre on a guide for frontline health service staff who engage with adult victims of human trafficking.

Case of Gerry McGeough

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 9334/11-15, whether the total amount paid includes solicitor and counsel expenses; and how much was claimed on (i) mileage; and (ii) travel time. **(AQW 10084/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The total amount stated in AQW 9334/11-15 included payments made to solicitor and counsel.

The amounts paid in respect of travel and mileage are detailed below:

Representation provided under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act:

Mileage £102.82 (No VAT payable)

Travel Time £279.24 (excluding VAT).

Fees paid to the solicitor for representation at the Magistrates' Court include:

Mileage £323.82 (excluding VAT)

Travel Time £744.58 (excluding VAT).

Fees paid to the solicitor for representation at the Crown Court include:

Mileage £80.68 (excluding VAT)

Travel time £622.07 (excluding VAT).

No fees have been paid to the Senior or Junior Counsel in respect of travel or mileage for the Crown Court proceedings.

Under the Civil Legal Aid Scheme mileage and travel time were paid to the solicitor in respect and the breakdown is as follows:

Mileage £15.71 (excluding VAT)

Travel time £110.25 (excluding VAT).

Monitoring Convicted Youth Offenders on Day Release

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the procedure to monitor convicted youth offenders whilst they are on day release; and what management exists to ensure that (i) release terms are adhered to; and (ii) no further offences are committed.

(AQW 10086/11-15)

Mr Ford: The power to grant leave (and to attach conditions) rests with the Director of Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre in accordance with Schedule 2 Article 4 of the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

Home leave and other absences from the Centre are granted in accordance with policies and procedure for home leave and mobility. Each episode of home leave or mobility, except in the case of emergency medical treatment, is planned and agreed in advance with partner agencies such as PBNI and PSNI as part of a programme to re-integrate and rehabilitate the young person.

Home leave can either be escorted or unescorted and a contract is agreed in advance with the young person and their parents or carers. The amount of contact will vary depending on the risk assessment

that is undertaken and the stage in their sentence. Consideration will also be given to the young person's behaviour whilst in custody and on previous home leave if any. Most home leave will involve meetings with Youth Justice Agency and/or PBNi staff, and involve contact with the young person and their parents or carers during their period of absence from the Centre.

Detecting Drugs in Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 9007/11-15, (i) how many prisoners did this involve in each facility; (ii) how many were charged with criminal offences; and (iii) how each case was handled.

(AQW 10087/11-15)

Mr Ford: Possession of drugs in prison would ordinarily be dealt with as a breach of Prison Rules unless the quantities involved were such that a charge of Possession with Intent to Supply was warranted. The information requested is not available without an individual check on each adjudication record for offences under Prison Rule 38 (12) Possession of Unauthorised Articles. Not all drugs finds have occurred in circumstances where a prisoner can be made amenable. There is no cross referencing of finds with charges dealt with under prison rules or referred to the police.

Full-Body Imaging Scanners in Prisons

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice when the pilot scheme using full body imaging scanners in Maghaberry Prison will begin.

(AQW 10088/11-15)

Mr Ford: In my statement to the Assembly on 26 March I made clear my intention to initiate a pilot of Full Body Imaging Scanners, as soon as the necessary authorisation for use of this technology in prisons is obtained.

I am not yet in a position to be definitive about the detail of the pilot.

Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice for an estimate of the annual additional cost to his Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10094/11-15)

Mr Ford: At my request there is an ongoing exercise within the Department of Justice to identify and quantify the costs incurred within the Department's expenditure as a result of divisions. I will not be in a position to answer this question until that exercise has been completed, at which time I will write to the Member.

Airport Constabulary Officers

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Justice how many airport police constabulary officers have been employed in the (i) Belfast International Airport; (ii) George Best Belfast City Airport; and (iii) City of Derry Airport in each of the last five financial years.

(AQW 10129/11-15)

Mr Ford: Airport constables are employed at Belfast International Airport only. Article 19 of the Airports (Northern Ireland) Order provides that they are appointed by and are under the exclusive control of the private airport operator. The number of those employed is not routinely held by the Department. The PSNI has primacy for policing throughout Northern Ireland including the airports at Belfast International, Belfast City and the City of Derry.

Airport Constabulary Officers Based at Belfast International Airport

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the security implications and the repercussions for PSNI resources as a result of the reported compulsory redundancies of 8 of the 21 Airport Constabulary Officers based at Belfast International Airport.

(AQW 10131/11-15)

Mr Ford: Security arrangements and risk assessments are continually reviewed by airport management in conjunction with the PSNI and other key partners in line with a UK-wide framework. Any implications for policing by the Police Service of Northern Ireland at Belfast International Airport are an operational matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Political Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the term ‘political prisoner’ is recognised by his Department and the Prison Service; whether all prisoners are treated the same regardless of their perception regarding status.

(AQW 10164/11-15)

Mr Ford: Neither my department nor the Prison Service recognises the term “political prisoner”. There is no such prisoner classification. There are however offenders in prison who claim to be politically motivated. Prisoners in Northern Ireland are treated equally according to the rules and procedures that apply to them.

Cannabis Factories

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many people convicted of operating cannabis factories over the last five years have been found to be victims of human trafficking.

(AQW 10165/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice came into existence on 12 April 2010. Statistics on the number of people convicted of operating cannabis factories who have been found to be victims of human trafficking before that date are a matter for the previous department.

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) has confirmed that the status of a suspect of this offence as a victim of human trafficking is not held in a form that enables statistics to be gathered. If a prosecutor considers that a defendant is the victim of human trafficking and therefore takes a decision not to prosecute in the Public Interest then a note to that effect is held on the file. The PPS is developing a policy which will include guidance for prosecutors on how to make decisions in relation to possible offences committed by those who have been trafficked. The draft policy states that the PPS will consider each case on its own merits and having regard to the seriousness of the offence committed. The policy further states that evidence or information to support the fact that the suspect has been trafficked and has committed the offence whilst in a coerced situation, will be considered as a strong public interest factor mitigating against prosecution.

Cases of Barry Boardman and Francis Peter Carleton

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how much has been paid in legal aid in the cases of Barry Boardman and Francis Peter Carleton; and what is the estimated final total.

(AQW 10166/11-15)

Mr Ford: To date, a total of £19,840.70 has been paid to the solicitors representing the defendants in the Magistrates’ Court.

The case has been listed for hearing in the Crown Court and both defendants have pleaded not guilty. It is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the final cost of the Crown Court trial at this time.

Prisoners on Day Release

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 9145/11-15, to outline the nature of the reporting restrictions that are in place and how they relate to specific charges against juveniles rather than the protection of individual identities.

(AQW 10167/11-15)

Mr Ford: Article 22 of the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 sets out the restrictions on the reporting of criminal proceedings against children. Section (a) of Article 22 of the Order requires that

“no report shall be published which reveals the name, address or school of the child or includes particulars likely to lead to the identification of the child”.

Further reporting restrictions may be imposed by a Court depending on the nature of the alleged offence and/or for the protection of the identity of the defendant, the injured party or vulnerable witnesses.

Hydebank Wood

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to outline his plans for a new women’s facility at Hydebank Wood; and what sites in Hydebank are available for such a facility.

(AQW 10172/11-15)

Mr Ford: I plan to publish an Outline Estate Strategy for the Northern Ireland Prison Service later this month. As that strategy has not yet been finalised I do not think it is appropriate for me to pre-empt its conclusions although I intend that the strategy will address the issue of a new facility for women offenders.

It is also my intention that the outline strategy will be subject to public consultation.

Proposed Closure of Courthouses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what is the average weekly number of service users at each of the courthouses which are under consultation for proposed closure, including staff, legal representatives, defendants, witnesses, probation officers, the PSNI and the press.

(AQW 10228/11-15)

Mr Ford: The NI Courts & Tribunals Service does not routinely collect data on the number of court users that attend Hearing Centres. However, the average number of cases listed each week during 2011 in the five Hearing Centres was:

Bangor	97
Larne	44
Limavady	66
Magherafelt	76
Strabane	69

All defendants or parties listed may not appear at the court hearing and a legal representative may appear for one or more cases on a list.

Information for the Magherafelt and Strabane exit surveys was collected over a period of seven hearing days at each courthouse. During this period 88 court users were surveyed in Magherafelt and 74 in Strabane.

Marian Price's Cell and Exercise Area

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for what purpose is Marian Price's cell and exercise area at Maghaberry Prison, which cost £2,257 to refurbish, being used.

(AQW 10229/11-15)

Mr Ford: The cell is occupied by another prisoner and the exercise area is being used by those prisoners now resident in Glenn House.

Exit Surveys at Magherafelt and Strabane Magistrates Courts

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 8726/11-15, over how many days the exit surveys were carried out at (i) Magherafelt; and (ii) Strabane Magistrates Courts.

(AQW 10230/11-15)

Mr Ford: The NI Courts & Tribunals Service does not routinely collect data on the number of court users that attend Hearing Centres. However, the average number of cases listed each week during 2011 in the five Hearing Centres was:

Bangor	97
Larne	44
Limavady	66
Magherafelt	76
Strabane	69

All defendants or parties listed may not appear at the court hearing and a legal representative may appear for one or more cases on a list.

Information for the Magherafelt and Strabane exit surveys was collected over a period of seven hearing days at each courthouse. During this period 88 court users were surveyed in Magherafelt and 74 in Strabane.

Human Trafficking

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans a public consultation on the issue of human trafficking; and to outline a timescale for introducing legislation on this matter.

(AQW 10285/11-15)

Mr Ford: I launched a public consultation on 5 April on two aspects concerning human trafficking. First the document invites comments on legislative amendments involving new offences which are required to ensure Northern Ireland is compliant with the EU Directive on Human Trafficking. It also invites comments on how the Department of Justice can engage better with non-government and other organisations on human trafficking issues. I plan to include the legislation amendments in the upcoming Justice Bill, which will be introduced after the Assembly's summer recess this year.

Recipients of Legal Aid Payments

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice which recipients of legal aid payments endeavoured to prevent the release of such information by the NI Legal Services Commission.

(AQW 10303/11-15)

Mr Ford: In advance of the annual publication of the top 100 fee earners, and in compliance with its responsibilities under the Data Protection Act, the Commission notifies the Law Society, the Bar Council, individual practitioners and firms of the information that it intends to publish.

Under the Data Protection Act individuals may raise issues in respect of the publication of personal information. The process relating to issues raised by one individual have not been finalised and that person's name could not be included in the published list.

Full-Body Imaging Scanners in HMP Maghaberry

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice when the pilot scheme to use full-body imaging scanners will commence in HMP Maghaberry; and for a breakdown of the estimated costs of this initiative.

(AQW 10321/11-15)

Mr Ford: In my statement to the Assembly on 26 March I made clear my intention to initiate a pilot of Full Body Imaging Scanners, as soon as the necessary authorisation for use of this technology in prisons is obtained.

I am not yet in a position to be definitive about the detail of the pilot.

Rural Crimes

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of how rural crimes are currently categorised; and whether he has any plans to review the categorisation.

(AQW 10327/11-15)

Mr Ford: How rural crimes are currently categorised is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Department for Regional Development

Traffic Pressures Between the Belfast Side of Saintfield and the Crossgar Road

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures are planned to ease traffic pressures, particularly at peak times, between the Belfast side of Saintfield and the Crossgar Road; and whether any additional measures are planned.

(AQW 9745/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is aware of the congestion problems at the junction of Main Street/Crossgar Road/Killyleagh Road, Saintfield, especially during peak hours. This junction is controlled by traffic signals and I understand that these signals have now been set to optimise the throughput of vehicular traffic, especially during peak hours.

This recent adjustment to the traffic signals has alleviated the congestion of traffic on Main Street and increased safety for right turning vehicles from the Killyleagh Road.

With regard to a by-pass of Saintfield, in the current financial climate of reduced budgets and other competing schemes, a by-pass for Saintfield would not feature highly on a priority list and be highly unlikely to proceed in the foreseeable future. Should budgetary constraints change in the future, then I am happy to review this issue.

A5 Road: Compensation for Farmers

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development how he will ensure that all farmers who are forced to sell land to accommodate the proposed A5 will be fairly compensated.

(AQW 9935/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: When my Department acquires land compulsorily for proposed road schemes, it does so under the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 and the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

All landowners affected as a direct consequence of the vesting order to accommodate the proposed A5 scheme will be entitled to compensation for any land taken, for losses to retained land due to severance and injurious affection and to costs incurred. Claims for compensation will be independently assessed by the District Valuer within the Department of Finance and Personnel's Land & Property Services. In the event that agreement cannot be reached, the matter may be referred to the Lands Tribunal for Northern Ireland for determination.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development what strategy is in place to train staff (i) in his Department; and (ii) who work on public transport in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10016/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department complies with the requirements of the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982 (as amended) by ensuring that an appropriate proportion of its staff receive first aid training which incorporates instruction in providing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

Similarly, Translink complies with the 1982 Regulations by providing training in first aid, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. Translink also has a small number of volunteer staff trained in the use of defibrillators, which are provided at main Translink locations across Northern Ireland.

Gritting Schedule

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 7945/11-15, why five roads with traffic volume of less than 1,000 vehicles per day were added to the gritting schedule.

(AQW 10025/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the roads were added to the gritted schedule under the remote settlement criteria, that is, small settlements in rural areas containing 100 dwellings or more, which have no salted links to roads on the main salted network. The five roads are:-

- Tirkeeran Road and Glen Road, Garvagh;
- Gortnaghey Road, Limavady;
- Brankinstown Road, Aghalee; and
- Blackskull Road, Donaghcloney.

Bonds Presented to the Department

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Regional Development whether any of the bonds presented to his Department are now under the ownership or care of the National Asset Management Agency or any of the banks.

(AQW 10029/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that although it is aware that the National Asset Management Agency may have taken over ownership of a number of development sites, the bonds will remain with the original bondsman/surety.

With regard to bonds held by banks, this form of surety is the most common method used by developers, and bonds are currently in place with the following banks:-

- AIB Group (UK) PLC T/A First Trust Bank
- Anglo Irish Bank Corporation PLC
- Bank of Scotland (Ireland) Ltd

- First Trust Bank
- Northern Bank Ltd
- The Governor & Company of the Bank of Ireland
- Ulster Bank Ltd
- Allied Irish Banks PLC (Dublin)
- Alliance and Leicester
- Bank of Ireland – Dublin
- Bank of Ireland – Belfast
- Bank of Scotland PLC
- Barclays Bank PLC
- Equity Bank
- HSBC Bank PLC
- Irish Intercontinental Investment Bank
- Lombard & Ulster Ltd
- National Westminster Bank PLC
- Hermes Kreditversicherungs AG

Bond Money Held by the Department

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the £112.5 million in bond money, which is currently held by his Department, includes money owed in interest on the original bonds; and whether his Department now owns the money generated in interest.

(AQW 10030/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I should explain that the vast majority of bond monies are sums which are secured by means of guarantee bonds. As such, they do not accrue interest, since no money actually passes to my Department unless the bond is required to complete works within a development. Where the bond is called upon, only the amount required to pay for the necessary works is claimed, so no interest applies.

In the relatively small number of instances where a cash bond is lodged with my Department, simple interest at the appropriate rate is calculated and paid to the developer along with the bond refund, if and when the relevant development roads are satisfactorily completed and the bond is no longer required.

New Bus Shelters: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the locations of the new bus shelters proposed for the North Down area in 2012/13.

(AQW 10034/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it currently has no plans to provide new bus shelters for the North Down Area in 2012/13.

Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when his Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 10037/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Since 25 May 2011 my officials have made 43 presentations to the Committee for Regional Development. Records show that some papers relating to three of these topics were tabled less than 48 hours beforehand. Details are set out in the table below.

Date of Presentation	Issue	Reason for Delay
8 June 2011	Rail Closures on the Arterial Network	Late request for oral briefing received from the Committee resulted in papers being tabled on the day.
8 February 2012	Belfast Rapid Transit – Outcome of consultation	Proximity to closing date of consultation led to some additional information being provided the day before.
14 March 2012	ECar Project	Written briefing provided as usual within 5 working days. Additional presentation material tabled on the day.

No 76 Metro Service

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the recent withdrawal of the No 76 Metro service; and whether his Department would consider advocating amendments to other existing routes to include additional stops in the Newtownbreda Road area, given the number of older residents who availed of the former service.

(AQW 10056/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The provision of individual Metro bus services is an operational matter for Translink. Translink has advised me that the number 76 Metro service was previously supported by developer contributions, which have come to an end. Translink have analysed average passenger usage on services between Carryduff and Tesco (Newtownbreda) and is of the opinion that such low patronage cannot justify continuation of the service or diversion of existing services. Translink is obligated to balance cost and service provision and in this case the service appears to be carrying, on average, less than 2 passengers per trip.

Detail of passenger usage is detailed in the table below:

Month	Operational Days	Total Passengers	Average Passengers Per Day	Average Passengers Per Trip
Oct-11	21	1,064	50.7	1.9
Nov-11	22	994	45.2	1.7
Dec-11	20	879	44.0	1.7
Jan-12	21	818	39.0	1.5
Feb-12	18	786	43.7	1.7
Total	102	4,541	44.5	1.7

Traffic and Parking Assessments

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Roads Service can give consideration to the number of unregistered Houses of Multiple Occupancy in an area, when conducting traffic and parking assessments in relation to planning applications.

(AQW 10058/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that when considering traffic and parking assessments in relation to planning applications, it would not be aware of any properties in the area that would be unregistered Houses in Multiple Occupancy.

Parking Problems Associated with Houses of Multiple Occupancy

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the impact of Houses of Multiple Occupancy upon on-street parking and traffic levels in South Belfast.

(AQW 10059/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In many areas of inner South Belfast where there is a high concentration of private renting and Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO), residents compete for parking with commuters during the day and those availing of the area's social amenities in the evenings. In such areas, the demand for parking frequently exceeds the capacity. This is an inconvenience for local residents and can detract from the amenity of an area. Illegal parking also poses a constraint to those providing local services.

DOE Planning Division's HMO Draft Plan included a recommendation that consideration is given to the introduction of Residents' Parking Permit Schemes in the HMO Policy Areas located in South Belfast. Roads Service is actively working on the introduction of Residents' Parking Permit Schemes in a number of locations in the inner South Belfast area.

The Member will be aware that previous attempts by Roads Service to introduce residents' parking schemes in the inner city areas of Belfast were met with considerable opposition.

Having made further changes to the policy, Roads Service now plans to concentrate its immediate efforts on the Stranmillis and Lower Malone schemes, which are the most advanced, in terms of consultation and local agreement on their design and proceed to the local consultation stage in the near future. The final decision on implementation of any scheme will ultimately depend on the successful completion of the legal process, which can take 6 to 12 months, and the availability of finance at that time.

The future development and introduction of schemes in other areas, such as Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and the Holylands will depend, to a degree, on the community's response and acceptance of those schemes, and will also be subject to the availability of staff and budget resources at that time.

Parking Problems Associated with Houses of Multiple Occupancy

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development what his Department can do to address parking problems exacerbated by increasing numbers of both registered and unregistered Houses of Multiple Occupancy.

(AQW 10060/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my answer to her Assembly Question, AQW 10059/11-15.

Traffic and Parking Assessments

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development whether integrated garages can be disregarded by Roads Service, when conducting traffic and parking assessments in relation to planning applications, given that these spaces are often used for storage rather than parking.

(AQW 10061/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise that the DOE/DRD document "Creating Places – Achieving Quality in Residential Developments" provides guidance on the requirements for parking in residential developments. The document states that garages will only be counted towards the in-curtilage provision, where they are large enough to both accommodate cars and make provision for general storage, or alternatively, provision for general storage can be made elsewhere within the curtilage. It also states that for garages, the preferred location for the storage space will be down one side of the garage (to make it accessible without the car having to be moved). In this case, the minimum internal width needs to be 4.0m for single garages, and 6.2m for double garages.

I can confirm, therefore, that in assessing parking provision for residential planning applications, my Department's Roads Service is guided by the above criteria.

Delivery of a Southern Relief Road, Newry

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the delivery of a Southern Relief Road, Newry.

(AQW 10095/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is undertaking further environmental and engineering assessments in relation to the Newry Southern Relief Road proposal, including an Article 6 assessment under the terms of the EU Habitats Directive, in relation to this proposal.

Roads Service officials indicate that this work, which will also assist in the identification of a preferred corridor for the scheme, is continuing and is expected to be completed during mid/late 2012.

Southern Relief Road Scheme in Newry

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent on consultants and associated personnel in relation to the development of the Southern Relief Road, Newry, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 10096/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the costs for consultants and associated personnel relating to the development of the Newry Southern Relief Road, over the last ten years, are detailed in the table below:

COSTS OF CONSULTANTS AND ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

Year	Cost
2002/03 – 2005/06	nil
2006/07	£57,968.95
2007/08	£371,320.12
2008/09	£328,804.21
2009/10	£51,783.86
2010/11	£58,703.48
2011/12	£59,670.52
Total	£928,251.14

Southern Relief Road Scheme in Newry

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the timescale for the public consultation and implementation of the Southern Relief Road scheme in Newry.

(AQW 10097/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Newry Southern Relief Road scheme was included in the "Expanding the Strategic Road Improvement programme 2015" consultation document published in 2006. It was listed under "schemes that performed well in the assessment but not affordable within ISNI funding envisaged to 2015". There was also a commitment that proposed measures would be developed and costed in a feasibility study.

I have welcomed the positive findings of the subsequent feasibility report in relation to the transport benefits that a new road linking from the A2 Warrenpoint dual carriageway to the A1 Belfast/Dublin Key Transport Corridor may be expected to provide, including the removal of some through traffic from the city centre road network and improved access to Warrenpoint Port.

Recently, the position in relation to affordability has not improved during the intervening period. In these circumstances, I am unable to outline a timescale for public consultation and implementation of the scheme.

The timing will be dependent on a number of factors, including the development process and statutory procedures, which includes formal public consultation, as well as the priority which the scheme attracts when compared to other competing demands, and the availability of the necessary finance.

In the meantime, particular environmental and engineering challenges that have been identified are being investigated, and I am advised that this work will also assist in the identification of a preferred corridor for this scheme.

Annual Spend on Road Resurfacing

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent on road resurfacing in each of the last five years, broken down by district council area.

(AQW 10104/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service does not maintain an analysis of its spend in the format requested, however, it does hold an analysis of its total Structural Maintenance spend which includes Resurfacing, Surface Dressing and Structural Drainage.

Details of its total Structural Maintenance spend in each Council area during the last five years, are set out in the table below:

ROADS SERVICE STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE FROM 2006/2007 TO 2010/2011

District Council Area	Structural Maintenance £'000				
	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Antrim Borough Council	1,740	2,096	1,742	2,794	2,463
Ards Borough Council	2,118	3,335	1,726	3,065	4,088
Armagh City & District Council	3,661	4,907	4,439	5,388	5,229
Ballymena Borough Council	2,471	2,749	2,654	3,339	3,097
Ballymoney Borough Council	1,433	1,648	1,463	2,002	2,029
Banbridge District Council	2,222	2,734	1,880	2,811	3,572
Belfast City Council	4,946	6,009	4,630	6,039	5,527
Carrickfergus Borough Council	934	1,186	783	1,036	778
Castlereagh Borough Council	1,842	2,165	1,623	1,792	1,218
Coleraine Borough Council	2,317	2,597	1,862	2,736	2,373

District Council Area	Structural Maintenance £'000				
	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Cookstown District Council	1,980	1,976	1,738	2,145	2,718
Craigavon Borough Council	2,948	3,614	2,231	3,867	4,809
Derry City Council	2,510	2,998	2,673	3,086	2,887
Down District Council	2,794	2,552	3,336	3,377	4,065
Dungannon District Council	3,911	4,051	3,410	4,498	5,078
Fermanagh District Council	4,522	4,578	4,638	4,951	6,869
Larne Borough Council	2,180	1,273	1,116	1,704	1,380
Limavady Borough Council	1,561	2,391	1,558	2,344	2,303
Lisburn Borough Council	3,077	3,066	4,364	4,604	5,411
Magherafelt District Council	1,755	2,771	2,107	2,885	3,186
Moyle District Council	1,187	1,340	993	1,397	945
Newry and Mourne District Council	3,634	3,944	2,700	5,605	5,382
Newtownabbey Borough Council	1,869	2,846	1,860	2,455	2,339
North Down Borough Council	2,368	2,465	1,462	1,755	1,938
Omagh District Council	3,458	4,424	2,971	4,923	4,262
Strabane District Council	3,056	3,617	3,028	4,592	4,366
Overall Total	66,494	77,332	62,986	85,190	88,312

A5 Road Inquiry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development when he will consider the findings of the inquiry into the A5 project; and when he will publish his assessment of these findings.

(AQW 10135/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Public Inquiry into the proposed A5 Western Transport Corridor dual carriageway ended on 1 July 2011. The Inspector carried out follow-up site visits and considered all the evidence from the Inquiry to complete his Report. Roads Service received the Inspector's Report on the A5 Western Transport Corridor Public Inquiry on 24 February 2012 and officials are now reviewing the issues arising out of this significant body of work.

Roads Service will report to me on how it proposes to address the issues raised by the Inspector. I will then consider this submission in conjunction with the Inspector's comments and decide on the way

forward. My decision will be communicated through a Departmental Statement, which will be issued along with the Inspector's Report. I anticipate this being released in late spring / early summer.

A5 Road Inquiry

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the date the public inquiry report into the A5 was presented to his Department; (ii) why it has not been published; and (iii) when it will be published.

(AQW 10140/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Public Inquiry into the proposed A5 Western Transport Corridor dual carriageway ended on 1 July 2011. The Inspector carried out follow-up site visits and considered all the evidence submitted during the Inquiry to assist with the completion of his Report. Roads Service received the Inspector's Report on the A5 Western Transport Corridor Public Inquiry on 24 February 2012 and officials are now reviewing the issues arising out of this significant body of work.

Roads Service will report to me on how it proposes to address the issues raised by the Inspector. I will then consider this submission in conjunction with the Inspector's comments and decide on the way forward. My decision will be communicated through a Departmental Statement, which will be issued along with the Inspector's Report. I anticipate this being released in late spring / early summer.

It would be inappropriate to publish the Inspector's Report prior to the Departmental Statement.

Car Parking Charges in Cookstown

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department plans to introduce car parking charges in Cookstown; and to detail any studies carried out on the impact that this may have on the town centre.

(AQW 10192/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service carries out a review of car park tariffs every year and I hope to announce the details of the 2012/2013 review in the near future, after I have informed the Committee for Regional Development.

I cannot give any information on the outcome of the review at this time.

Water Charges for Non-Domestic Customers

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the level of water charges for non-domestic customers who are being assessed according to the value of their property.

(AQW 10194/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The setting of annual tariffs is a matter for Northern Ireland Water (NIW) subject to the Utility Regulator's approval and the limits set out in the regulatory settlement which was agreed in 2010. A minority of NIW's non-domestic customers have charges based on their property value as it remains NIW's policy to extend measured charging. Non-domestic tariffs have remained within the limits permitted by the Utility Regulator through its regulatory process and NIW has raised tariffs by less than it could have done. The Executive has continued to subsidise unmeasured non-domestic bills at 50%. Water tariffs saw below inflation increases in 2012/13.

Provision of Services in our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the annual additional cost to his Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10216/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Due to the number of variables involved, it is not possible for the Department for Regional Development to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Department for Social Development

Provision of Temporary Accommodation

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development how much the Housing Executive has paid to private landlords for providing temporary accommodation in each of the last three years, broken down by district office area.

(AQW 9319/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The information is not available in the format requested as a breakdown of the figures by Housing Executive district office area is only available for the current financial year (to date); the previous two years are only available by Housing Executive area office. In addition, there is only one figure for the Belfast area for 2011/12 as temporary accommodation in Belfast is coordinated by the Homeless Services Unit in Belfast city centre.

The tables below detail the information:

TABLE 1 - PRIVATE LANDLORD PROPERTIES USED IN 2011/12, BY DISTRICT OFFICE (TO DATE)

Housing Executive District Office	Number of properties	Total Estimated Cost (£) *
Belfast Area		
Belfast	246	2,291,720
South Area		
Armagh	7	61,397
Banbridge	5	43,855
Dungannon	42	368,382
Newry	53	464,863
Portadown	5	43,855
Lurgan	8	70,168
Fermanagh	47	412,237
West Area		
Londonderry	210	1,471,470
Omagh	1	7,007
Magherafelt	4	38,028
North East Area		
Antrim	36	246,960
Ballycastle	31	212,660
Ballymena	50	343,000
Carrickfergus	1	6,860
Coleraine	3	20,580

Housing Executive District Office	Number of properties	Total Estimated Cost (£) *
Newtownabbey	5	34,300
South East Area		
Newtownards	28	209,916
Bangor	25	187,425
Castlereagh	24	179,928
Downpatrick	40	299,880
Lisburn	85	637,245
Dairyfarm	37	277,389
Total	993	£7,929,125

TABLE 2 - PRIVATE LANDLORD PROPERTIES USED IN 2010/11, BY AREA OFFICE

Housing Executive Area	Number of properties	Total Estimated Cost (£)
Belfast	231	2,102,930
South East Area	204	1,435,752
South Area	173	1,424,482
West Area	147	966,966
North East Area	124	798,560
Total	879	£6,728,690

TABLE 3 - PRIVATE LANDLORD PROPERTIES USED IN 2009/10, BY AREA OFFICE

Housing Executive Area	Number of properties	Total Estimated Cost (£)
Belfast	231	1,888,065
South East Area	220	1,419,000
South Area	173	1,324,142
West Area	147	903,903
North East Area	124	746,480
Total	895	£6,281,590

The Housing Executive believes this demonstrates value for money as:-

- the Housing Executive has a statutory responsibility to provide temporary accommodation for those who find themselves homeless.
- there are around 20,000 homeless applications annually. Over 50% (around 10,400) met all the legislative homeless criteria and were full duty applicants.
- typically about 20% of those people who present as homeless are placed into temporary accommodation, which equates to around 4,000 annually.

- Housing Benefit covered approximately £5.7m (in 2011/12) of the estimated amount which is approximately 75% of the total cost.

Notes

*The Housing Executive has advised that, given the transient nature of this group, costs given can only be estimates as not all properties are occupied at all times and not all tenants are on full housing benefit. It should also be noted that the figures on temporary accommodation will fluctuate on a daily basis and are dependent on demand.

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 Waiting List

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the changes in the number of people on the housing waiting list in the (i) North Down Borough Council; and (ii) Ards Borough Council areas in each of the last 12 months.

(AQW 9371/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by District Council area. However, the attached table details the Waiting List for the Housing Executive's District Offices in Bangor and Newtownards at the end of March and June 2011. These are the most up to date figures currently available.

District Office	31 March 2011		30 June 2011	
	Applicants	Applicants in Housing Stress	Applicants	Applicants in Housing Stress
Bangor	1,884	960	1,879	960
Newtownards	1,811	1,092	1,811	1,092

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance have had their benefit (a) reduced; or (b) withdrawn in each of the last three years; and (ii) how many appealed the decision.

(AQW 9698/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) The information is not available in the format requested, the table below details the number of customers who had their rate of entitlement to Disability Living Allowance maintained, reduced or disallowed following a supersession* of their award, in each of the last the last three years.

Year	Number of Disability Living Allowance awards where the rate of entitlement was maintained, reduced or disallowed following a review
2008/09	4,092
2009/10	4,201
2010/11	3,953

* A supersession is a review of an existing award instigated by the customer or the Department as a result of a change in a customer's circumstances.

- (ii) The information is not available in the format requested; the table below details the number of customers who lost their entitlement to Disability Living Allowance on application of a renewal claim, in each of the last three years.

Year	Number of Disability Living Allowance Renewal claims disallowed
2008/09	3,277
2009/10	2,523
2010/11	2,522

- (iii) Appeals are received from applicants who have been unsuccessful in their application for Disability Living Allowance (nil awards) and also from those who have been awarded the benefit but are dissatisfied with the level of award made. Information on Disability Living Allowance appeals is recorded on an overall number basis and is not distinguishable by the circumstances of the decision under appeal, therefore, it is not possible to quantify how many applicants who had their benefit reduced or withdrawn subsequently progressed to appeal. The table below details the number of Disability Living Allowance appeals determined in each of the last three years.

Year	Number of Appeals Determined in the Appeal Service
2008/09	5,753
2009/10	5,147
2010/11	4,607

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.

Properties in the North Down Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of vacant (i) Housing Executive properties; (ii) Housing Association properties; and (iii) private residential properties in the North Down constituency, broken down by electoral ward
(AQW 9732/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In relation to (i) the information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by electoral ward. However, Table 1 below details the vacant Housing Executive properties within the Housing Executive's Bangor District Office area which covers the North Down constituency. In relation to (ii) Table 2 details the vacant Housing Association properties by electoral ward for the North Down constituency.

However, in relation to (iii) my Department does not hold this information and the Department of Finance and Personnel has provided Table 3 which details the number of vacant domestic properties by electoral ward for the North Down constituency. The figures in Table 3 are as at 18 March 2012 and exclude vacant domestic properties whose accounts are recorded as NIHE, Housing Associations or Public Bodies.

TABLE 1 - NUMBER OF VACANT HOUSING EXECUTIVE PROPERTIES IN THE BANGOR DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

Estate/Area	Number of vacant properties
Bloomfield/Rathgill/Willowbrook	9
Clandeboyne Road	1

Estate/Area	Number of vacant properties
Conlig/Breezemount	3
Groomsport	1
Kilcooley	31
Lisnabreen	3
Loughview	11
Redburn	2
Woodlands	1
Total	62

TABLE 2 - NUMBER OF VACANT HOUSING ASSOCIATION PROPERTIES IN THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY

North Down Electoral Wards	Number of vacant properties
Groomsport	2
Ballyholme	2
Bangor Castle	1
Harbour	1
Conlig	3
Silverstream	3
Rathgael	1
Hollywood Priory	1
Hollywood Demesne	2
Donaghadee North	2
Total	18

TABLE 3 * - NUMBER OF VACANT DOMESTIC PROPERTIES BY ELECTORAL WARD FOR THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY.

North Down Electoral Wards	Number of Vacant Properties
Ballycrochan	23
Ballyholme	61
Ballymacconnell	20
Ballymagee	23
Bangor Castle	57
Bloomfield	19
Broadway	44
Bryansburn	45
Churchill	51

North Down Electoral Wards	Number of Vacant Properties
Clandeboyne	31
Conlig	68
Craigavad	54
Crawfordsburn	44
Cultra	61
Dufferin	28
Groomsport	75
Harbour	158
Hollywood Demesne	67
Hollywood Priory	50
Loughview	28
Princetown	79
Rathgael	43
Silverstream	34
Spring Hill	22
Whitehill	32
North Down	1,217

* Information was provided by DFP and excludes vacant domestic properties whose accounts are recorded as NIHE, Housing Associations or Public Bodies.

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.

Standard of Loft Insulation

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 8614/11-15, to detail (i) the percentage of (a) Housing Executive; and (b) Housing Association homes fitted with the highest standard of loft insulation, that is, more than 150mm; and (ii) what plans the (a) Housing Executive; and (b) Housing Associations have to upgrade their entire estate to the 150mm standard.

(AQW 9807/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive and Housing Associations do not routinely collate these details. However, excluding dwellings without lofts that do therefore not need loft insulation, for example, non-traditional stock such as flats, maisonettes, flat-roofed houses etc, the Housing Executive has estimated that approximately 60,000 of their stock need loft insulation brought up to a 150mm+ standard. Those homes requiring upgrading will have this work carried out as they work through their stock during External Cyclical Maintenance, heating replacement and other schemes.

Excluding those dwellings that do not have lofts, the majority of Housing Associations have advised me that over 80% of their stock meets or exceeds the 150mm depth of insulation. Housing Associations in general have advised me that they plan to upgrade loft insulation in either this or the next financial year where viable, or within heating upgrade schemes (such as Cosy Homes schemes) or as part of planned maintenance work. In addition other Housing Associations have confirmed that all their stock already

meets the 150mm standard and a significant number exceeds this level. For example, Alpha, Gosford, Habinteg, Newington, South Ulster and St Matthews Housing Associations confirm that 100% of their properties meet a minimum of 150mm.

Warm Homes Schemes

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Social Development whether any specific fuel poverty or warm home schemes are available for people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), given the nature of the illness and the home heating requirements of people with MS.

(AQW 9872/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are no fuel poverty schemes specifically targeted at people with Multiple Sclerosis. My Department's Warm Homes Scheme provides a range of insulation and heating measures to vulnerable households including those who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. People aged 60 and over who are suffering from Multiple Sclerosis or any other illness or disability can also benefit from the Winter Fuel Payment scheme.

Providing Papers to an Assembly Committee

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development to detail all occasions in the last 12 months when his Department has made a presentation to an Assembly committee and provided papers pertaining to that presentation to the committee less than 48 hours beforehand.

(AQW 9973/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is included in the table below:

Briefing	Papers to Committee	Date of SDC Meeting
Supporting People (Special Needs Management Allowance)	15 March 2012	15 March 2012
Consultation Bereavement Benefit for the 21st Century	6 March 2012	8 March 2012
Helm Housing Association	11 January 2012	12 January 2012
Charities Amendment Bill	18 October 2011	20 October 2011
NIHE Review	14 June 2011	16 June 2011

Community Care Grant Applications

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development, for each district council area, to detail (i) the number of Community Care Grant applications made during the timeframe attached at Annex 2 of the '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 meeting on 26 January 2012; (ii) the total value of the applications; (iii) the number of successful applications; (iv) the total value of the grants awarded; (v) the level of grant initially awarded to each recipient; (vi) the number of appeals; and (vi) the amount awarded to each recipient on appeal.

(AQW 10052/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is set out in the table below.

- (i) Column 2 details the total number of Community Care Grant applications, for each district council area.
- (ii) Column 3 details the total value of applications made. .
- (iii) Column 4 details the number of successful applications.
- (iv) Column 5 details the total value of Community Care Grants awarded.

(v) The amount of money initially awarded to each recipient could only be obtained at disproportionate cost as this would involve checking in excess of 27,000 individual applications.

(vi / vii) Whilst a customer may request an internal review of an unfavourable decision made by a Social Fund Officer and subsequently an independent review by the Office of the Social Fund Commissioner, the number and subsequent amount of such reviews is not routinely recorded in the format requested.

TABLE OF COMMUNITY CARE GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS MADE IN 2010/2011 YEAR BY COUNCIL AREA

Local Government District	No of Community Care Grant applications*	Total amount applied for (£)	No of Successful Community Care Grant Applicants*	Total Amount Awarded for successful applications (£)
Antrim Borough Council	837	1,016,000	477	250,000
Ards Borough Council	880	1,189,000	384	229,000
Armagh City and District Council	952	1,091,000	542	294,000
Ballymena Borough Council	925	1,274,000	496	269,000
Ballymoney Borough Council	529	573,000	309	130,000
Banbridge District Council	703	930,000	377	200,000
Belfast City Council	12,970	15,674,000	7,617	3,927,000
Carrickfergus Borough Council	705	859,000	385	197,000
Castlereagh Borough Council	641	948,000	294	181,000
Coleraine Borough Council	1,199	1,290,000	630	293,000
Cookstown District Council	939	1,101,000	570	276,000
Craigavon Borough Council	2,706	2,932,000	1,502	738,000
Derry City Council	5,109	6,329,000	3,370	1,726,000
Down District Council	2,150	2,625,000	1,335	664,000
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	1,415	1,701,000	829	430,000
Fermanagh District Council	1,116	1,302,000	694	267,000
Larne Borough Council	710	782,000	363	179,000
Limavady Borough Council	1,007	1,074,000	556	250,000
Lisburn City Council	2,793	3,517,000	1,645	910,000
Magherafelt District Council	767	874,000	491	238,000
Moyle District Council	372	421,000	227	111,000

Local Government District	No of Community Care Grant applications*	Total amount applied for (£)	No of Successful Community Care Grant Applicants*	Total Amount Awarded for successful applications (£)
Newry and Mourne District Council	2,093	2,767,000	1,207	649,000
Newtownabbey Borough Council	1,526	1,901,000	855	439,000
North Down Borough Council	816	1,074,000	347	200,000
Omagh District Council	1,175	1,372,000	746	278,000
Strabane District Council	1,654	1,872,000	1,005	368,000
Total	46,689	56,489,000	27,253	13,695,000**

* People can make multiple applications throughout the year. This is particularly pertinent when divided by population estimations as it could result in 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.

Housing Executive Properties: Home Insurance

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Social Development whether a Housing Executive tenant is required to have (i) home buildings insurance; and (ii) home contents insurance.

(AQW 10067/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that buildings insurance is not a matter for their tenants. A “Your Rights and Responsibilities” booklet advises that the Housing Executive is responsible for the structure of a tenant’s home. However, the Housing Executive strongly recommends that tenants arrange for insurance of the contents of their home so that they will be protected against accidental damage, loss or theft; they advise tenants that they can arrange house contents insurance through any bank, building society or insurance agent.

As the uptake of home insurance is low the Housing Executive routinely runs publicity campaigns on the benefits of home insurance. In addition their annual Housing News publication for tenants regularly features an article on the need to have home contents insurance.

Pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme (i) when a full evaluation will commence and be completed; and (ii) when a new scheme will be launched.

(AQW 10132/11-15)

Mr McCausland: An evaluation of the pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme has commenced and will be completed by the end of April. Once the evaluation has been completed I hope to be in a position to make an announcement about future schemes.

Training Departmental Staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development what strategy is in place to train departmental staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(AQW 10154/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is covered in the First Aid at Work course attended by all Departmental first aiders. The Departmental policy is that there should be at least 2 first aiders per 50 members of staff. There is no formal CPR strategy in place and it was not identified as an issue in the overall assessment completed for the provision of first aid.

Restrictions on Members of the Travelling Community Who Are Residing in Housing Executive Properties

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development, in the interests of safety and good relations, whether he will introduce legislation to (i) impose restrictions on members of the travelling community, who are residing in Housing Executive properties, in relation to using roads and other areas within the vicinity of the property as illegal caravan parks and camps which cause obstruction to other residents; (ii) restrict the number of vehicles, including caravans, per traveller household, particularly where space is limited; and (iii) require travellers to relinquish caravans in lieu of a Housing Executive property and refrain from placing caravans outside or around the property.

(AQW 10173/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Regional Development (DRD) is the authority with the responsibility and statutory competence for regulation of the public high way (adopted roads). It is understood that there is presently roads legislation in place which deals with obstruction of the highway and road safety.

With regard to restricting the number of vehicles, including caravans, per Traveller household and requiring Travellers to relinquish caravans in lieu of a Housing Executive Tenancy it should be noted that The Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 prohibits discrimination on a number of grounds and specifically identifies the Irish Traveller community as a racial group. The Housing Executive must allocate accommodation held by it in accordance with the rules of the statutory Housing Selection Scheme.

Against this background, it should be understood that members of the Travelling Community hold NIHE tenancies on exactly the same terms and conditions as those held by a member of the settled community. All tenants regardless of what community they belong to are obliged by their tenancy not to park or allow to be parked any caravan, boat, vehicle or other items or goods within the curtilage or neighbourhood of the dwelling in such a position or in such a manner as to cause a nuisance or annoyance to the occupiers of any neighbouring or adjoining premises. Any person who does so in such a manner or in a position to cause a nuisance or annoyance will be in breach of their tenancy agreement with the Housing Executive.

One-Bed Properties in the Social Housing Sector in the Coleraine District Office Area

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of one-bed properties in the social housing sector in the Coleraine District Office area; and (ii) as of 1 March 2012, how many were available to let.

(AQW 10178/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has 291 one-bed properties, five of which were available to let at 1 March 2012. Housing Associations have advised there are 310 one-bed properties in the Coleraine District Office area and at 1 March 2012 there were none available to let.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Warm Homes Scheme, whether it is possible for people to top up the costs that exceed the maximum value of the grant available or whether it is an all or nothing scheme; and to outline the rationale for this position.

(AQW 10215/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The policy intention of the Warm Homes Scheme is to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of vulnerable people who are on low income. Since the Warm Homes Scheme was introduced in 2001, householders have never been able to provide a financial top up when the grant limit was exceeded as the scheme is targeted at those on low income.

Provision of Services in our Divided Society

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development for an estimate of the annual additional cost to his Department of providing its services in our divided society, broken down by (i) capital; and (ii) revenue costs.

(AQW 10217/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Due to the diverse nature of services provided by this Department and the number of variables involved, it is not possible to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development when he intends to table the Welfare Reform Bill.

(AQW 10220/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I intend shortly to seek Executive Agreement to my proposals to bring forward a Welfare Reform Bill for Northern Ireland. The Welfare Reform Bill will contain enabling provisions introducing Universal Credit.

Ballee Lands, Ballymena

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Ballee lands, Ballymena (i) why his Department did not negotiate resale to the former owners, given it had at least one such offer, instead of moving to disposal through offers by tender; (ii) how this course is compatible with the Land and Property Services (LPS) guidelines on disposal of surplus land; (iii) whether the land will be disposed of by tender at a price below the LPS valuation, given that an offer from a former owner was refused on this basis; (iv) if the offers by tender fall below the offer rejected from the former owner, what action his Department will take; (v) why, given considerations of transparency, his Department chose to proceed by way of offers by tender, rather than sale by public auction; and (vi) whether his Department will publish the amounts offered by tender.

(AQW 10302/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The lands referred to are situated at Ballee Road East in Ballymena.

- (i) My department did seek to negotiate the sale of the land back to the former owners and their successors in title. On two occasions, in September 2009 and July 2011, offers were received but the amounts offered fell short of the Land and Property Services (LPS) estimate of the market value of the land at those times and the offers were rejected. It was only after my department failed to negotiate a mutually acceptable price with the former owners for a second time that it moved to dispose of the land.
- (ii) This course of action is in accordance with the procedure set out in the LPS guidelines on the disposal of public sector property.
- (iii) Only one valid tender in the format required by my Department was submitted by the closing date for tenders. The amount offered fell well short of the LPS current estimate of the value of the land and has been rejected.

- (iv) At this time, no acceptable offers have been received from either the former owners or the open market. Since this set of circumstances is not covered by the LPS guidelines on the disposal of public sector property, my department will be taking advice on what the next step in the disposal process should be.
- (v) The decision to dispose of the land by way of offers by tender was taken on advice from the LPS and the commercial estate agent engaged to handle the disposal property. It was considered that this was the method which was most likely to secure the best price for the land in light of the current market conditions and known interest in the site.
- (vi) No, since this information is commercial-in-confidence and disclosure would hinder my department's efforts to secure the best price for the land at a future date.

Sick Absence Guidance

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline his Department's guidelines for departmental staff who are unable to work because of an illness.

(AQW 10320/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The main guidance relating to staff unable to attend work due to illness is contained in the NICS HR Handbook – Chapter 3.10: Sickness Absence and Chapter 6.06: Inefficiency – Sickness Absence. This NICS-wide policy provides an appropriate balance between the needs of the service and the needs of individuals when dealing with sickness absence. This guidance applies to all NICS employees, including Department for Social Development staff.

In line with this policy and the NICS People Strategy, my Department developed its own Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan for 2010 – 2013. This provides an innovative and holistic approach to health and wellbeing under the key themes of Prevention, Early Intervention and Responsibility.

Departmental staff are actively encouraged to take ownership of their own health and to make healthy lifestyle choices. Where possible, they are supported to remain in, or return to, work through timely interventions. Reasonable adjustments are also considered, where appropriate. If an individual becomes ill, managers are encouraged to engage with the officer as quickly as possible. Both line managers and members of staff are encouraged to take responsibility for managing sickness absences and bringing them to the swiftest conclusion. Staff who are unable to maintain an acceptable level of attendance may ultimately be dismissed from the Department in accordance with the NICS Policy. Retirement on medical grounds is also available for staff following professional advice from the NICS Occupational Health Service.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Cost of Refreshments for Assembly Committee Meetings

Mr Allister asked the Assembly Commission what has been the cost of providing refreshments for Assembly Committee meetings in each of the last five years.

(AQW 10009/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The cost of refreshments for Assembly Committees for the last five financial years is as follows;

Year	Cost
2007/08	£28,920
2008/09	£40,763
2009/10	£37,308
2010/11	£37,604

Year	Cost
2011/12	£18,556*
Total	£163,151

* Invoices for March 2012 still to be finalised.

Engagement and Outreach: South Down

Ms Ruane asked the Assembly Commission to outline the number and type of engagements and outreach initiatives that have been undertaken, since January 2011, with organisations in the South Down area.

(AQO 1687/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): In accordance with the Assembly's strategic objective to ensure that its work is accessible to all and communicated widely, the Outreach and Education Service has developed a number of programmes and resources. Engagement is not necessarily based on specific constituencies.

Between May 2007 and the end of January 2012, 126 groups from the South Down constituency comprising of 4,064 people visited Parliament Buildings to participate in the Education Programme. The average number of groups across all constituencies during this period was 100 with an average of 3,228 people. During the same period 1718 people from the South Down constituency participated in tours of Parliament Buildings. The average across all constituencies was 1,716.

The Commission is always looking for new ways to engage as widely as possible and would be happy to receive any suggestions that Members might wish to make. The majority of the functions and many tours within Parliament Buildings are directly sponsored by Members themselves and the Commission is always keen to encourage individual Members to actively participate in bringing members of the public/groups etc. to Parliament Buildings.

Defibrillators at Parliament Buildings

Mr McMullan asked the Assembly Commission to detail (i) the number of defibrillators available at Parliament Buildings; (ii) where they are located; and (iii) how many members of staff are trained in their use.

(AQW 10114/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): I can confirm:

- (i) That there are currently 3 defibrillators available for use in Parliament Buildings.
- (ii) The defibrillators are located in the Blue Flax Restaurant in the Basement; Room 401 within the Finance Office and at the reception desk at the front entrance.
- (iii) There are currently 25 staff trained to use the defibrillators and these include Security Guards, Ushers, front of house staff and staff from various directorates. These staff have all successfully completed the first aid at work certificate.

North South Parliamentary Forum

Mrs D Kelly asked the Assembly Commission when the first formal meeting of the North-South Parliamentary Forum will be held.

(AQO 1680/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): To date, two joint meetings of the North South Parliamentary Forum Working Groups have been held to take forward the ideas and actions generated at the North South Parliamentary Forum Conference in the Slieve Donard Hotel in October 2010. These meetings related to Parliamentary Relationships with Europe and Agriculture and

Rural Development Reform. In addition a number of meetings of the North South Parliamentary Forum Working Group in the Assembly have taken place over the past three months.

The Assembly Working Group has consulted with Party Leaders on draft proposals. When the Assembly Working Group has agreed a position, the Speaker will send it to the Ceann Comhairle for the Oireachtas Working Group to consider. It would be hoped that a Joint Working Group meeting could then be held to discuss and agree future arrangements and meetings.

North South Parliamentary Forum

Ms J McCann asked the Assembly Commission for an update on the establishment of the North-South Parliamentary Forum.

(AQO 1689/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): To date, two joint meetings of the North South Parliamentary Forum Working Groups have been held to take forward the ideas and actions generated at the North South Parliamentary Forum Conference in the Slieve Donard Hotel in October 2010. These meetings related to Parliamentary Relationships with Europe and Agriculture and Rural Development Reform. In addition a number of meetings of the North South Parliamentary Forum Working Group in the Assembly have taken place over the past three months.

The Assembly Working Group has consulted with Party Leaders on draft proposals. When the Assembly Working Group has agreed a position, the Speaker will send it to the Ceann Comhairle for the Oireachtas Working Group to consider. It would be hoped that a Joint Working Group meeting could then be held to discuss and agree future arrangements and meetings.

Cost of Providing Usher and Security Services

Mr Agnew asked the Assembly Commission to detail the cost of employing agency staff as (i) security officers; and (ii) ushers in each of the last three years; and whether, following the Commission's efficiency review, the cost of providing usher and security services will now be taken from the events budget, or included in the price to the customer who made the booking, rather than being taken from the facilities budget.

(AQW 10214/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The cost of employing agency staff for both (i) security officers and (ii) ushers in each of the last three years is as follows:

Year	Cost
2009/10	£1,140,448*
2010/11	£436,840
2011/12	£5,852**

* Considerably higher costs incurred as recruitment campaign for permanent Assembly Commission staff had not been undertaken at this time.

** March 2012 costs still to be included.

The costs are not held by type of staff (i.e. Security or Ushers).

The Commission's Business Efficiency reviews are on-going. The budget for staff costs for Security and Ushers is held by the Facilities Directorate. The vast majority of these costs do not relate to events so there are no plans, at present, to transfer the staff budget for Security and Ushers to the Events budget as this would split the overall budget across a number of organisational business areas with no specific benefit. A number of direct costs are already charged to event organisers and a review of this policy, to consider charging Assembly Commission staff costs, will be informed by any recommendations made by the Business Efficiency review of the Events business area.

Written Answers Index

Department for Regional Development	WA 680	Merger of Stranmillis College with Queen's University, Belfast	WA 558
A5 Road: Compensation for Farmers	WA 680	N + 2 Targets	WA 561
A5 Road Inquiry	WA 687	Presentations to Assembly Committees	WA 556
A5 Road Inquiry	WA 688	Procedures in Further Education Facilities	WA 558
Annual Spend on Road Resurfacing	WA 686	Projects with a Nil Spend on the EU Spend Database	WA 561
Bond Money Held by the Department	WA 682	Queens University and Stranmillis College Merger	WA 554
Bonds Presented to the Department	WA 681	Review of the Freedom of Information Act	WA 559
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 681	Step Ahead Initiative	WA 564
Car Parking Charges in Cookstown	WA 688	Steps to Work Programme	WA 554
Delivery of a Southern Relief Road, Newry	WA 685	St Mary's University College, Belfast	WA 562
Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee	WA 682	Technical Theatre Courses	WA 554
Gritting Schedule	WA 681	Training for Success Contract Providers	WA 557
New Bus Shelters: North Down	WA 682	Training for Success Initiative	WA 558
No 76 Metro Service	WA 683	Training for Success Initiative	WA 558
Parking Problems Associated with Houses of Multiple Occupancy	WA 684	Department for Social Development	WA 689
Parking Problems Associated with Houses of Multiple Occupancy	WA 684	Ballee Lands, Ballymena	WA 699
Provision of Services in our Divided Society	WA 688	Community Care Grant Applications	WA 695
Southern Relief Road Scheme in Newry	WA 685	Disability Living Allowance	WA 691
Southern Relief Road Scheme in Newry	WA 685	Housing Executive Properties: Home Insurance	WA 697
Traffic and Parking Assessments	WA 683	Housing Waiting List	WA 691
Traffic and Parking Assessments	WA 684	One-Bed Properties in the Social Housing Sector in the Coleraine District Office Area	WA 698
Traffic Pressures Between the Belfast Side of Saintfield and the Crossgar Road	WA 680	Pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme	WA 697
Water Charges for Non-Domestic Customers	WA 688	Properties in the North Down Constituency	WA 692
Department for Employment and Learning	WA 554	Providing Papers to an Assembly Committee	WA 695
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 562	Provision of Services in our Divided Society	WA 699
Cost-Effectiveness of Away-Days and Team-Building Exercises	WA 556	Provision of Temporary Accommodation	WA 689
Enrolment Figures for the North West Regional College	WA 559	Restrictions on Members of the Travelling Community Who Are Residing in Housing Executive Properties	WA 698
Enrolment Figures in ICT/Computing	WA 560	Sick Absence Guidance	WA 700
European Social Fund Programme	WA 561	Standard of Loft Insulation	WA 694
European Social Fund Programme	WA 562	Training Departmental Staff in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 698
European Social Fund Programme	WA 562	Warm Homes Scheme	WA 699
European Social Fund Programme	WA 562	Warm Homes Schemes	WA 695
European Social Fund Programme	WA 563	Welfare Reform Bill	WA 699
European Social Fund Programme	WA 563	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	WA 500
European Social Fund Programme	WA 563	Allocation from the European Commission	WA 517
European Social Fund Programme for the Training for Success Initiative: Advisors	WA 558		
Meeting with the Staff of Stranmillis University College, Belfast	WA 554		

Animal Welfare: Greyhound Dogs	WA 503	Advice on Ulster-Scots	WA 523
Badger Diggers	WA 512	Advisory Committee for the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	WA 522
Bovine TB	WA 511	Appointment of Special Advisers	WA 519
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 513	Appointment of Special Advisers	WA 525
Commercial Forest Industry	WA 508	Arts Council Funding	WA 521
Countryside Management Scheme Payments	WA 515	Arts Council Lottery Funding	WA 520
Countryside Management Scheme Payments	WA 516	Big Screen, Derry	WA 523
Crossmaglen Republican Monument	WA 501	Capital Funding for Regional Theatre Venues	WA 521
Crossmaglen Republican Monument	WA 516	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 525
Departmental Advisors to the Beef and Dairy Industries	WA 511	Committee Papers Presented by the Department	WA 522
Departmental Headquarters	WA 517	Consultation on Additional Salmon Fishery Conservation Measures	WA 524
Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee	WA 512	Creative Industries Sector	WA 523
Dog Licensing and Microchipping	WA 513	Decade of Centenaries	WA 520
Eggs Imported into Northern Ireland	WA 509	Grant Funding	WA 520
EU Welfare of Laying Hens Directive	WA 511	Media Communications Protocols	WA 518
Failure to Properly Dispose of Dead Animals	WA 510	Ministerial Attendance at Cultural Events	WA 519
Farm Modernisation Programme	WA 504	Ministerial Meetings	WA 519
Field Boundary Restoration	WA 509	Ministerial Special Adviser	WA 526
Field Boundary Restoration	WA 510	Ministerial Special Adviser	WA 526
Field Boundary Restoration	WA 510	Ministerial Special Adviser	WA 526
Field Boundary Restoration	WA 510	Press Guidelines	WA 518
Genetically Modified Food	WA 508	Press Guidelines	WA 519
Hydro-Electricity Scheme	WA 513	Provision of Services in our Divided Society	WA 524
Hydroelectric Scheme on the River Camowen in Omagh	WA 513	Salmon in the Classroom Project	WA 525
Loughs Agency: Prosecutions	WA 515	Special Adviser	WA 525
Loughs Agency: Prosecutions	WA 515	Special Adviser	WA 525
Loughs Agency: Prosecutions	WA 515	Toome Eel Fishery	WA 524
Loughs Agency: Prosecutions	WA 515		
Microchipping of Dogs	WA 502	Department of Education	WA 526
Netting in Lough Neagh	WA 508	Area Planning Process	WA 539
North-South Ministerial Council Meetings	WA 516	Capital Assets	WA 537
North-South Ministerial Council Meetings	WA 516	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 531
Over-Night Camping	WA 507	Child Protection Clearance	WA 544
Pony Trekking Businesses	WA 504	Coláiste Feirste, Belfast	WA 534
Provision of Services in our Divided Society	WA 516	Cost-Effectiveness of Away-Days and Team-Building Exercises	WA 531
Renewable Energy and Leisure	WA 507	Cycling Proficiency Scheme	WA 526
Rural Tourism	WA 502	Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee	WA 530
The Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	WA 514	Educational Psychologists	WA 534
The Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	WA 517	Education and Skills Authority Bill	WA 531
The EU Fiscal Treaty	WA 500	Education Systems	WA 540
Work Following the Flooding in the South Antrim Constituency in 2008	WA 518	Enrolment Figures	WA 544
		Gaelic Games in Schools	WA 534
		Hurling in Schools	WA 539
		Irish Language in Schools	WA 535
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	WA 518	Middletown Centre for Autism	WA 540
Advice on the Irish Language	WA 522	Middletown Centre for Autism	WA 541

Panel of School Principals	WA 532	Tourism Ireland Funding	WA 571
Post-Primary Education for Children		Tourist Board: Capital Investment	WA 566
Living in the Republic of Ireland	WA 552	Visitors to the Irish Open	WA 578
Primary Schools: Enrolment Numbers	WA 541		
Provision of Services in our Divided Society	WA 541	Department of Finance and Personnel	WA 611
Refurbishment and Repairs at Portadown College	WA 552	2012 Business Cases for North-South Bodies	WA 613
Refurbishment and Repairs at Portadown College	WA 553	Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society	WA 625
School Enrolment Figures	WA 539	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 618
School Financial Deficits	WA 539	Civil or Public Servant's Salaries Paid Through Private Companies	WA 611
Schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board Area Under Formal Intervention	WA 532	Civil or Public Servant's Salaries Paid Through Private Companies	WA 612
Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups	WA 542	Common Strategic Framework	WA 628
Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups	WA 542	Companies Under-Pricing Public Sector Tenders	WA 613
Special Educational Needs Review Reference Groups	WA 543	Complaints About the Special EU Programmes Body's Peace III Managing Authority	WA 623
Substitute Teachers	WA 528	Council Tax Relief for Service Personnel Serving Abroad	WA 620
Sure Start Provision	WA 553	Departmental Appointments to Quangos	WA 618
Sure Start Provision	WA 553	Devolution of Corporation Tax Powers	WA 615
Use of School Buses	WA 530	Former Department Employees	WA 625
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	WA 564	Further Review of the Special EU Programmes Body's Staffing	WA 624
Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society	WA 577	Hamill/Brennan versus DFP Tribunal	WA 614
Belfast International Airport	WA 577	Jobs Created As A Result of Wind Energy Production	WA 611
Belfast International Airport: Police Presence	WA 578	Meetings Attended by Special Adviser	WA 619
Business Improvement Districts	WA 569	Negotiations Between the Irish Bank Officials Association, the Allied Irish Bank and the First Trust Bank: Redundancy	WA 627
Business Start-Ups	WA 565	North-South Ministerial Sectoral Finance Meeting: Job Cuts in the Banking Sector	WA 627
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 571	Number of People of Working Age who are Employed	WA 612
Energy Costs	WA 570	Public Sector Workers Salaries Paid By Private Companies	WA 620
Extracting Gas Onshore	WA 580	Reduction in Income Tax Personal Allowance	WA 614
Fuel Tanker Drivers Strike	WA 579	Reduction in the Top Rate of Tax	WA 615
Geological Survey of Northern Ireland	WA 579	Reform of Apartment Development Management Companies	WA 620
Greyhound Industry	WA 565	Regional Pay for the Public Sector	WA 620
Introduction of Social Tariffs	WA 579	Small Business Rate Relief Scheme	WA 619
InvestNI: Advertising	WA 568	Small Business Rate Relief Scheme	WA 627
InvestNI Funding in the North Antrim Area	WA 572	Special Advisers	WA 614
Irish Open Golf Tournament at Portrush	WA 577	Special EU Programmes Body for Peace III Funding	WA 621
NI 2012 'Our time, Our Place'	WA 579	Suicide	WA 615
North Coast Tourism: Hurling	WA 569	Unemployed People	WA 620
Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive	WA 578		
Presentations to Assembly Committees	WA 571		
Report on the Inquiry into Public Procurement in Northern Ireland	WA 564		
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	WA 564		
Titanic Building and Festival	WA 570		
Tourism Ireland Budget	WA 577		

Vacant Non-Domestic Properties in Larne	WA 613	Group B Streptococcus Infection	WA 633
Vacant Retail Premises in Co Fermanagh	WA 624	Health and Social Care Trusts: Best Practice When Freeing Up Hospital Beds	WA 646
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	WA 628	Human Embryos	WA 628
Abiraterone for Prostate Cancer Patients	WA 655	Impact of Alcohol Intake on Accident and Emergency Departments	WA 646
Abortions	WA 628	Lambrum Tear Surgery	WA 630
Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Alcohol Abuse	WA 647	Lambrum Tear Surgery	WA 630
Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Alcohol Abuse	WA 651	Lambrum Tear to the Hip	WA 629
Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Drug Abuse	WA 647	Mid Ulster Hospital: Salaried Dental Service	WA 652
Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Drug Abuse	WA 651	Minimum Price Structure for Alcohol	WA 643
Accident and Emergency Managers	WA 636	Ministerial Cars and Drivers	WA 658
Accident and Emergency Services at Causeway Hospital	WA 657	Nursing Homes: Running Costs	WA 658
Alcohol Consumption	WA 647	Oasis Dental Care Limited	WA 655
Alcohol Consumption	WA 648	Patients Presented at Accident and Emergency Departments at Acute Hospitals	WA 650
Alcohol Pricing	WA 646	Patients Transferred from the Downe Hospital, Downpatrick to Hospitals in Belfast	WA 644
Alcohol Related Admissions for Accident and Emergency Departments	WA 649	Patients Transferred from the South Down Area to Hospitals in Belfast	WA 645
Ambulance Downtime	WA 641	Pharmacies: Annual Rural Payment	WA 656
Antrim Area Hospital	WA 651	Prisoners Overdosing on Prescription Medicines	WA 636
Assessment of the Main Building at Holywell Hospital, Antrim	WA 643	Provision of Services in our Divided Society	WA 651
Assistance Provided for Families in Which Members Suffer from Mental Health Problems	WA 654	Public Consultation on a UK Plan for Rare Diseases	WA 645
Brain Injuries	WA 654	Rathfriland Fire Station	WA 652
Brain Injuries	WA 654	Respite Services for People with Brain Injuries and Mental Health Problems	WA 654
Cancer Patients in North Antrim	WA 638	Review of Occupational Therapy Provision	WA 655
Children Transferred by Ambulance to the Republic of Ireland for an MRI Scan	WA 632	Screening Programme for Group B Streptococcus	WA 633
Clinical Lead Specialist for Pain Management	WA 628	Slievemore Nursing Unit	WA 656
Collection of School Children's Oral Health Data	WA 658	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Contractors	WA 633
Committee Papers Presented by the Department	WA 629	Termination of Pregnancies	WA 656
Consultants Specialising in Gastroenterology	WA 653	Training: Pain Management	WA 647
Delayed Discharges from the Antrim Area Hospital	WA 649	Treatment in Hospitals in Great Britain	WA 634
Dementia Services	WA 651	Triage Process for Patients at Accident and Emergency Departments	WA 637
Departmental Appointments to Quangos	WA 631	Victims of Human Trafficking	WA 637
Departmental Staff Paid Over £100,000 Per Annum.	WA 652	Waiting Times in Accident and Emergency Departments	WA 637
Encouraging Shops to Display Healthy Foods	WA 653	Department of Justice	WA 659
		Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society	WA 676
		Airport Constabulary Officers	WA 676
		Airport Constabulary Officers Based at Belfast International Airport	WA 677

Analysis of Evidence by Forensic Science NI	WA 670	Review of Police Injury Award Arrangements	WA 673
Badger Baiting	WA 660	Rural Crimes	WA 680
Cannabis Factories	WA 677	Sexual Offences Prevention Orders	WA 662
Case of Ewa Pietrzycka	WA 661	Thomas Ward	WA 668
Case of Gerry McGeough	WA 673	White Cigarettes	WA 667
Case of Gerry McGeough	WA 675	White Cigarettes	WA 667
Cases of Barry Boardman and Francis Peter Carleton	WA 677	Department of the Environment	WA 580
Complaints Against Prison Service Officers	WA 673	Aarhus Convention in Northern Ireland	WA 589
Contraband Items in Prisons	WA 663	Access to the Belfast Hills	WA 607
Deliberate Damage to Prisons Caused by Inmates	WA 671	Antrim, Ballymena and Larne Area Plan 2016	WA 608
Detecting Drugs in Prisoners	WA 669	AQW 6675/11-15	WA 598
Detecting Drugs in Prisoners	WA 676	Badger Baiting	WA 599
Driving Without Insurance	WA 659	Built and Natural Heritage Assets	WA 609
Exit Surveys at Magherafelt and Strabane Magistrates Courts	WA 679	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	WA 607
Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004	WA 672	Collection of Recyclable Waste from Schools	WA 580
Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004	WA 672	Convictions for Breaches of Tree Preservation Orders	WA 590
Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004	WA 673	Cycling Proficiency Scheme in Schools	WA 597
Full-Body Imaging Scanners in HMP Maghaberry	WA 680	Delay in Answering Questions	WA 591
Full-Body Imaging Scanners in Prisons	WA 676	Departmental Appointments to Quangos	WA 600
Gerry McGeough	WA 667	Dipped Headlights	WA 585
Gerry McGeough	WA 674	District Councils: Legal Services	WA 587
Human Trafficking	WA 674	Employment of Independent Advisors or Consultants	WA 599
Human Trafficking	WA 679	EU Rules and Regulations on Invasive Alien Species	WA 588
Hydebank Wood	WA 678	Extension of the Ulster Way	WA 586
Incident in HMP Maghaberry on 30 June 2011	WA 660	Homes for Life	WA 598
Juvenile Cases	WA 671	Hydraulic Fracturing	WA 586
Legal Highs	WA 670	Hydroelectric Scheme on the River Camowen, Omagh	WA 606
Magistrates' Court Cases: Forensic Evidence Delays	WA 662	Illegal Car Parks	WA 591
Marian Price's Cell and Exercise Area	WA 679	Illegal Drinking	WA 605
Monitoring Convicted Youth Offenders on Day Release	WA 675	Improved Use of Buildings in Rural Areas	WA 598
Offensive Weapons in Prisons	WA 672	Landslide Incident in the Marlborough Terrace Area of Londonderry	WA 599
Policing Partnerships	WA 668	Mandatory requirements for Taxi Drivers	WA 593
Political Prisoners	WA 677	Marine Bill	WA 588
Pre-Sentence Reports	WA 667	Marine Bill	WA 588
Prisoners Convicted of Murder or a Sexual Offence	WA 660	Marine Bill	WA 608
Prisoners on Day Release	WA 678	Media Communications Protocols	WA 597
Prison Service's Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme	WA 661	National Cycling Proficiency Scheme	WA 593
Prison Service Staff: Personal Protection	WA 660	Non-Farming Rural Dwellers	WA 595
Proposed Closure of Courthouses	WA 678	North-South Electricity Interconnector	WA 611
Recipients of Legal Aid Payments	WA 679	Planning Permission	WA 596
Release of Sex Offenders	WA 660	Planning Permission	WA 604
		Planning Process: Renewable Energy	WA 610
		Planning Service Meetings	WA 606
		PPS 21	WA 608

PPS21 Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance	WA 607	Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan	WA 494
Presentations to Assembly Committees	WA 602	Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan	WA 495
Review of Public Administration	WA 609	Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan	WA 496
Road Safety	WA 597	Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse	WA 491
Road Safety: Cyclists	WA 608	Landslide Incident in the Marlborough Terrace Area of Londonderry	WA 492
Road Safety Education Officers	WA 592	Legislative Programme	WA 490
Sprucefield Centre Limited Planning Application	WA 602	Media Communications Protocols	WA 490
Staff Responsible for Access to the Countryside	WA 603	Minority Ethnic Development Fund	WA 498
Taxi Licences	WA 583	New Victims and Survivors Service	WA 499
Tourism Issues	WA 603	NI Memorial Fund and the Victims and Survivors Service	WA 488
Vehicle Tax Renewal Fees	WA 596	One Plan for the Regeneration of the North West Area	WA 499
Water Management and Pollution of the Quoile River	WA 594	Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at Maze/Long Kesh	WA 488
Woodland	WA 595	Programme for Government: Early Intervention	WA 493
Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	WA 700	Regeneration of Fort George	WA 488
Cost of Providing Usher and Security Services	WA 702	Services Tendered for the Opening of the Ebrington Barracks Site	WA 487
Cost of Refreshments for Assembly Committee Meetings	WA 700	Social Investment Fund	WA 489
Defibrillators at Parliament Buildings	WA 701	Underspend by the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund	WA 487
Engagement and Outreach: South Down	WA 701	WAVE Trauma Centres	WA 491
North South Parliamentary Forum	WA 701	Youth Unemployment	WA 489
North South Parliamentary Forum	WA 702		
Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	WA 487		
Answers to Assembly Questions	WA 498		
Appointment Process: Police Ombudsman	WA 492		
Appointment Process: Police Ombudsman	WA 492		
Assembly Written Questions	WA 498		
Average Cost of Childcare	WA 497		
Child Poverty	WA 487		
Cost of Providing Services	WA 499		
Costs of Opening the Peace Bridge in Derry	WA 499		
Delay in Answering Questions	WA 491		
Departmental Appointments to Quangos	WA 498		
Department's Presentation to an Assembly Committee	WA 497		
Draft Programme for Government	WA 488		
Ethnic Minority Development Fund	WA 489		
Forum for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Abuse	WA 489		
Funding for Minority Ethnic Communities	WA 490		
Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited's One Plan	WA 493		



Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

Online

www.tsoshop.co.uk

Mail, Telephone, Fax & E-mail

TSO

PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522

Fax orders: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: customer.services@tso.co.uk

Textphone 0870 240 3701

TSO@Blackwell and other Accredited Agents

ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

© Copyright Northern Ireland Assembly Commission 2012

ISBN 978-0-339-70246-2



9 780339 702462