

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 8 June 2012**

**Volume 75, No WA3**



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

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McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)  
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Murphy, Conor (Newry and Armagh)  
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Newton, Robin (East Belfast)  
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Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)  
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Swann, Robin (North Antrim)  
Weir, Peter (North Down)  
Wells, Jim (South Down)  
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 8 June 2012

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### **Decontamination Contract for Fort George**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why AQW 10588/11-15 was transferred to the Minister for Social Development for answer when there is a clear commitment in the Programme for Government for their Department to ensure that the decontamination programme at Fort George is complete in 2013/14.

**(AQW 10715/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** The additional information requested by the Member fell within the remit of DSD and therefore responsibility for provision of the answer lies with the Minister for Social Development.

#### **Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People's Action Plan 2008-2011**

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People's Action Plan 2008-2011, including what actions were completed and what actions are outstanding.

**(AQW 10914/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Progress against the six outcomes in the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People is monitored on an ongoing basis through a range of indicators. A mid-term review of progress against these indicators was published in March 2012.

An assessment of progress on the activities included in the 2008-11 Action Plan is ongoing and will be completed by the end of August 2012. However, it is intended that future work to implement the Children and Young People's Strategy will focus on a smaller number of cross-cutting and strategic objectives which are additional to existing work across government and which will be implemented in the context of the Delivering Social Change framework.

#### **Social Investment Fund**

**Mr Spratt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Social Investment Fund.

**(AQW 11882/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** As you will be aware, the Social Investment Fund was subject to a public consultation in late 2011 and, in light of the views expressed, we brought proposals on the final operation of the Fund to the Executive on 17 May 2012.

We are pleased that at this meeting, Executive Ministers agreed the three key elements central to its operation; the Social Investment Zones, the process for nominating and selecting members of the Steering Groups and the basis on which areas within a zone will be eligible for consideration of an intervention.

The Fund will operate across nine Social Investment Zones, which we revisited to now include all areas from the start, given how strongly this emerged in the consultation. The nine zones will include four in Belfast (Assembly constituencies), one in Derry/Londonderry and four others aligned to the Health and Social Care Trust & Children and Young People Strategic Partnership boundaries.

However, we must balance this with the need to ensure that Funds are not diluted to the point of minimal impact and, as such, eligibility criteria will be applied to areas within each zone. This will help ensure that monies are targeted at areas of objective evidenced need.

Steering Groups will be established within each zone to oversee the identification and prioritisation of objective evidenced need and to co-ordinate a strategic area plan with proposed interventions to address such need.

We are therefore giving further thought to a number of methods of investment through SIF although the primary delivery of funding will be through the area plans.

More details on the composition of the steering groups and eligibility criteria are on the OFMDFM website. We will continue to provide updated information on the website as we progress this work.

### **Public Bodies Sponsored by Departments**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 10973/11-15, (i) to list the public bodies sponsored by their Department; and (ii) how many public bodies are sponsored by other Departments.

#### **(AQW 11909/11-15)**

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The public bodies sponsored by our Department are as follows:

- Commissioner for Children and Young People;
- Commission for Victims and Survivors for NI;
- Commissioner for Older People for NI;
- Community Relations Council;
- Equality Commission for NI;
- Ilex Urban Regeneration Co Ltd;
- Strategic Investment Board Ltd;
- NI Judicial Appointments Commission;
- NI Memorial Fund;
- Planning and Water Appeals Commissions; and
- Victims and Survivors Service.

Information on the public bodies sponsored by other departments 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.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/public-appointments-annual-report-2010-2011.pdf](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/public-appointments-annual-report-2010-2011.pdf) or from the Assembly Library (reference number R351.41609 NOR).

### **Boards of Public Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 10973/11-15, how many of the 60 board members who do not have a civil or public service background are (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid.

#### **(AQW 11910/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The information provided to you in response to AQW 10973/11-15 was incorrect. Eighteen former civil and public servants are serving on the Boards of public bodies sponsored by our Department. This equates to 22.50% of the total number of Board members. Seventeen of these Board members are paid (21.25%) and one is unpaid (1.25%). Please accept our apologies for this error.

Of the remaining sixty-two Board members, seventeen are paid and twenty-one are unpaid. Twenty-four current civil or public servants hold Board positions either in an ex officio or representative position or in their own right.

### **Steering Groups for Social Investment Fund Zones**

**Mr Spratt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the timescale for the establishment of the steering groups for Social Investment Fund Zones, including the (i) proposed dates for public meetings for nominations from community and voluntary groups; (b) dates for the completion of officials' analysis to determine political party membership; (iii) dates for the nomination of statutory members; and (iv) dates for the nomination of business members.

**(AQW 11928/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** On 17 May 2012, Executive Ministers agreed the operation of the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and work has now begun to establish the Steering Group in each Zone. It is hoped to have these structures in place during summer 2012.

In that regard, our officials are actively working to identify suitable dates to hold public meetings and it is likely that these will take place over the coming weeks. Final details of dates and venues will be published on the OFMDFM website in due course and key community and voluntary organisations will also be advised of the dates when they have been scheduled.

During this time we will also commence the process of identifying the political make up of the Groups and inviting political parties to confirm membership.

Similarly, our officials will be inviting nominations from appropriate statutory bodies and approaching key business organisations over the coming weeks with a view to having Steering Groups in place by autumn 2012 to begin the area planning process.

### **Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the four work strands of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre; and what public engagement has been conducted in relation to each strand.

**(AQW 11945/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The four work strands of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at Maze/Long Kesh will be:

- 1 International Exchange
- 2 Education, Research, Teaching and Training
- 3 Exhibition Space and Archive
- 4 Shared Location and Facilities

Officials in the Maze/Long Kesh Programme Delivery Unit established 6 Reference Groups to help outline the functions and work strands of Peace Centre. Some 65 local organisations are involved in the Reference Group process and officials have also met with a range of international organisations based in the US and Europe.

Plans for the Peace Centre are at an early stage and further extensive stakeholder engagement will be undertaken in due course to ensure all aspects of the Centre will be considered and approached sensitively.

## Appointment of Members to the Permanent Forum for Victims and Survivors

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in relation to the appointment of members to the permanent Forum for Victims and Survivors, to detail (i) the processes and procedures used to appoint members; (ii) how they will ensure that a full and balanced representation of victims and survivors is achieved; and (iii) when the permanent Forum will be officially established and its membership announced.

**(AQW 11971/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The establishment of the Forum is a statutory responsibility of the Commission for Victims and Survivors and as a result neither Ministers nor officials were involved in the selection process.

The first sitting is scheduled to take place on 21 June 2012.

## Public Servants in Department's Arm's-Length Bodies

**Mr Gardiner** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of their Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity.

**(AQW 12161/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Three former civil servants who held Deputy Secretary grade are currently serving on the Boards of public bodies sponsored by our Department. All three hold paid positions.

## Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to their Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.

**(AQW 12162/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Our Department currently sponsors thirteen bodies, including two independent statutory office holders to whom the arm's length principle is applied for financial management and corporate governance purposes. The comparative figures for 2008 to 2011 are as follows:

2008	12
2009	13
2010	14
2011	12

## Review of Public Administration

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what powers or functions they plan to devolve to local councils under the Review of Public Administration; and whether this represents a change to their previous commitments.

**(AQW 12265/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We currently have no plans to devolve any powers or functions to local councils under the Review of Public Administration from OFMDFM. This is in line with our previous commitment.



## Government Advertising

**Mr McClarty** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they has considered the impact on local weekly newspapers from limiting government advertising to government websites.

**(AQW 12270/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** No decision has been taken to limit government advertising to government websites.

The Executive has agreed to introduce tight controls on advertising expenditure, open classified advertising up to competition and change the legislation to allow greater use of online and other media for classified advertising. Opening up classified advertising to competition will ensure compliance with procurement regulations and deliver better value for money. In the current financial climate, advertising expenditure is subject to the same scrutiny and control as other areas of expenditure.

## Sickness Absence Levels

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the percentage of sickness absence in their Department in each of the last three years; and the agreed target rate of sickness as set out in any memoranda of understanding between their Department and the trade unions.

**(AQW 12286/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** OFMDFM absence rates for the last three years for which validated figures are available are presented below, alongside results for the NICS as a whole for the purposes of comparison. Departmental target rates are not set out in any memorandum of understanding with the trade unions, but are included here for information.

	2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011	
	OFMDFM	NICS	OFMDFM	NICS	OFMDFM	NICS
Sickness absence (%)	6.8 days (3.1%)	11days (5.0%)	7.6 days (3.4%)	11days (4.9%)	5.4 days (2.4%)	10.4 days (4.7%)
Target rate	8.5 days	10.2 days	8.5 days	9.5 days	8.2 days	10.5 days

## Planning Appeals Commission

**Mr Givan** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made by the Planning Appeals Commission in creating an efficient organisation which can effectively deal with its workload in a timely manner.

**(AQO 2101/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Planning Appeals Commission is an independent tribunal Non-Departmental Public Body. Given its independent tribunal status, its Chief Commissioner has been asked to provide a response directly to you, and we understand that she has written to you in the following terms:

“The commitment of Commissioner resources to work referred by the Department of the Environment (draft Development Plans and Major proposals) combined with a prolonged increase in the number of appeals from the period 2005–2008 made the task of the Commission very challenging. However, the Commission has risen to this challenge and at 31 March 2012 the Commission had reduced its historic backlog of appeals from 2,834 in 2007/08 to 353.

There has been a significant improvement in the median times taken to process appeals over the same period. Median times have been reduced by 54 weeks for hearings, 57 weeks for written representations with an accompanied site visit and 58 for written representations.

Earlier this year the Commission delivered the final part of the report into the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Public Inquiry to the Department as well as its report on the Public Examination of the Banbridge,

Newry and Mourne Area Plan. These very complex tasks required the commitment of 7 full-time Commissioners over a prolonged period to consider thousands of objections. The Commission currently has 3 Commissioners committed to consideration of objections to the Northern Area Plan. The Public Examination was completed in March 2012 and the Commissioners would hope to present their report to the Department by the end of 2013.

The Commission has committed a considerable amount of its resources to addressing the large volume of major proposals which were referred from the Department of the Environment. At present the Commission has 3 major proposals for consideration, which has reduced from 14 major proposals in early 2010.

The Commission continue to utilise its resources efficiently to meet its targets and to deliver a fair, efficient and effective appellate service to the public. I would be happy to provide any further information you require arising out of this response or to meet with you to discuss the matter if that would be more suitable”.

### **Devolution of Corporation Tax Powers**

**Ms Gildernew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the discussions which are taking place on the devolution of Corporation Tax powers.

**(AQO 2104/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We attended the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Working Group on 7 March, and since then, officials from DFP, DETI and OFMDFM have met with HM Treasury and HMRC six times to continue work to establish, with clarity, the costs, administrative changes and the potential legislative vehicle for transferring responsibility for the rate of Corporation Tax. The Joint Ministerial Working Group is expected to meet again on 25 June where we will assess progress, and decide on the most appropriate way forward. The aim of the Group is to report to the UK Government in summer 2012, and a decision will be taken following this.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### **Rural Development Funding to Refurbish the Republican Monument in Crossmaglen**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what advice her Department received from the European Commission on the proposal to use Rural Development Funding to refurbish the republican monument in Crossmaglen; and what action has been taken, or will be taken, as a result of that advice.

**(AQW 11474/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** My Department is in receipt of correspondence from the European Commission about funding of projects under the Rural Development Programme, and the views expressed have been passed to SOAR.

Confirmation of the decision from the SOAR JCC is awaited.

### **Relocation of Forest Service Headquarters**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what is the projected cost of the proposed relocation of Forest Service headquarters from Stormont to Co. Fermanagh.

**(AQW 11921/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I announced at Balmoral Show on 17th May 2012 that I had asked the Chief Executive of the Forest Service to identify suitable premises in Fermanagh for the relocation of the headquarters of his Agency to that County.

This is an important project that will require careful research, planning and execution to ensure a successful outcome – the costs and benefits of which are a major consideration.

At this early stage it is too early to estimate what the costs will be. These will be identified as the project develops.

### **Forest Service Staff**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Forest Service staff will relocate with the Service to Co. Fermanagh.

**(AQW 11922/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I announced at Balmoral Show on 17th May 2012 that I had asked the Chief Executive of the Forest Service to identify suitable premises in Fermanagh for the relocation of the headquarters of his Agency to that County.

There are 61 posts based in Belfast. Although there is some work to be done to separate out HQ functions from operational functions associated with eastern forests, over time I expect most of these posts to transfer to the new HQ in Fermanagh.

As part of the relocation process existing HQ staff will be given the opportunity to move to the new HQ. It is too early to say how many staff will wish to take up this offer.

### **Forest Service Staff**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what assurances she can give to Forest Service staff who are unable, or unwilling, to move with the Service to Co. Fermanagh; and whether these staff will be offered alternative posts within her Department.

**(AQW 11923/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I announced at Balmoral Show on 17th May 2012 that I had asked the Chief Executive of the Forest Service to identify suitable premises in Fermanagh for the relocation of the headquarters of his Agency to that County.

Following my announcement, DARD Permanent Secretary sent a letter to all Forest Service Staff reassuring them that DARD HR will work closely with NICS Corporate HR to use the elective transfer process to ensure that Forest Service staff not wishing to move are given an opportunity to move to another Department, while at the same time staff from other NICS Departments are provided the opportunity of transferring into DARD to avail of the move. Staff were advised, however, that although the Department and the rest of the NICS will do all it can to ensure that staff will be accommodated during the process, it may not be possible to provide posts in all individual circumstances.

Staff were also advised that Secretary had written separately to Trade Union Side to confirm that there would be full consultation on matters affecting their members throughout the process.

An initial meeting between Forest Service management and NIPSA representatives took place on 21st May 2012.

### **Relocation of Forest Service Headquarters**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what is the proposed timescale for the relocation of the Forest Service to Co. Fermanagh.

**(AQW 11924/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I announced at Balmoral Show on 17th May 2012 that I had asked the Chief Executive of the Forest Service to identify suitable premises in Fermanagh for the relocation of the headquarters of his Agency to that County.

This is an important project for the Forest Service that will require careful research, planning and execution to ensure a successful outcome.

At this early stage I have not set timescales but my intention is that the move take place sooner rather than later. This is important to remove uncertainty and allow staff and the organisation to plan more effectively.

### **Board Members of Public Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many former civil and public servants are employed as (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid board members of public bodies which are sponsored by her Department; and what this figure is as a proportion of the total number of board members.

**(AQW 11949/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I can confirm that 17 former civil servants and public servants are employed as board members on public bodies sponsored by my Department, 8 in a paid capacity and 9 in an unpaid capacity. Former civil servants represent 17% of the total number of board members and former public servants 19%.

### **Apprenticeship Programmes**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the apprenticeship programmes available within her Department; (ii) the apprenticeship programmes provided by her Department; (iii) the number of people currently enrolled in these programmes; and (iv) the number of places available on the programmes.

**(AQW 12007/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** There are currently no apprenticeship programmes provided within DARD. In the 2009/10 period DARD participated in the Programme-Led Apprenticeship programme and identified a number of work placements across the Department. However, there was no up-take by prospective participants and the programme has not been repeated within the Department since. Should demand arise in the future for work placements my Department will be happy to reconsider its position.

### **Funding Awarded to Wind Farm Related Projects**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much Rural Development Programme funding has been awarded to wind farm related projects in the last three years, broken down by project.

**(AQW 12011/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** In the past three years the Rural Development Programme has not funded any wind farm related projects. However under the Axis 3 measures letters of offer worth £27,145 have issued for 9 feasibility studies to test the viability of erecting wind turbines in certain areas. Additionally 1 wind turbine installation has been completed under Measure 3.1 with grant assistance paid totalling £30,900.

### **Boards of Department's Arm's Length Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of her Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity.

**(AQW 12071/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I can confirm that 2 former senior civil servants from the deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade serve on 2 boards of my Department's arm's length bodies, both in a paid capacity.

## **Countryside Management Scheme**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 11486/11-15, what steps her Department is taking to encourage and promote further uptake of the Countryside Management Scheme.

**(AQW 12135/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Countryside Management Scheme closed to applications in 2006 and no further uptake will be promoted. However in 2010, my Department received 4800 applications to the NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) which are being considered for progression to agreement stage. In September 2011, I announced that approximately 2300 of these applications would be progressed in two phases with approximately 1000 signed in 2012 and 1300 in 2013. Initially 1200 applicants were invited for face-to-face meetings and 990 attended these interviews. Following this, 717 applicants have been issued with agreements. In autumn 2012 work will be progressing to take forward the next tranche of NICMS applications to agreement stage. These applicants will be encouraged to sign agreements during a second phase of face-to-face meetings with Countryside Management Delivery Advisers.

## **Countryside Management Scheme**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 11486/11-15, what steps her Department is taking to simplify the Countryside Management Scheme, and thereby increase participation in the Scheme.

**(AQW 12136/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Countryside Management Scheme closed in 2006 and my Department has no plans to simplify this scheme. However, during inspections of the 2010 NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) claimants it was discovered that there was a high level of non-compliance and over-declaration. As a result my Department has taken steps to help farmers manage their scheme agreement more easily. For example, DARD offered face-to-face interviews to around 1200 farmers who applied to NICMS in 2010. Similar support will be offered to the next phase of applicants to be progressed later this year. These interviews aim to encourage uptake and participation in the scheme. DARD is also implementing a programme of communication activities to help agri-environment scheme participants follow the rules of the scheme more easily. This programme provides information to help farmers to comply with scheme rules and, in particular, has targeted areas where a high level of non-compliance was detected during inspection. Additional information has been provided in scheme literature and on the DARD website. Information events were held for new NICMS participants in April 2012 and 227 farmers attended these events. In addition, 4630 agri-environment scheme participants attended scheme training during 2011-12.

## **Countryside Management Scheme**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 11486/11-15, what targets her Department has set for the uptake of the Countryside Management Scheme.

**(AQW 12138/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Countryside Management Scheme closed in 2006 and no further applications will be accepted. However in 2010, my Department received 4800 applications to the NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS). In September 2011, I announced the target that approximately 2300 of these applications would be progressed to agreements by the end of the current Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013. We hoped to achieve this in a two-stage process with approximately 1000 agreements signed in 2012 and approximately 1300 more in 2013.

## Agri-Food Industry

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how the Agri-Food Strategy Board and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise will work together to ensure that the agri-food industry has access to a pool of potential employees with the appropriate skills.

**(AQW 12148/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My department and I recognise that having access to an appropriately skilled workforce is important for the future development of the local agri-food industry.

As you are aware, our College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) already seeks to ensure that those entering and those currently employed in the agri-food industry have the appropriate competences and skills. It is encouraging to see record numbers of students enrolling for full-time courses at CAFRE, particularly in agriculture and food.

Moving forward, it seems likely that skills will be one of the issues considered by the new Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB). I have nominated David Small, the DARD Deputy Secretary with responsibility for CAFRE, as one of the Government representatives on the AFSB. This will facilitate the Board's consideration of any skills issues relevant to CAFRE education and training provision.

The AFSB Chair, Tony O'Neill also chairs the Future Skills Action Group, which was established to address the skills needs in the food and drink processing sub-sector. I understand that this Group is due to publish its action plan shortly.

## Department Staff: Inishkeen House, Enniskillen

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many departmental staff are based in Inishkeen House, Enniskillen, broken down by (i) grade; and (ii) community background.

**(AQW 12156/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** There are 95 Departmental staff based in Inishkeen House, Enniskillen. The breakdown by grade is set out in the table below. The Department does not retain information on community background of its staff. Such information is collected by the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is used by the NI Civil Service for monitoring purposes as required under the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998. The examination of individual offices by community background is not carried out.

Administrative Assistant (Casual)	1
Administrative Assistant	9
Administrative Officer	21
Agricultural Inspector Grade II	1
Agricultural Inspector Grade III	4
Deputy Principal	1
Divisional Veterinary Officer	1
Executive Officer I	1
Executive Officer II	3
Forest Officer Grade III	10
Forest Officer II	3
Inspector Group 1	15
Inspector Group 2	10

Inspector Group 4	4
Staff Officer	1
Support Grade Band 2	1
Typist	1
Veterinary Officer	5
Veterinary Officer Testing	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>

### Incidents Involving Exotic Pests and Diseases of Bees

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many incidents involving exotic pests and diseases of bees have been reported to her Department by the National Bee Unit, in each of the last four years; (ii) to detail the nature of each incident; and (iii) what action was taken by her Department in each case.

**(AQW 12440/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** There have been no incidents involving exotic pests and diseases of bees reported to my Department by the National Bee Unit, within the last four years.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### Spectrum Centre: Funding from the Arts Council

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given that the Spectrum Centre did not receive funding from the Arts Council under its Annual Funding Programme, how she will address the lack of arts funding in North Belfast and, in particular, the Greater Shankill area.

**(AQW 11154/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** My Department's funding in support of the arts is disbursed by the Arts Council through a number of funding programmes. This funding is not allocated on the basis of area but on the merits of the application to the relevant funding programme.

Organisers are free to apply to any relevant competitive funding streams, and funding may be made available provided the organisation and event are eligible, the event/proposal fits the criteria of the given programme and the application scores well in what are generally highly competitive funding rounds.

Funding allocated to North Belfast for 2012-13 totals £3.7m to date. The Arts Council will continue to respond to applications for funding from the area through any and all of its programmes.

### Irish Football Association's Facilities Strategy

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the consultation process that was undertaken in drawing-up the Irish Football Association's Facilities Strategy.

**(AQW 11572/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Neither the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure nor Sport Northern Ireland holds this information. The Irish Football Association (IFA) is responsible for any consultation process undertaken in relation to its Facilities Strategy.

## Allocation of Funding for Association Football Stadia

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what independent oversight there will be as part of the allocation of funding for association football stadia.

**(AQW 11573/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Around £36m for football's strategic stadium needs at sub-regional level was endorsed by the Executive on 10 March 2011 on the basis that it should be taken forward as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period (2015).

There is a process to be followed in taking forward sub-regional stadium developments. The IFA is currently working with Sport NI to develop a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) outlining football's sub-regional needs. This will provide initial statements of strategic aims, business needs and project objectives. Once completed the SOC will be considered by the Department and DFP prior to the production of Outline Business Cases (OBC) for the various projects within the sub-regional development programme. These OBCs will be used to inform bids for funding in the next CSR. Should funding be secured a process of allocation will be devised at that point. I am determined that through the allocation process funding is utilised to provide the best value possible to sport and football in the North of Ireland.

## Funding Applications for the Association Football Stadia

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what criteria will be used to determine the funding applications for the association football stadia; and if weight will be given to sporting needs, social needs and public access.

**(AQW 11574/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Around £36m for football's strategic stadium needs at sub-regional level was endorsed by the Executive on 10 March 2011 on the basis that it should be taken forward as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period (2015). The IFA (with the help of Sport NI) are working on a Strategic Outline Case outlining the areas where sub-regional funding might be required. Funding has still to be secured for sub-regional development therefore allocation criteria have yet to be developed.

## SportNI Staff

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number and grade; and (ii) the salary cost of SportNI staff appointed to the team supporting the Programme Director of the Regional Stadium Development Programme; and to detail the recruitment or appointment process.

**(AQW 11601/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** There are 6 Sport NI staff in the team currently supporting the programme director, 2 at Deputy Principle grade, 3 at Staff Officer grade and 1 at Executive Officer II grade. The total salary cost of these staff is £227, 793 not including National Insurance or Employer Pension contributions. Arrangements are in hand to move these staff from the SportNI stadium team to DCAL.

## Apprenticeship Programmes

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the apprenticeship programmes available within her Department; (ii) the apprenticeship programmes provided by her Department; (iii) the number of people currently enrolled in these programmes; and (iv) the number of places available on the programmes.

**(AQW 12008/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Programme-Led Apprenticeship (PLA) programme was introduced by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in September 2009, as an intervention measure to assist young people who have been unable to find employment as apprentices during the economic downturn. NICS Departments contribute by providing work placements for participants on the PLA programme. While



DCAL does not currently provide placements my Department remains committed to providing work placements for participants on the PLA programme.

### **Foras na Gaeilge**

Mr Hussey asked Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) why Foras na Gaeilge has acquired the services of a public relations agency when it already has a press officer; (ii) whether she was consulted in advance of the arrangement being agreed; and (iii) what is the total value of the contract.

**(AQW 12188/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** At present Foras na Gaeilge does not have a press officer in post within its organisation.

Sponsor Department Ministers were not informed by Foras na Gaeilge about its intention to engage a public relations agency. It is not normal practice to inform Ministers about operational matters.

Foras na Gaeilge has advised that the total value of the contract is €78,408 over a 12-month period (from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012).

### **Cultural Gifts Scheme**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given that she is due to be given the power to decide whether an object should be accepted under the proposed Cultural Gifts Scheme, whether she has any plans to issue Northern Ireland specific guidance on the definition of 'pre-eminent property'.

**(AQW 12203/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** As you will be aware the Westminster Government is proposing to introduce a Cultural Gift Scheme which is intended to encourage a culture of philanthropy and charitable giving.

Offers to donate an object which is 'pre-eminent' or associated with an historic building will initially be made to the Arts Council England. A panel of expert advisors will consider if the object is pre-eminent and make a recommendation to me if the object is of interest to the north of Ireland. I will then determine if the object is significant enough to be accepted under the Scheme.

I am of the opinion that, as the Westminster Legislation clearly defines what 'pre-eminent property' is, there is no need to issue specific guidance for the north of Ireland. The exact definition is attached at Annex A.

## **Department of Education**

### **New Builds for Ebrington Primary School and Foyle College, Londonderry**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education when he will make an announcement on capital projects, such as the new builds for Ebrington Primary School and Foyle College, Londonderry.

**(AQW 11458/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** As you will be aware the work on area planning is being taken forward at this time and will in due course identify priorities for capital investment. However, in the interim I recognise there is a need to ensure capital funding is utilised to improve the schools estate.

Therefore I have asked officials to consider an interim process for the identification of major school projects, which are consistent with and supportive of the Area Planning work and in which capital investment can be made in the coming period.

I would hope to be in the position to confirm an interim capital investment plan before the summer. Until then I cannot comment on any individual school proposal.

## Cross-Border Survey

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education whether the results of the cross-border survey that he is undertaking jointly with the Dublin Government's Minister for Education and Skills, will be used to inform wider consideration within his Department in relation to measuring parental preference.

**(AQW 11665/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The results from the cross border planning survey will allow both my Department and the Department of Education and Skills to understand the practical impact of legislative and administrative changes which would render schools more accessible to residents on both sides of the border in response to parental preference. The survey results should enable effective estimations of immediate demand from parents to inform school planning to meet local need.

## Enrolment Numbers in Education and Library Board Areas

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the total maximum enrolment number in each Education and Library Board area, in each of the last three years, broken down by (a) year group; and (b) sector; and (ii) how this compares with the total maximum enrolment number for the 2012/13 academic year.

**(AQW 11765/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The maximum (i.e. approved) enrolment number in each Education and Library Board broken down by sector (i.e. management type) for the 2009/10 to 2012/13 school years are detailed in the tables below.

It should be noted that schools are set a maximum approved admissions number for year 1 (primary schools) and year 8 (post primary schools) only; these are also detailed in the attached tables. So long as a school does not exceed its approved enrolment number there is no restriction on the number of children in other year groups (other than years 1 and 8). It is for this reason that the Department does not hold any data in relation to the number of places available in any school broken down by year group.

**APPROVED ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2009/10 TO 2012/13 BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TYPE**  
**2009/10**

		Education and Library Board																
		Belfast			Western			North Eastern			South Eastern			Southern			Total	
Management type	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Enrol	
Controlled	2,354	14,920	1,654	11,635	4,192	29,462	3,758	25,927	2,651	18,585	2,651	18,585	14,609	100,529				
Catholic Maintained	2,431	17,212	3,905	27,849	2,159	15,300	2,098	14,585	3,923	27,906	3,923	27,906	14,516	102,852				
Other Maintained	201	1,367	93	496	81	378	33	232	94	581	94	581	502	3,054				
Controlled Integrated	84	588	9	63	233	1,673	217	1,588	20	140	20	140	563	4,052				
Grant Maintained Integrated	87	609	144	1,073	186	1,309	171	1,147	193	1,219	193	1,219	781	5,357				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>34,696</b>	<b>5,805</b>	<b>41,116</b>	<b>6,851</b>	<b>48,122</b>	<b>6,277</b>	<b>43,479</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>48,431</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>48,431</b>	<b>30,971</b>	<b>215,844</b>				

**2010/11**

		Education and Library Board																
		Belfast			Western			North Eastern			South Eastern			Southern			Total	
Management type	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Enrol	
Controlled	2,246	14,101	1,654	11,635	4,153	29,128	3,772	26,021	2,652	18,632	2,652	18,632	14,477	99,517				
Catholic Maintained	2,425	17,213	3,892	27,777	2,152	15,240	2,092	14,570	3,910	27,671	3,910	27,671	14,471	102,471				

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Other Maintained	202	1,388	93	521	93	446	33	232	94	582	515	3,169
Controlled Integrated	84	588	9	63	233	1,673	217	1,589	20	140	563	4,053
Grant Maintained Integrated	87	609	153	1,109	186	1,312	178	1,224	197	1,244	801	5,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,044</b>	<b>33,899</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>41,105</b>	<b>6,817</b>	<b>47,799</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>43,636</b>	<b>6,873</b>	<b>48,269</b>	<b>30,827</b>	<b>214,708</b>

**2011/12**

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Controlled	2,201	13,795	1,646	11,589	4,096	28,800	3,739	25,809	2,663	18,713	14,345	98,706
Catholic Maintained	2,289	16,194	3,900	27,802	2,152	15,247	2,050	14,253	3,926	27,737	14,317	101,233
Other Maintained	202	1,379	105	550	96	469	33	232	106	624	542	3,254
Controlled Integrated	84	588	9	63	286	2,047	225	1,630	20	140	624	4,468
Grant Maintained Integrated	87	609	153	1,119	186	1,309	178	1,240	197	1,249	801	5,526
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>32,565</b>	<b>5,813</b>	<b>41,123</b>	<b>6,816</b>	<b>47,872</b>	<b>6,225</b>	<b>43,164</b>	<b>6,912</b>	<b>48,463</b>	<b>30,629</b>	<b>213,187</b>

2012/13

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Controlled	2,235	14,057	1,650	11,618	4,133	29,067	3,723	25,739	2,675	18,721	14,416	99,202
Catholic Maintained	2,289	16,187	3,633	25,990	2,133	15,097	2,036	14,205	3,932	27,704	14,023	99,183
Other Maintained	202	1,414	108	550	96	533	36	232	113	630	555	3,359
Controlled Integrated	84	588	9	63	286	2,047	226	1,660	20	140	625	4,498
Grant Maintained Integrated	87	609	162	1,137	186	1,309	182	1,269	197	1,263	814	5,587
Total	4,897	32,855	5,562	39,358	6,834	48,053	6,203	43,105	6,937	48,458	30,433	211,829

**APPROVED ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENTS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2009/10 TO 2012/13 BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TYPE**

2009/10

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Controlled	1,063	6,320	1,147	6,695	2,761	15,685	2,092	11,842	2,836	12,277	9,899	52,819
Voluntary	2,080	14,556	1,196	8,660	1,343	9,170	981	6,870	1,288	8,545	6,888	47,801

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Catholic Maintained	1,545	9,449	2,274	12,650	1,392	7,615	992	5,210	2,430	13,374	8,633	48,298
Other Maintained	100	585	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	585
Controlled Integrated	0	0	0	0	225	1,135	245	1,300	90	450	560	2,885
Grant Maintained Integrated	270	1,590	296	1,780	360	2,220	440	2,580	170	1,000	1,536	9,170
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>4,913</b>	<b>29,785</b>	<b>6,081</b>	<b>35,825</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>27,802</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>35,646</b>	<b>27,616</b>	<b>161,558</b>

2010/11

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Controlled	953	5,760	1,147	6,695	2,751	15,685	2,016	11,422	2,836	12,277	9,703	51,839
Voluntary	2,080	14,556	1,191	8,590	1,253	8,560	981	6,855	1,283	8,525	6,788	47,086
Catholic Maintained	1,545	9,419	2,264	12,540	1,340	7,465	992	5,210	2,396	13,269	8,537	47,903
Other Maintained	100	585	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	585
Controlled Integrated	0	0	0	0	225	1,135	245	1,300	90	450	560	2,885

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Grant Maintained Integrated	270	1,625	296	1,780	360	2,220	440	2,580	170	1,000	1,536	9,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>31,945</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>29,605</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>35,065</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>27,367</b>	<b>6,775</b>	<b>35,521</b>	<b>27,224</b>	<b>159,503</b>

2011/12

Education and Library Board												
Management type	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Controlled	944	5,760	1,093	6,445	2,751	15,765	2,016	11,422	2,826	12,327	9,630	51,719
Voluntary	2,076	14,556	1,191	8,570	1,253	8,560	981	6,855	1,308	8,560	6,809	47,101
Catholic Maintained	1,543	9,394	2,264	12,535	1,340	7,465	992	5,210	2,496	13,694	8,635	48,298
Other Maintained	100	585	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	585
Controlled Integrated	0	0	0	0	225	1,135	245	1,300	90	450	560	2,885
Grant Maintained Integrated	270	1,625	296	1,780	360	2,220	440	2,580	170	1,000	1,536	9,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,933</b>	<b>31,920</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>35,145</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>27,367</b>	<b>6,890</b>	<b>36,031</b>	<b>27,270</b>	<b>159,793</b>

2012/13

Management type	Education and Library Board											
	Belfast		Western		North Eastern		South Eastern		Southern		Total	
	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol	App Adm	App Enrol
Controlled	899	5,508	1,093	6,445	2,751	15,765	2,016	11,422	2,836	12,327	9,595	51,467
Voluntary	2,046	14,556	1,191	8,570	1,253	8,560	981	6,855	1,308	8,560	6,779	47,101
Catholic Maintained	1,543	9,394	2,264	12,535	1,340	7,465	992	5,210	2,497	13,759	8,636	48,363
Other Maintained	100	585	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	585
Controlled Integrated	0	0	0	0	225	1,135	245	1,300	90	450	560	2,885
Grant Maintained Integrated	270	1,625	296	1,780	360	2,220	440	2,580	170	1,000	1,536	9,205
Total	4,858	31,668	4,844	29,330	5,929	35,145	4,674	27,367	6,901	36,096	27,206	159,606

**Notes:**

1 App Adm = Approved Admissions Number

2 App Enrol = Approved Enrolment Number

**Source:**

3 School Access Team



## Systems for Checking School Spending

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, in the light of the recent Public Accounts Committee report which stated that the systems for checking school spending were not robust enough, whether he intends to review the current practice in Northern Ireland as a matter of urgency.

**(AQW 11997/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** We are always seeking to ensure improved accountability. Administrative and funding structures differ greatly with England, however if there are any similarities to the North of Ireland we will ensure that any relevant lessons learned and good practice are accommodated.

## Nursery Provision

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, given that 92 percent of nursery schools inspected are rated as good to outstanding, whether he is considering an extension of nursery provision as a means of raising standards when reviewing the 0-6 strategy.

**(AQW 11998/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I wish to ensure that the revised Early Years 0-6 Strategy has a specific focus on raising standards. Pre School provision currently operates as a partnership between the statutory and voluntary/private sectors and I have recently restated my commitment to this mixed pattern of provision which has many strengths.

Recent reports by the Chief Inspector of the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) highlight strengths and improving standards in both the statutory and voluntary/private sectors. The ETI plays an important role not only in measuring and monitoring standards uniformly across both sectors but also, through the Together Towards Improvement quality indicators, encourages continuous self-evaluation aimed at raising standards across all funded early years provision.

While quality has been improving in the voluntary/private sector, the 2006-08 and 2008-10 Chief Inspector Reports and the Audit Office report on the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme, published in June 2009, highlighted the effect the lower per place funding allocation in the voluntary/private sector could have on the quality of provision.

In April I announced that an additional £1.3m will be available on a recurrent basis to voluntary and private providers, which equates to £150 per funded place, in order to maintain and sustain rising standards in the voluntary/private sector.

In addition, I continue to invest in and expand statutory nursery provision where and when appropriate. However, each development proposal for the establishment of new provision must be carefully considered on the basis of all the information pertinent to the individual case.

Whilst I recognise the important role of statutory nursery provision, in revisiting the strategy I intend to focus on the needs of the child, rather than particular sectors.

## Health and Safety Training Courses

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 11289/11-15, for each of the last three years, to detail the health and safety training courses available and the number of participants, broken down by Education and Library Board area.

**(AQW 12027/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is as follows:

**BELFAST EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (BELB)**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Participants 2009/10</b>	<b>Participants 2010/11</b>	<b>Participants 2011/12</b>
Abrasive Wheels	-	-	13
Circular Saw	14	-	17
Circular Saw Refresher	33		29
Metal Turning	-	-	12
Mig Welding	-	-	10
Oxy-Acetylene Welding	-	-	4

**SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (SEELB)**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Participants 2009/10</b>	<b>Participants 2010/11</b>	<b>Participants 2011/12</b>
Abrasive Wheels	-	-	36
Abrasive Wheels Refresher	-	-	60
Circular Saw and Bandsaw	14	-	4
Circular Saw and Bandsaw Refresher	22	101	16

**SOUTHERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (SELB)**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Participants 2009/10</b>	<b>Participants 2010/11</b>	<b>Participants 2011/12</b>
Abrasive Wheels Refresher	4	-	-
Circular Saw and Bandsaw (Wadkin)	-	12	-
Circular Saw and Bandsaw Refresher (Felder)	79	13	85
Circular Saw and Bandsaw Refresher (Wadkin)	-	60	25
General Workshop Maintenance for Technicians	13	-	-
Milling Machine	52	-	-
Woodturning Health and Safety Course	-	6	-

**North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB)**

The NEELB has not directly provided health and safety training; however, where schools have identified a need, the Board has outsourced the required training through the BELB, SEELB or SELB as most appropriate.

**Western Education and Library Board (WELB)**

The WELB did not provide any health and safety training courses over the last three years. The WELB is aware of its responsibilities in this area and has taken steps to meet its commitments in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

The NEELB's and the WELB's provision is currently under review.

### Capital and Recurrent Budget

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how much was spent from the (i) capital; and (ii) recurrent budget on school buildings in each of the last five years in the Down District Council area.

(AQW 12028/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Capital and recurrent expenditure on school buildings in each of the last 5 years in the Down District Council area is shown below:

	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent
Controlled	1,905,495	458,334	1,307,850	432,566	1,677,847	440,348	396,508	678,075	1,726,974	596,707
Maintained	1,718,478	552,691	1,645,472	601,338	579,925	1,242,146	778,950	712,325	2,487,273	617,279
VGS & GMI	(a)	N/K (b)	4,237,723	N/K	5,454,079	N/K	1,591,980	N/K	362,781	N/K
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,330,207</b>	<b>1,011,025</b>	<b>7,191,045</b>	<b>1,033,904</b>	<b>7,711,851</b>	<b>1,682,494</b>	<b>2,767,438</b>	<b>1,390,400</b>	<b>4,577,028</b>	<b>1,213,986</b>

(a) Furniture & Equipment required for Voluntary Grammar Schools and Grant Maintenance Integrated Schools is funded through the capital budget.

(b) Maintenance funding for Voluntary Grammar Schools and Grant Maintenance Integrated Schools forms part of schools' Local Management of School (LMS) block grant.

### Capital and Recurrent Budget

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how much was spent from the (i) capital; and (ii) recurrent budget on school buildings in the (a) controlled; and (b) maintained sectors in each of the last five years, in the Down District Council area.

(AQW 12029/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Capital and recurrent expenditure in the controlled and maintained sector in each of the last 5 years in the Down District Council area is shown below:

	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent
Controlled	1,905,495	458,334	1,307,850	432,566	1,677,847	440,348	396,508	678,075	1,726,974	596,707
Maintained	1,718,478	552,691	1,645,472	601,338	579,925	1,242,146	778,950	712,325	2,487,273	617,279

## Investment Delivery Plan

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the current status of the new builds for the schools that were fully compliant in the Investment Delivery Plan.

**(AQW 12032/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In answering this question it has been assumed that you are referring to the Review of Major Capital Projects completed in June 2010, which assessed all capital projects in the IDP against the Sustainable Schools Policy criteria. The objective was to ensure that the proposals remained consistent with the Department's policy framework and hence viable and sustainable in the long term. Projects were categorised as fully compliant, partially compliant or non-compliant.

I would stress that this provided a snapshot at that point in time and informed the decision which led to the last capital announcement in August 2010. The current status of the new build projects for those schools classed as fully compliant projects at the time of the review are detailed in the table below.

Any decisions for new capital investment will be based on the information available now and will be informed by the area planning work currently being undertaken. However, in the interim there is a need to ensure capital funding is utilised to improve the schools estate.

Therefore I have asked my officials to consider an interim process for the identification of major school projects, which are consistent with and supportive of the Area Planning work and in which capital investment can be made in the coming period.

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Status</b>
Taughmonagh Primary School, Belfast	New school completed, January 2012.
Victoria Park Primary School, Belfast	RIBA Stage A/B.
Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt	RIBA Stage A/B.
Scoil na Fuisseoige, Belfast	Construction work progressing on site.
St Colman's Primary School, Lambeg	Construction work progressing on site.
Dromore Central Primary School	RIBA Stage D.
Edendork Primary School, Dungannon	RIBA Stage C.
St Clare's and St Colman's Abbey Primary Schools, Newry	RIBA Stage C.
St Joseph's Convent Primary School, Newry	RIBA Stage D.
St Mary's Primary School Banbridge	RIBA Stage C.
Eglinton Primary School	RIBA Stage C.
Enniskillen Primary School	RIBA Stage C.
Omagh Integrated Primary School	RIBA Stage A/B.
St Conor's Primary School, Omagh	RIBA Stage C.
Colaiste Feirste, Belfast	RIAB Stage C.
Methodist College, Belfast	RIBA Stage A/B.
Strathearn Grammar, Belfast	Construction work progressing on site.
Victoria College, Belfast	RIBA Stage D
Ballymoney High School	RIBA Stage A/B.
Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim	RIBA Stage F/G

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Status</b>
Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt	RIBA Stage A/B.
Bangor Grammar	Construction work progressing on site.
Priory Integrated College/Hollywood Primary School / Hollywood Nursery School	RIBA Stage C.
St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon	RIBA Stage C.
Foyle College /Ebrington Primary School , Derry	RIBA Stage C.

**Notes**

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Work Stages are:

**Preparation**

A Appraisal

B Design Brief

**Design**

C Concept (initial sketch plans and costs)

D Design Development (final sketch plans and costs)

E Technical Design (detailed specifications)

**Pre-Construction**

F Production information (working drawings etc)

G Tender Documentation

H Tender Action

**Construction**

J Mobilisation

K Construction to Practical Completion

**Consultation on the Draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of Education what strategies and projects his Department intends to introduce for early years provision following negative responses received to the consultation on the draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy.

**(AQW 12043/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am currently considering the approach to the revised strategy and will indicate the way forward in due course.

I am committed to working with Ministerial colleagues to enhance the delivery of early years and early intervention services. I recently met with Minister Poots to discuss matters of common interest and we have agreed that officials will progress enhanced collaborative approaches to respective early years services for the benefit of children and their families, taking account of the emerging Delivering Social Change Framework which the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister leads on.

**Early Years Strategy**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of Education what co-operation his Department has had with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department for Social Development to progress an early years strategy.

**(AQW 12044/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am currently considering the approach to the revised strategy and will indicate the way forward in due course.

I am committed to working with Ministerial colleagues to enhance the delivery of early years and early intervention services. I recently met with Minister Poots to discuss matters of common interest and we have agreed that officials will progress enhanced collaborative approaches to respective early years services for the benefit of children and their families, taking account of the emerging Delivering Social Change Framework which the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister leads on.

### **Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 11287/11-15, whether (i) 99 percent of substitute teachers are employed via the Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register; or (ii) 99 percent of substitute teachers employed by schools are on the Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register.

**(AQW 12099/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Substitute Teachers Register (NISTR) usage figure is ascertained by taking the total number of days/hours notified by schools in respect of substitute teachers in a given month and calculating the percentage notified via NISTR.

### **Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 11287/11-15, to detail the timescale for the tender of the Northern Ireland Substitute Teachers Register.

**(AQW 12101/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The current contract for the provision of NISTR runs to 31 March 2013. A procurement competition to award a contract for provision of the service thereafter will be run in the latter half of 2012.

### **Consultation Prior to Changing an Arm's-Length Body to a Non-Departmental Public Body**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 11136/11-15, and given that the Office of National Statistics advice has been in place for some time, why he has chosen to change these bodies to non-departmental public bodies.

**(AQW 12104/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In December 2011, the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) commissioned a review of Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) across all Departments. DFP asked Departments to review existing ALBs and provide details and supporting documentation for those bodies that had not previously been formally classified.

The Department of Education provided information to DFP in respect of four ALBs that had not previously been formally classified. Following the review of the documentation provided, DFP determined the category of each body and informed DE of their decision.

### **10-Day Target for Payment of Invoices**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education which Education and Library Boards, when reporting the number of invoices paid within 10 days, counted the number of days that elapsed from the date the invoice was first received, and which ones used another date as the starting date.

**(AQW 12183/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** When reporting the number of invoices paid within 10 days, all five Education and Library Boards count the number of days that elapse from: the date the invoice was first received at source whether that is the school or ELB office; or the date that a dispute was resolved.

## 10-Day Target for Payment of Invoices

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education whether existing departmental guidance states that all Education and Library Boards, when reporting prompt payment performance figures, should count the days elapsed from the date an invoice is first received.

**(AQW 12184/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Departmental guidance issued to Education and Library Boards (ELBs) states that prompt payment performance should be calculated from the date a valid invoice is first received or from the date that the goods or services are received, if later.

## Education and Library Boards: 10-day Prompt Payment Performance Figures

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Education (i) which Education and Library Boards submitted their 10-day prompt payment performance figures in line with Annex 4.6.3 of Managing Public Money, and reported figures on the basis of working days; and (ii) which Boards changed their reporting period from calendar days to working days.

**(AQW 12186/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** (i) Since April 2010 all five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have submitted their 10-day prompt payment performance figures in line with Annex 4.6.3 of Managing Public Money, reporting on the basis of working days. There was one exception during 2011-12, when one ELB submitted figures on the basis of calendar days for a period of three months. When this was identified, it was quickly rectified and the figures were accurately restated; and

(ii) All ELBs changed their reporting period from calendar days to working days from April 2010.

## Sickness Absence

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of sickness absence in his Department in each of the last three years; and the agreed target rate of sickness as set out in any memoranda of understanding between his Department and the trade unions.

**(AQW 12221/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The level of sickness absence in my Department is measured by the number of days lost due to sickness absence per full time equivalent member of staff. The Department of Finance and Personnel advises Departments of the agreed target rates of sickness absence. No other sickness absence targets are agreed with the trade unions by my Department.

My Department's sickness absence levels for the last three years are as follows:

- 2009/10 - an average of 10.5 days were lost against a target of 8.5 days.
- 2010/11 - an average of 8.3 days lost against a target of 9.9 days.
- 2011/12 absence statistics are not yet available, and will be published by the Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) in September-October 2012

## Admissions Numbers for Ballyholland Primary School, Newry and St Peters, Bessbrook

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Education what steps he intends to take to allow a derogation in the admissions numbers for Ballyholland Primary School, Newry, and St Peters, Bessbrook to ensure that all local children obtain a P1 place.

**(AQW 12238/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The purpose of a school's admissions number is to define precisely the degree to which a school can respond to parental preference. Such limits are very important in maintaining a viable schools estate. Variations to admissions numbers may, therefore, only be granted according to

Department of Education policy for children who otherwise do not have a primary school place available to them within a reasonable distance of their home address.

The Southern Education and Library Board has advised that there are 2 children seeking a place in a maintained primary school in the Newry / Bessbrook area that are currently unplaced and that there are 114 places still available in maintained primary schools which serve pupils living in the area. As there is no shortage of Year 1 places in the Newry / Bessbrook area the Department cannot intervene to approve additional places at either Ballyholland Primary School, Newry or St Peters Primary School, Bessbrook for September 2012. The Department would urge the parents of both unplaced pupils to identify further preferences, from the list of schools with places available provided by the Southern Education and Library Board, to enable them to be placed as quickly as possible.

### **Assessing Schools Which Do Not Use Academic Selection**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education what action his Department intends to take to assess schools in areas such as the north east coast where academic selection is not used to ascertain levels of achievement and levels of achievement of pupils on free school meals, and the benefits of not having selection.

**(AQW 12249/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The latest school leaver survey (for 2010/11) indicates that pupils who are entitled to free school meals (FSME pupils) achieve less favourable outcomes when compared against pupils not entitled to free school meals (non-FSME pupils). Only 31.7% of FSME pupils obtained at least 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C including GCSEs in English and maths compared to 65.1% of non-FSME pupils.

Schools practising academic selection do not admit FSME pupils in the same proportion as schools not practising academic selection. The latest available figures (for 2011/12) show that grammar school enrolments include only 7.1% FSME pupils compared to 27.0% for non-grammar schools.

One of the benefits of not practising academic selection would be that pupils from all social backgrounds would increasingly be able to apply to a school on an equal footing. If schools oversubscribed with applications were to adopt the Department of Education's recommended first criterion for admission in greater numbers, it would help ensure the admission of a proportionate number of FSME pupils. This criterion involves schools guaranteeing a certain number of places for FSME applicants, reflecting the percentage of FSME first preference applications within the total number of first preference applications.

### **Enrolment Numbers**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the post-primary schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area that exceeded their approved enrolment number in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 12253/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The post-primary schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area which have exceeded their approved enrolment number in the last three years are listed in the table attached. These can be schools which have exceeded their numbers with or without the prior approval of the Department.

Schools must seek prior approval of the Department to exceed their approved numbers by way of a temporary variation. Each year the Department completes an exercise to identify schools that have exceeded their approved numbers without prior approval. This exercise requires verified data from the school census and as such has not yet been completed for the 2011/12 school year. This means that there may be other schools that have exceeded their approved enrolment number in the 2011/12 school year of which the Department is not yet aware. If any such schools are discovered, the Department will investigate and can sanction the schools in question in a number of ways including the zero-rating of pupil(s) for LMS purposes or by reducing the admissions number of school in a subsequent school year.



**SEELB POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS - EXCEEDED ENROLMENT NUMBERS****2009/10 – 2011/12 SCHOOL YEARS**

<b>2009/10 School Year</b>	<b>2010/11 School Year</b>	<b>2011/12 School Year</b>
Glastry College	Glastry College	Glastry College
St Columbanus' College	St Columbanus' College	St Columbanus' College
Assumption Grammar School	Assumption Grammar School	Assumption Grammar School
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick
	Priory Integrated College	Priory Integrated College
	Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock	Strangford Integrated College
		Down High School
		Lagan College
		Fort Hill Integrated College

**Enrolment Numbers**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the primary schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area that exceeded their approved enrolment number in each of the last three years. **(AQW 12254/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The primary schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area which have exceeded their approved enrolment number in the last three years are listed in the table attached. These can be schools which have exceeded their numbers with or without the prior approval of the Department.

Schools must seek prior approval of the Department to exceed their approved numbers by way of a temporary variation. Each year the Department completes an exercise to identify schools that have exceeded their approved numbers without prior approval. This exercise requires verified data from the school census and as such has not yet been completed for the 2011/12 school year. This means that there may be other schools that have exceeded their approved enrolment number in the 2011/12 school year of which the Department is not yet aware. If any such schools are discovered, the Department will investigate and can sanction the schools in question in a number of ways including the zero-rating of pupil(s) for LMS purposes or by reducing the admissions number of school in a subsequent school year.

**SEELB PRIMARY SCHOOLS - EXCEEDED ENROLMENT NUMBERS****2009/10 – 2011/12 SCHOOL YEARS**

<b>2009/10 School Year</b>	<b>2010/11 School Year</b>	<b>2011/12 School Year</b>
St Mary's PS, Dunsford	Rowandale Integrated PS	Rowandale Integrated PS
All Children's Integrated PS	All Children's Integrated PS	Crawfordsburn PS
Bangor Central Integrated PS	St Comgall's PS, Bangor	Kirkistown PS
Millennium Integrated PS	Kilmaine PS	

## Pre-School Places

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how many children in the North Down area aged (i) two; (ii) three; and (iii) four are currently enrolled in a pre-school place.

**(AQW 12255/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Information on the numbers of children aged 2 and aged 3 at 1 July 2011 in funded pre-school education located in the North Down constituency is detailed in the table below. Children aged 4 at 1 July 2011 are not included because these children will have attained compulsory school starting age.

### AGE OF CHILDREN IN FUNDED PRESCHOOL PROVISION IN THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY 2011/12

School type	Aged 2	Aged 3	Total
Total	0	970	970

**Source:** School census

**Note:**

- 1 Figures relate to children in funded places in voluntary and private pre-school centres, nursery schools, nursery units and in reception classes in primary schools located in the North Down constituency.
- 2 Age is at 1 July 2011.
- 3 Individual pupil age data are not collected for voluntary and private pre-school settings. Figures included in the total above relate to those children in funded places, who are assumed to be three years old as at 1 July.

## Enrolment Numbers

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

**(AQW 12257/11-15)**

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

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

School Name	Approved Enrolment Number
McKinney Primary School	145
Ballycarrickmaddy Primary School	203
Largymore Primary School	232
Brownlee Primary School	196
Dunmurry Primary School	262
Lisburn Central Primary School	254
Seymour Hill Primary School	256
Tonagh Primary School	228
Ballyvester Primary School	109
Loughries Primary School	102
Grey Abbey Primary School	78

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment Number</b>
Carrickmannon Primary School	100
Newtownards Model Primary School	401
Kirkistown Primary School	125
Castle Gardens Primary School	420
Victoria Primary School	174
Portavogie Primary School	209
Ballywalter Primary School	199
Ballynahinch Primary School	438
Derryboy Primary School	95
Carr Primary School	100
Dundonald Primary School	625
Comber Primary School	409
Castlewellan Primary School	100
Gilnahirk Primary School	445
Anahilt Primary School	300
Dromara Primary School	203
Hollywood Primary School	523
Cregagh Primary School	203
Killyleagh Primary School	175
Crawfordsburn Primary School	221
Victoria Primary School	592
Ballykeigle Primary School	76
Ballyholme Primary School	630
Donaghadee Primary School	466
Lisnasharragh Primary School	447
Clandeboye Primary School	544
Knockbreda Primary School	225
Millisle Primary School	225
Branial Primary School	408
Redburn Primary School	356
Newcastle Primary School	198
Moneyrea Primary School	200
Belvoir Park Primary School	370
Bloomfield Road Primary School	408

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment Number</b>
Cairnshill Primary School	583
Tullycarnet Primary School	552
Lead Hill Primary School	210
Carryduff Primary School	333
Grange Park Primary School	361
Alexander Dickson Primary School	145
Harmony Hill Primary School	588
Derriaghy Primary School	125
Knockmore Primary School	212
Kilcooley Primary School	567
Londonderry Primary School	368
Carrowdore Primary School	194
Rathmore Primary School	552
West Winds Primary School	232
Moira Primary School	390
Towerview Primary School	319
Spa Primary School	200
Andrews Memorial Primary School	531
Old Warren Primary School	305
Killowen Primary School	420
Kilmaine Primary School	615
Academy Primary School	375
Ballinderry Primary School	200
Downpatrick Primary School	200
Killinchy Primary School	350
Abbey Primary School	610
Pond Park Primary School	598
Maghaberry Primary School	227
Ballymagee Primary School	406
Ballymacash Primary School	350
Brooklands Primary School	665
Riverdale Primary School	203
Meadow Bridge Primary School	290
Downshire Primary School, Hillsborough	558

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment Number</b>
Cumran Primary School	203
Glasswater Primary School	97
Ballymacward Primary School	145
Ballymacrickett Primary School	285
St Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn	395
St Joseph's Primary School, Downpatrick	76
Christ the King Primary School	197
St Malachy's Primary School, Downpatrick	69
St Caolan's Primary School, Ballynahinch	90
St Patrick's Primary School, Saul	174
St Francis Primary School, Drumaroad	73
St Joseph's Primary School, Crossgar	163
St Patrick's Primary School, Holywood	316
St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff	436
St Mary's Primary School, Comber	75
St Joseph's Primary School, Newcastle	194
St Patrick's Primary School, Ballynahinch	332
St Patrick's Primary School, Castlewellan	95
St Mary's Primary School, Saintfield	87
St Mary's Primary School, Ardglass	81
St Bernard's Primary School, Belfast	446
St Mary's Primary School Aughlisnafin	166
St Joseph's Primary School, Strangford	91
St Macartan's Primary School, Downpatrick	185
St Anne's Primary School, Donaghadee	76
The Holy Family Primary School	195
St Finian's Primary School, Newtownards	233
St Patrick's Primary School, Portaferry	129
St Mary's Primary School, Killyleagh	219
St Joseph's Primary School, Tyrella	115
St Brigid's Primary School, Downpatrick	266
St Aloysius Primary School, Lisburn	490
St Colman's Primary School, Lambeg	348
St Joseph's Primary School, Killough	112

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment Number</b>
St Malachy's Primary School, Kilcoo	165
St Luke's Primary School, Belfast	665
St Nicholas' Primary School, Ardglass	269
Sacred Heart Primary School	136
St Mark's Primary School, Dunmurry	611
St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor	290
St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor	437
St Colmcille's Primary School, Downpatrick	338
The Good Shepherd Primary School	823
St Mary's Primary School, Kircubbin	291
St Malachy's Primary School, Castlewellan	350
Legamaddy Primary School	202
St Kieran's Primary School, Poleglass	650
St Mary's Primary School, Portaferry	379
Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School	348
Christ the Redeemer Primary School	570
St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle	420
St Ita's Primary School, Belfast	495
Our Lady & St Patrick Primary School	460
Scoil Na Fuisseoige	145
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	87
Kircubbin Integrated Primary School	152
Portaferry Integrated Primary School	101
Bangor Central Integrated Primary School	588
Annsborough Integrated Primary School	85
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	252
Fort Hill Integrated Primary School	240
All Childrens Integrated Primary School	212
Loughview Integrated Primary School	406
Cedar Integrated Primary School	196
Oakwood Integrated Primary School	203
Millennium Integrated Primary School	203
Drumlins Integrated Primary School	116
Rowandale Integrated Primary School	116

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

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2011/12 Approved Enrolment Number</b>
Movilla High School	900
The High School, Ballynahinch	380
Nendrum College	400
Glastry College	600
Lisnagarvey High School	500
Saintfield High School	340
Knockbreda High School	600
Newtownbreda High School	850
Dunmurry High School	400
Laurelhill Community College	948
Dundonald High School	600
Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College	1420
St Mary's High School	600
St Columba's High School, Portaferry	520
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	450
St Columbanus' College, Bangor	500
St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	550
St Patrick's High School, Lisburn	530
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	950
St Colm's High School, Twinbrook	680
De La Salle Secondary School, Downpatrick	430
Priory College	450
Fort Hill College	850
Lagan College	1200
Shimna Integrated College	480
Strangford Integrated College	500
Blackwater Integrated College	400
Regent House School	1450
Down High School	934
Glenlola Collegiate School	1100
Bangor Grammar School	900
Sullivan Upper School	1060
Friends' School	970

School Name	2011/12 Approved Enrolment Number
Wallace High School	1160
Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch	840
St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	665
Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock	1260

### Independent Counselling Service for Schools

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) whether every post-primary school in the North Antrim constituency has a key contact in the Independent Counselling Service for Schools; (ii) how many counsellors operate in the area; and (iii) how many children have been assisted by counsellors since (a) 2007; and (b) 2011.

**(AQW 12279/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Independent Counselling Service for Schools (I.C.S.S.) has been available in grant-aided post primary schools since 2007. The service was extended to cover post primary aged pupils in special schools from January 2011 under a separate contract.

Every school has a key contact. The key contact is a member of a school's staff and is nominated by its Senior Management Team to be the main contact for the counsellor from the ICSS. There are 9 counsellors attached to the ICSS working across the 15 schools in the North Antrim constituency. Each school is allocated a named ICSS counsellor. Schools can supplement this service by buying in counselling support from other sources.

The Department holds records of the number of counselling sessions provided in each school rather than the number of pupils seen. Some 1630 sessions were provided across the 15 schools in each of the years, 2007 to 2011. As most young people receive on average 6 sessions this equates to at least 272 young people in each year who have received counselling support.

### Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education whether he has had any meetings with the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, since May 2011; and what was the subject matter of each meeting.

**(AQW 12298/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have not met with the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove since May 2011. However, I have requested a meeting to discuss changes to A Levels and hope to be in a position to meet prior to recess.

### Irish-Medium Schools

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 11685/11-15, how much was paid by each Education and Library Board for the renting of premises.

**(AQW 12331/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I can advise that the Education and Library Boards have paid a total of £1,275,150.61 in the last 10 years for the renting of premises for Irish-medium schools, broken down as follows:

Board Area	Amount of Rent Paid (£)
Belfast	517,921.00
Western	273,979.48
North-Eastern	119,877.00



<b>Board Area</b>	<b>Amount of Rent Paid (£)</b>
South-Eastern	38,939.92
Southern	324,433.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,275,150.61</b>

### **Curriculum and Advisory Support Services**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) number; and (ii) cost of officers employed in the Curriculum and Advisory Support Services in each Education and Library Board area, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 12337/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The number and cost of officers employed in the Curriculum and Advisory Support Services in each Education and Library Board area, in each of the last five years is as follows:

#### **BELB**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Staff (FTE)</b>	<b>Total Cost Of Staff £000</b>
2007/08	68.4	2937
2008/09	68.64	3224
2009/10	71.54	3318
2010/11	77.02	3428
2011/12	64.65	2831

#### **WELB**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Staff (Head Count)</b>	<b>Total Cost of Staff</b>
2007/08	101	£3,395,915
2008/09	105	£3,615,097
2009/10	107	£3,651,542
2010/11	84	£3,263,393
2011/12	57	£2,152,848

#### **NEELB**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Staff (FTE)</b>	<b>Total Cost of Staff</b>
2007/08	69.96	£3,010,760
2008/09	50.8	£3,529,630
2009/10	80.7	£3,726,260
2010/11	66.9	£3,046,142
2011/12	38.7	£1,774,638

**SEELB**

Financial Year	Number of Staff (FTE)	Total Cost of Staff
2007/08	70	£2,823,780
2008/09	71	£2,779,240
2009/10	67	£2,998,069
2010/11	63	£3,297,088
2011/12	33	£1,977,417

**SELB**

Financial Year	Number of Staff (Head Count)	Total Cost of Staff
2007/08	100	£3,831,000
2008/09	96	£4,212,000
2009/10	99	£4,100,000
2010/11	96	£4,135,000
2011/12	67	£3,281,000

**Redundancy Payments in Arm's-Length Bodies**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent on redundancy payments in each of his Department's arm's-length bodies, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 12340/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The cost of redundancies for the last 3 financial years is as follows:

Organisation	Year	Cost
Belfast Education and Library Board	2009/10	£20,000
	2010/11	£3,003,000
	2011/12	£767,000
Western Education and Library Board	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	£1,410,983
	2011/12	£3,041,250
North Eastern Education and Library Board	2009/10	£8,340
	2010/11	£1,436,417
	2011/12	£2,135,961
South Eastern Education and Library Board	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	£1,445,102
	2011/12	£1,174,093

Organisation	Year	Cost
Southern Education and Library Board	2009/10	£46,000
	2010/11	£3,342,000
	2011/12	£2,390,000
Council Catholic Maintained Schools	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	£460,000
	2011/12	£687,516
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	£1,181,886
	2011/12	£674,732
Staff Commission	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	£119,734
	2011/12	Nil
Youth Council	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	£114,000
	2011/12	Nil
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta	2009/10	Nil
	2010/11	Nil
	2011/12	Nil
Council for Integrated Education	2009/10	£43,186
	2010/11	Nil
	2011/12	Nil

### Remuneration for Board Members of Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education to detail the current total annual cost of remuneration for board members at his Department's arm's-length bodies and quangos.

**(AQW 12357/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The current total annual cost of remuneration for board members at my Departments arm's-length bodies are detailed in the following table. These figures relate to the 2011-12 financial year.

Arm's-Length Body	Annual Cost of Remuneration 2011-12
Belfast Education & Library Board	Chair - £10,000 per annum
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta	N/A
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools	N/A
Exceptional Circumstances Body	£64,920
General Teaching Council	N/A
Middletown Centre for Autism Ltd	Chair - £230 per day Board Members - £160 per day

<b>Arm's-Length Body</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Remuneration 2011-12</b>
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	N/A
Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)	N/A
North Eastern Education & Library Board	Chair - £10,000 per annum
South Eastern Education & Library Board	£ 62,328
Southern Education & Library Board	Chair - £10,000 per annum
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards	Chair - £6,501 per annum
Western Education & Library Board	Chair - £10,000 per annum
Youth Council	£19,663

### **Area Based Planning**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many formal meetings (i) each Education and Library Board; and (ii) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have had with (a) the Council for Integrated Education; and (b) Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta in relation to Area Based Planning.

**(AQW 12421/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area for providing primary and secondary education. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) has a statutory responsibility to promote and co-ordinate the planning of the maintained estate.

The Terms of Reference for the area planning process which I have commissioned, and associated Guidance, require the Boards and CCMS to engage with each other, and with the other school sectors – integrated, Irish-medium and Voluntary Grammar - throughout the process.

The Department does not monitor their engagement with the other school sectors; however, when the area plans for the post-primary phase are issued for consultation in July, they will report the extent of that engagement.

### **Area Based Planning**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many times the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Education and Library Boards have met formally to discuss Area Based Planning.

**(AQW 12422/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area for providing primary and secondary education. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) has a statutory responsibility to promote and co-ordinate the planning of the maintained estate.

The Terms of Reference for the area planning process which I have commissioned, and associated Guidance, require the Boards and CCMS to engage with each other, and with the other school sectors – integrated, Irish-medium and Voluntary Grammar - throughout the process.

The Department does not monitor their engagement with the other school sectors; however, when the area plans for the post-primary phase are issued for consultation in July, they will report the extent of that engagement.

## Area Based Planning

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many times the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, the Education and Library Boards, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta and the Council for Integrated Education have met formally to discuss Area Based Planning.

**(AQW 12423/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area for providing primary and secondary education. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) has a statutory responsibility to promote and co-ordinate the planning of the maintained estate.

The Terms of Reference for the area planning process which I have commissioned, and associated Guidance, require the Boards and CCMS to engage with each other, and with the other school sectors – integrated, Irish-medium and Voluntary Grammar - throughout the process.

The Department does not monitor their engagement with the other school sectors; however, when the area plans for the post-primary phase are issued for consultation in July, they will report the extent of that engagement.

## Free School Meals as an Indicator of Social Need

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the use of entitlement number to free school meals as an indicator of social need: and whether he is considering any alternative measurements.

**(AQW 12427/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department remains content that that entitlement for free school meals (FSME) is an effective indicator of social need for a number of reasons. FSME is highly correlated with the multiple deprivation measure and, as it relates to an individual pupil, is more robust than a spatial measure which assumes everyone in an area is alike. FSME is also updated regularly and available to us as part of the census return.

When appropriate, alternative measures of deprivation are used by my Department. For example, the Multiple Deprivation Measure and Neighbourhood Renewal Areas are used in relation to a number of its programmes such as Extended Schools and SureStart.

## Numeracy and Literacy Levels

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the numeracy and literacy levels of children leaving primary school.

**(AQW 12433/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Over the past five years, there has been an improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level for Key Stage 2 Communication in English and in Key Stage 2 Maths. Between 2006/07 and 2010/11, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Communication in English increased from 78.0% to 82.4%; and the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Maths increased from 79.5% to 82.9%. For pupils educated through the medium of Irish, the percentage achieving the expected level in Communication in Irish has increased from 83.1% in 2006/07 to 88.2% in 2010/11.

However, while this improvement in literacy and numeracy standards amongst primary school leavers is encouraging, nearly one-fifth of our primary school pupils transfer to post-primary school without adequate literacy and numeracy skills. In addition, the outcome of PISA 2009, the Programme for International Student Assessment, organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) showed that the achievement of pupils in the north of Ireland in reading and maths was not statistically different from the OECD average.

I am continuing to implement a coherent set of policies designed to improve educational outcomes for young people and to address the root causes when pupils are not achieving to their full potential. These policies include Count, read: succeed – a Strategy to Improve Outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy which aims to raise overall standards of attainment and close achievement gaps that exist. The strategy sets out the central role of teachers, supported by parents and school leaders, in their work to raise standards. It stresses the importance of effective leadership; having high expectations for all pupils; high quality teaching and learning; and early intervention to address underachievement.

I also want to stress the value of education and work with local communities to ensure that young people receive positive messages about the importance of doing well at school and are encouraged to have high expectations.

### **St. Peter's High School, Derry**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Education, in relation to children being offered post-primary places at St. Peter's High School, Derry in 2012 when the school is recommended for closure, (i) when the consultation process on the future of St. Peter's ends; (ii) for his assessment of prospective pupils being left in limbo over the summer period without having finalised plans for their post-primary education from September 2012; and (iii) in the event of the closure of the school, whether the capacity at St. Joseph's College will be increased to accommodate the greater demand.

**(AQW 12443/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** On 15 May 2012, the Western Education and Library Board (WELB), at the request of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, published Development Proposal (DP) No. 229, proposing that St Peter's High School would close, on a phased basis, from 31 August 2012, or as soon as possible thereafter. The two-month statutory objection period which follows publication will end on 16 July 2012.

The proposal is that the school will not admit any pupils to Year 8 or 11 for the 2012/13 school year and that the school will close with effect from 31 August 2013.

Whilst no assessment of the proposal can take place until the end of the 2-month statutory period on 16 July, I understand that there is surplus capacity at other maintained schools within the area but there is currently no proposal to increase capacity at St Joseph's College.

The Catholic Commission for Education (NICCE) strategic report on the review of catholic maintained post-primary provision outlines the Commission's proposals for provision throughout the Derry City area and can be viewed at <http://www.pprce.org/>. These proposals are also reflected in the Western Education and Library Board draft area plan.

### **Scheme for the Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Maintained Schools**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of Education for his Department's assessment of section 7.6.10 of the Scheme for the Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Maintained Schools that all relevant documentation will be retained for two years; and whether this complies with Articles 6 and 12 of The Limitation (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and the requirement for the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools to keep adequate records for the minimum limitation periods.

**(AQW 12505/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** CCMS have determined that 2 years is an appropriate time period for the personal records associated with recruitment and selection exercises to be retained. This complies with the Employment Practice Code issued through the Information Commissioner's Office.

### **Leak from the North Eastern Education and Library Board**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the leak from the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB), that led to local newspapers publishing the proposed Area Plan for Ballymena before it was presented to the NEELB Board.

**(AQW 12506/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am disappointed that draft area plans prepared by the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) Area Plan have been obtained by newspapers; the making available of such plans before they have received the required approval from the Board or the Department and are published for consultation is detrimental to the ongoing area planning process and may cause anxiety among the affected schools, pupils and parents.

With regard to security of information, the area plans are Education and Library Board documents and the respective Boards are responsible for the security and dissemination of the information in them. Where a leak is suspected, the affected Board should establish what information has been disclosed and undertake an impact assessment to determine options for consideration. Any decision on further action rests with the relevant Chief Executive, taking into account that proportionality is a key factor.

The Department is not actively considering proposals in relation to Ballee Community High School or Cambridge House Grammar School at this time.

When area planning proposals are published, I would urge parents, pupils and the public to consider them fully. I want an estate shaped by the needs of our young people, not the needs of institutions, and I do not want this debate to be dominated by those who are afraid of change.

Every child deserves high quality education and I am determined through the process of area planning that we will have a network of strong viable schools delivering high quality education for all pupils.

### **Leak from the North Eastern Education and Library Board**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education what action he is taking to address the number of leaks from the North Eastern Education and Library Board in the last two months in regard to the Area Plan. **(AQW 12507/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am disappointed that draft area plans prepared by the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) Area Plan have been obtained by newspapers; the making available of such plans before they have received the required approval from the Board or the Department and are published for consultation is detrimental to the ongoing area planning process and may cause anxiety among the affected schools, pupils and parents.

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Every child deserves high quality education and I am determined through the process of area planning that we will have a network of strong viable schools delivering high quality education for all pupils.

### **Leak from the North Eastern Education and Library Board**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education what action he will take to address the negative publicity that Ballee Community High School and Cambridge House Grammar School have received in regard to the North Eastern Education and Library Boards Area Plans being leaked to local newspapers. **(AQW 12509/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am disappointed that draft area plans prepared by the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) Area Plan have been obtained by newspapers; the making available of such plans before they have received the required approval from the Board or the Department and are

published for consultation is detrimental to the ongoing area planning process and may cause anxiety among the affected schools, pupils and parents.

With regard to security of information, the area plans are Education and Library Board documents and the respective Boards are responsible for the security and dissemination of the information in them. Where a leak is suspected, the affected Board should establish what information has been disclosed and undertake an impact assessment to determine options for consideration. Any decision on further action rests with the relevant Chief Executive, taking into account that proportionality is a key factor.

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### **AQE and GL Transfer Tests**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the estimated (a) revenue raised from; and (b) cost of, the AQE and GL transfer tests; and (ii) where any surplus money is spent or deficit is obtained. **(AQW 12549/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is not held by the Department of Education as it relates to unregulated entrance tests which are operated independent of the Department and in contravention of policy on post-primary transfer.

## Department for Employment and Learning

### **Equality Commission's Publication Trends in Community Proportions of Applications and Appointments to the Private and Public Sectors**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what response his Department will be making to the Equality Commission's publication, 'Trends in Community Proportions of Applications and Appointments to the Private and Public Sectors' (March 2012), particularly in so far as it shows a lower success rate for Protestant applicants for jobs in the private sector throughout the last decade. **(AQW 11939/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** It is not normal practice for my Department to respond to individual research reports which it has not commissioned. This report adds to the evidence base on employment equality issues. As such, it may be used by my Department in future equality screening and impact assessment of relevant policies.

### **Departmental Apprenticeship Programmes**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the apprenticeship programmes available within his Department; (ii) the apprenticeship programmes provided by his Department; (iii) the number of people currently enrolled in these programmes; and (iv) the number of places available on the programmes. **(AQW 12010/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** There is one apprenticeship programme in my Department in conjunction with the Department of Justice (DoJ) to deliver a pilot Apprenticeship programme for staff at Administrative Assistant and Administrative Officer grades. The programme was delivered between September 2010 and June 2011. Seven staff from DEL and eleven from DoJ took part, and all achieved the required elements of their



Business Administration apprenticeship. The pending report on a NICS qualifications strategy will inform future use of the Business Administration Apprenticeship in NICS.

My Department also provides for the ApprenticeshipsNI training programme for those in employment. ApprenticeshipsNI provides participants with the opportunity to achieve an industry approved Level 2/Level 3 Apprenticeship Framework and is open to those who have reached school leaving age, are either entering or already in employment and contracted to work a minimum of 21 hours per week.

ApprenticeshipsNI training is delivered by contracted training suppliers throughout Northern Ireland and, as of 22 May 2012, there were 11,211 participants availing of this training opportunity. ApprenticeshipsNI is a demand-led provision and the number of apprenticeship places is determined by employers based on their business needs.

In terms of apprenticeship training for the unemployed, my Department introduced the Programme-Led Apprenticeship (PLA) programme in 2009 to assist young school leavers who have been unable to find the requisite employed status to train as an apprentice during the economic downturn. The programme provides a training guarantee of up to 104 weeks with participants following a level 2 Apprenticeship Framework, the same as is available under ApprenticeshipsNI. Participants can transfer to the employer-led ApprenticeshipsNI programme and continue with their training on securing employment. As of 22 May 2012, there were 4,869 young people undertaking a programme-led apprenticeship.

### **Devolution of Powers Under the Review of Public Administration**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what powers or functions he plans to devolve to local councils under the Review of Public Administration; and whether this represents a change to his previous commitments.

**(AQW 12060/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I have no plans to devolve any powers or functions to local councils under the Review of Public Administration. This is consistent with earlier commitments by former DEL Ministers.

### **Boards of Department's Arm's Length Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of his Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity.

**(AQW 12074/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Two former civil servants at deputy secretary grade sit on boards of my Department's arms length bodies, both in an unpaid capacity.

### **Low Paid Workers in Regional Colleges**

**Ms Gildernew** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, given that many workers in the public sector, with a salary of less than £21,000, have received a £250 pay award and that the management of the further education colleges has refused to award this sum to staff in this salary bracket, what action he intends to take to address this issue.

**(AQW 12150/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Pay and conditions of all further education staff is a matter for each college Governing Body, in its capacity as the employing authority.

I am aware that non-teaching staff employed in the six further education colleges have contractual links to National Joint Council (NJC) pay agreements. I am advised that the NJC has chosen not to offer the award of £250 for those earning £21,000 or less, in line with established collective bargaining arrangements, for the 2011/12 year.

The college employers' decision not to offer this award aligns with the NJC position.

## European Social Fund

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether any funding, under Priority 1 of the European Social Fund, was transferred to Priority 2; and if so, how much funding was transferred.  
**(AQW 12160/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** No funding, under Priority 1 of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund, was transferred to Priority 2.

## European Social Fund: Appeals Mechanism

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether there was an appeal mechanism for unsuccessful applicants in the second round of the European Social Fund; and how much funding was set aside to allow for successful appeals.  
**(AQW 12167/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** There was an independent appeal mechanism for unsuccessful applicants in the second round of the European Social Fund. It is not normal practice to set aside funding in anticipation of successful appeals. If an appeal was successful, funding would be sought through in-year financial monitoring exercises.

## Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to his Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.  
**(AQW 12227/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** There are currently fourteen bodies classified as NDPBs of the Department for Employment and Learning. From 2008 until October 2009, there were seven: three NDPBs, three tribunal NDPBs, and one non-executive advisory committee. Following the abolition of the latter in October 2009, there were six NDPBs until 1 April 2012, when the Office of National Statistics reclassified the six Further Education Colleges and the two University Colleges as NDPBs from an administrative perspective.

Further information may be found in the 'Public Bodies & Public Appointments Annual Report 2010-11', published by OFMDFM.

This is available from the Assembly Library under Reference number R351.41609 NOR.

## Condition Management Programme

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what consideration he has given to extending the remit of the Condition Management Programme to the private sector.  
**(AQW 12260/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Condition Management Programme (CMP) was introduced as part of the Pathways to Work initiative in 2005. The programme is primarily aimed at improving the employability of Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) clients on incapacity-related benefits, such as Incapacity Benefit (IB), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support (IS) based on incapacity and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA). The programme has recently been extended to clients migrating from IB to Jobseekers Allowance (JSA).

The main objective of CMP is to assist in moving claimants from welfare to work. The service is delivered on behalf of DEL by health professional staff from the five Health and Social Care Trusts, including physiotherapists, Mental Health nurses and occupational therapists. DEL transfers funds to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) during the year to cover the staff costs of this cross-departmental service.

No plans exist at this time to extend CMP to the private sector. This is due to a combination of factors. Firstly, it is not in DEL's remit to provide an extended employee health and well-being service to private sector employers, and more significantly, the Department would not be resourced to do so.

Whilst DEL recognises that such a programme has the potential to help employees sustain employment or return to work following illness, this is something that should be explored and where, appropriate, introduced by employers as they see fit.

In the meantime, my Department, through the Disability Employment Service, will continue to manage and fund the Condition Management Programme to ensure it best meets the needs of its primary clients – those who are seeking to overcome health and disability related barriers to employment, and in doing so, move from welfare into work.

### **Remuneration for Board Members of Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the current total annual cost of remuneration for board members at his Department's arm's-length bodies and quangos.

**(AQW 12358/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** During 2011/12, the total annual cost of remuneration for board members and chairs of my Department's arms-length bodies was approximately £109,500. This has been rounded up to reflect the total cost, had one of the Boards been at full complement.

### **Treehouse Kindergarten Crèche, Dungannon**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to the recent closure of Treehouse Kindergarten Crèche in Dungannon, (i) what monitoring role his Department had in this facility; (ii) whether compensation will be made available to parents who paid in advance for a place for their children in the Crèche; (iii) whether compensation will be made available for the unpaid wages of staff; and (iv) what measures will be taken to provide extra childcare facilities in the area for the families who had used this facility.

**(AQW 12450/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The arrangements for crèche provision at the South West College were part of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) facilities management contract. In these circumstances the Department for Employment and Learning has no role in monitoring the crèche facilities in Dungannon FE campus. The crèche facilities were provided by a subcontractor who abandoned the facility with no forewarning.

Disputes between employers and staff in relation to unpaid wages are essentially a contractual matter to be resolved between the parties.

Parents who have paid in advance for services and staff who have not received wages can seek compensation from the crèche provider through the courts or Industrial Tribunals respectively.

The Private Sector provider is making every effort to put alternative arrangements in place as soon as possible and has identified a possible replacement. This process, however, is subject to stringent assurance arrangements such as statutory registration.

## **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

### **Board Members of Public Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many former civil and public servants are employed as (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid board members of public bodies which are sponsored by her Department; and what this figure is as a proportion of the total number of board members.

**(AQW 11947/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** There are fifteen board members in a paid capacity who were civil/public servants, representing 36% of the total number of board members.

### **Department of Energy and Climate Change report 'Shale Gas Fracturing: Review & Recommendations for Induced Seismic Mitigation'**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 10517/11-15 and given that the geological characteristics of Co Fermanagh are unique, whether she will commission a study to assess the seismic hazards associated with hydraulic fracturing that will include (i) appropriate baseline seismic monitoring to establish background seismicity in the area; (ii) characterisation of any possible active faults in the region based on geological and geophysical data; and (iii) application of suitable ground motion prediction models to assess the potential impact of any induced earthquakes. **(AQW 12092/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department is currently awaiting the outcome of the consultation process on the experts' report into the induced seismicity associated with the hydraulic fracturing at the Preese Hall No. 1 well near Blackpool before making any decision on the seismic monitoring appropriate for County Fermanagh. DECC are not expected to publish their final recommendations until July, at the earliest.

### **Boards of Department's Arm's Length Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of her Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity. **(AQW 12094/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** There are two, both in a paid capacity.

### **Improving Logistics Solutions for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant AQW 10721/11-15, what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Regional Development on improving logistics solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises. **(AQW 12144/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has had no discussions with officials in the Department for Regional Development regarding improving logistics solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises.

### **InvestNI's Access to Finance Strategy**

Mr Allister asked Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 11547/11-15, and having regard to the constituency disparity in the uptake of the funds available within InvestNI's Access to Finance Strategy, for her assessment of whether the funds are being promoted equally; and what plans exist to secure greater equality of distribution.

**(AQW 12176/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI's Access to Finance strategy provides a range of funding support for local SMEs throughout Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Spin Out (NISPO) has been operational since 2009 and has conducted a series of regional roadshows throughout Northern Ireland, which have resulted in companies located in 17 out of the 18 Parliamentary Constituencies securing funding.

The Fund Manager makes investment decisions based on an independent evaluation of the quality of projects brought forward by businesses.

The second fund, Co-Fund NI has been open for applications since July last year and has made three investments to date. One large investment has skewed the figures at this stage.

Co-Fund NI does not seek investment opportunities but is dependent upon private investors regardless of location, who lead deals, bringing forward proposals.

There is absolutely no question of the funding not being promoted equally throughout Northern Ireland and all of the Funds are reliant on promoters bringing forward viable projects.

### Correspondence on Hydraulic Fracturing

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list all the outgoing correspondence that she, or her officials, have issued to outside organisations relating to the issue of hydraulic fracturing, since the beginning of 2012; and to detail (i) the date of the correspondence; (ii) the subject of the correspondence; and (iii) the name of the individual in the organisation to whom the correspondence was addressed.

**(AQW 12209/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I refer the Member to the answer I gave to AQW 11169/11-15.

#### OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

<b>i) Date of correspondence</b>	<b>ii) Subject of correspondence</b>	<b>iii) Name of Individual/ Organisation</b>
05.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Irish News
18.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Fermanagh District Council
24.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
24.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd
09.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Fermanagh District Council
16.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy
16.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
21.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
23.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
02.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
01.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
29.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
06.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross-Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross-Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross-Border Active Age Group

<b>i) Date of correspondence</b>	<b>ii) Subject of correspondence</b>	<b>iii) Name of Individual/ Organisation</b>
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
06.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
13.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
14.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	The Gateway Online
15.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	BBC
15.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
16.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
15.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
17.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Sligo County Council
23.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
23.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	BBC

<b>i) Date of correspondence</b>	<b>ii) Subject of correspondence</b>	<b>iii) Name of Individual/ Organisation</b>
12.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Leitrim County Council
06.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Rural Community Network West Fermanagh Positive Ageing Group
21.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Northern Ireland Co-Operative
12.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
18.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
26.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
04.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies
15.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Belfast Telegraph
15.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Northwest Telegraph
18.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
23.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
23.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
25.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public

### **Correspondence on Hydraulic Fracturing**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list all the incoming correspondence that she, or her officials, have received from outside organisations relating to the issue of hydraulic fracturing, since the beginning of 2012; and to detail (i) the date of the correspondence; (ii) the subject of the correspondence; and (iii) the name of the individual in the organisation who contacted her or her officials.

**(AQW 12210/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I refer the Member to the answer I gave to AQW 11169/11-15.

### **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

<b>iv) Date of correspondence</b>	<b>v) Subject of correspondence</b>	<b>vi) Name of Individual/ Organisation</b>
05.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Irish News
13.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Fermanagh District Council
18.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
23.01.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd
09.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Fermanagh District Council
01.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy
09.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public

<b>iv) Date of correspondence</b>	<b>v) Subject of correspondence</b>	<b>vi) Name of Individual/ Organisation</b>
14.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
20.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
13.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
15.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
18.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
21.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
24.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
02.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.02.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Cross–Border Active Age Group
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
04.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
09.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public



iv) Date of correspondence	v) Subject of correspondence	vi) Name of Individual/ Organisation
10.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
10.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
10.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
10.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
11.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
11.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
11.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
14.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
12.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Sligo County Council
12.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	The Gateway Online
15.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	BBC
17.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
23.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	BBC
29.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Leitrim County Council
21.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Rural Community Network West Fermanagh Positive Ageing Group
28.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Northern Ireland Co-Operative
12.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
26.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
26.03.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
19.04.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies
09.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
13.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
14.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Northwest Telegraph
15.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Belfast Telegraph
19.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public
20.05.12	Hydraulic Fracturing	Member of the Public

### Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to her Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.

**(AQW 12229/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information sought for each year is set out in the last four editions of the OFMDFM Public Appointments Annual Report available from their website or via the following link:-

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/making-government-work/public-appointments/public-appointments-annual-reports.htm>

### **Employees Working 'Off Payroll'**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any employees of any of the Department's arm's-length bodies are working 'off payroll' so that their salaries are paid in such a way that they pay corporation tax rather than income tax.

**(AQW 12240/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** All employees of DETI's arm's length bodies are paid through payroll.

### **Promoted Jobs**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the criteria her Department uses to measure whether a job has been 'promoted'.

**(AQW 12272/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** To understand how the Department measures job promotions, one must understand the process through which it enters a contractual agreement with clients for offers of assistance.

Government grant support is offered at the start of a project based on a company commitment to create jobs.

As we do not expect to pay all of the investment costs to create new jobs, Invest NI will negotiate with the client to ensure that there is a significant investment from them in the project as well.

Based on these two matched financial commitments, the company will then contract with Invest NI to create an agreed quantity of jobs, which are referred to as "Promoted Jobs".

These commitments are then delivered over an agreed period of time and some may stretch for as long as five years. It is therefore important to point out that there is a lag between "promoted jobs", and the delivery of those by clients on the ground. However, these arrangements are monitored and managed by Invest NI and financial support is only released when commitments, including actual jobs created, have been met in line with the agreed plan.

### **Onwave Broadband Services**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how the set-up costs and running costs of Onwave broadband services compares with other broadband services.

**(AQW 12296/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The current prices, as published on Onwave's website, indicate that the basic 6Mbps service costs £109.95 for installation and £39.95 per month thereafter. These prices compare favourably with similar products available in the market at this time.

The UK telecommunications market is fully competitive and it is proper that companies are free to set prices for these services as appropriate. The market is very dynamic and changes regularly and it is for consumers to compare costs and decide which products are most suitable for their needs.

### **Visitor Numbers to the North Coast**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how visitor numbers to the North Coast are recorded; and how many people have visited the North Coast, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 12316/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Local authority visitor estimates for 2007 to 2009 (based on three year averages) were published by Northern Ireland Tourist Board and are available on <http://www.nitb.com/Document>

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) was commissioned to provide official statistics on visitor numbers and revenue on an NI-wide basis from 2010 onwards. NISRA is now working on establishing a robust method of estimating visitor numbers by local authority area for the period 2010 onwards.

### **Remuneration for Board Members of Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the current total annual cost of remuneration for board members at her Department's arm's-length bodies and quangos.

**(AQW 12359/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** This information is available from the most recent edition of the OFMDFM Public Appointments Annual Report available from their website or via the following link:-

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/making-government-work/public-appointments/public-appointments-annual-reports.htm>

### **Reducing the Cost of Communications**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had, in the last twelve months, with her counterpart in Dublin regarding improving efficiency and reducing the cost of communications, particularly postal and telecommunications, including roaming charges.

**(AQW 12377/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have had no discussions with my counterpart in Dublin over the last 12 months on improving efficiency and reducing the cost of postal and telecommunications including roaming charges.

### **Gas Supply in Glenarm, Carnlough and the Glens of Antrim**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any natural gas companies have submitted a business plan for a gas supply in Glenarm, Carnlough and the Glens of Antrim.

**(AQW 12393/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Utility Regulator has advised that they have not received a business plan from a natural gas company to take gas to Glenarm, Carnlough and the Glens of Antrim.

Any extension of the gas network must be economically viable, and is very dependent on there being sufficient gas loads in the proposed new areas.

## **Department of Finance and Personnel**

### **Civil Servants**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many civil servants currently employed in his Department have been re-employed after receiving a redundancy package from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

**(AQW 11847/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** The Department currently employs 1 civil servant who was re-employed after receiving a redundancy package from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

## Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the areas included in the top 10 percent most deprived Super Output Areas on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

**(AQW 11929/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The following table lists the 89, or 10 per cent, most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland with the associated rank of deprivation under the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010.

Areas are ranked from 1 - the most deprived Super Output Area in Northern Ireland. A map showing the location of each Super Output Area is available at:

[www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/InteractiveMaps/SOA\\_Deprivation\\_Map/atlas.html](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/InteractiveMaps/SOA_Deprivation_Map/atlas.html)

**TABLE: TEN PER CENT MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS (2010)**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Rank of Area (1 = most deprived)</b>
Whiterock 2	Belfast	1
Whiterock 3	Belfast	2
Falls 2	Belfast	3
Falls 3	Belfast	4
New Lodge 1	Belfast	5
Shankill 2	Belfast	6
Crumlin 2	Belfast	7
Falls 1	Belfast	8
Ardoyne 3	Belfast	9
Creggan Central 1	Derry	10
Upper Springfield 3	Belfast	11
East	Strabane	12
Clonard 1	Belfast	13
New Lodge 2	Belfast	14
New Lodge 3	Belfast	15
Collin Glen 3	Lisburn	16
Twinbrook 2	Lisburn	17
Shankill 1	Belfast	18
Duncairn 1	Belfast	19
Upper Springfield 1	Belfast	20
Water Works 1	Belfast	21
Crumlin 1	Belfast	22
Ballymacarrett 3	Belfast	23
Whiterock 1	Belfast	24

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Rank of Area (1 = most deprived)</b>
Shantallow West 2	Derry	25
The Diamond	Derry	26
Woodvale 3	Belfast	27
Strand 1	Derry	28
Shantallow West 1	Derry	29
Clonard 2	Belfast	30
Drumnamoe 1	Craigavon	31
Twinbrook 1	Lisburn	32
Collin Glen 1	Lisburn	33
Drumgask 2	Craigavon	34
Crevagh 2	Derry	35
Highfield 3	Belfast	36
Creggan South	Derry	37
Collin Glen 2	Lisburn	38
Culmore 2	Derry	39
Greystone	Limavady	40
Water Works 2	Belfast	41
Ardoyne 2	Belfast	42
Ardoyne 1	Belfast	43
Brandywell	Derry	44
Shantallow East	Derry	45
Westland	Derry	46
Glencolin 4	Belfast	47
Kilwee 2	Lisburn	48
Creggan Central 2	Derry	49
Ballymacarrett 2	Belfast	50
The Mount 1	Belfast	51
Shaftesbury 3	Belfast	52
Duncairn 2	Belfast	53
Shaftesbury 2	Belfast	54
Drumgor 2	Craigavon	55
Beechmount 2	Belfast	56
Woodvale 1	Belfast	57

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Rank of Area (1 = most deprived)</b>
Clondermot 1	Derry	58
Ballymote	Down	59
Upper Springfield 2	Belfast	60
Ballycolman	Strabane	61
Glencolin 2	Belfast	62
Woodstock 2	Belfast	63
Ballysally 1	Coleraine	64
Coolessan	Limavady	65
Woodvale 2	Belfast	66
The Mount 2	Belfast	67
Glencairn 1	Belfast	68
Blackstaff 2	Belfast	69
Legoniel 1	Belfast	70
Drumgullion 1	Newry and Mourne	71
Poleglass 1	Lisburn	72
Water Works 3	Belfast	73
Glencolin 3	Belfast	74
Ballymacarrett 1	Belfast	75
Ladybrook 3	Belfast	76
Dunanney	Newtownabbey	77
Shaftesbury 1	Belfast	78
Botanic 5	Belfast	79
Lisanelly 2	Omagh	80
Cliftonville 1	Belfast	81
Coalisland South	Dungannon	82
Devenish	Fermanagh	83
Carn Hill 2	Derry	84
Old Warren	Lisburn	85
Ebrington 2	Derry	86
Glen Road 2	Belfast	87
Altnagelvin 1	Derry	88
Cliftonville 3	Belfast	89

## Most Deprived Super Output Areas

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the areas included in the top 20 percent most deprived Super Output Areas in the key domains of income, employment, education and health. **(AQW 11930/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The following tables list the 20 per cent most deprived Super Output Areas and the corresponding rank of deprivation for the income, employment, education and health domains of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010.

Deprivation is ranked for each domain from rank 1 - the most deprived Super Output Area in that domain.

- Table 1: Income Domain 2010 – 20 per cent most deprived.
- Table 2: Employment Domain 2010 – 20 per cent most deprived.
- Table 3: Education, Skills & Training Domain 2010 – 20 per cent most deprived.
- Table 4: Health Deprivation & Disability Domain 2010 – 20 per cent most deprived.

A map showing the location of each Super Output Area is available at:

[www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/InteractiveMaps/SOA\\_Deprivation\\_Map/atlas.html](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/InteractiveMaps/SOA_Deprivation_Map/atlas.html)

**TABLE 1: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – INCOME DOMAIN 2010**

### INCOME DOMAIN

Super Output Area	Local Government District	Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)
Whiterock 2	Belfast	1
Creggan Central 1	Derry	2
Ardoyne 3	Belfast	3
Whiterock 3	Belfast	4
New Lodge 1	Belfast	5
Falls 2	Belfast	6
Shankill 2	Belfast	7
Collin Glen 3	Lisburn	8
East	Strabane	9
Shantallow West 2	Derry	10
Clonard 1	Belfast	11
Falls 1	Belfast	12
Falls 3	Belfast	13
Crevagh 2	Derry	14
Upper Springfield 3	Belfast	15
New Lodge 2	Belfast	16
Shantallow West 1	Derry	17
Crumlin 2 Belfast	Belfast	18

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
New Lodge 3	Belfast	19
Culmore 2	Derry	20
Collin Glen 2	Lisburn	21
Creggan South	Derry	22
Shantallow East	Derry	23
Westland	Derry	24
Creggan Central 2	Derry	25
Twinbrook 2	Lisburn	26
Brandywell	Derry	27
Twinbrook 1	Lisburn	28
Shankill 1	Belfast	29
Woodvale 3	Belfast	30
Crumlin 1 Belfast	Belfast	31
Upper Springfield 1	Belfast	32
Clonard 2	Belfast	33
Drumnamoe 1	Craigavon	34
Ballymacarrett 2	Belfast	35
Water Works 1	Belfast	36
The Diamond	Derry	37
Ardoyne 1	Belfast	38
Ardoyne 2	Belfast	39
Collin Glen 1	Lisburn	40
Drumgask 2	Craigavon	41
Strand 1 Derry	Derry	42
Ballysally 1	Coleraine	43
Whiterock 1	Belfast	44
Greystone Limavady	Limavady	45
Ballycolman	Strabane	46
Ladybrook 3	Belfast	47
Beechmount 2	Belfast	48
Duncairn 1	Belfast	49
Clondermot 1	Derry	50



**TABLE 1: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – INCOME DOMAIN 2010**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Duncairn 2	Belfast	51
Upper Springfield 2	Belfast	52
Ballymacarrett 3	Belfast	53
Glencolin 4	Belfast	54
Water Works 2	Belfast	55
Carn Hill 2	Derry	56
Kilwee 2	Lisburn	57
The Mount 1	Belfast	58
Botanic 5	Belfast	59
Ballymacarrett 1	Belfast	60
Woodstock 2	Belfast	61
Coolessan	Limavady	62
Drumgullion 1	Newry and Mourne	63
Cliftonville 1	Belfast	64
Drumgor 2	Craigavon	65
Shaftesbury 2	Belfast	66
Crossmaglen	Newry and Mourne	67
Daisy hill 1	Newry and Mourne	68
Ballybot	Newry and Mourne	69
Poleglass 1	Lisburn	70
Shaftesbury 3	Belfast	71
The Mount 2	Belfast	72
Altnagelvin 1	Derry	73
Highfield 3	Belfast	74
Coalisland South	Dungannon	75
Old Warren	Lisburn	76
Dunanney	Newtownabbey	77
Glencolin 2	Belfast	78
Lisanelly 2	Omagh	79
Glencolin 3	Belfast	80
Ballymote	Down	81
Legoniel 1	Belfast	82

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Water Works 3	Belfast	83
Glen Road 2	Belfast	84
Shaftesbury 1	Belfast	85
Castleberg	Strabane	86
Shantallow West 3	Derry	87
Glencairn 1	Belfast	88
Woodvale 1	Belfast	89
Callan Bridge	Armagh	90
Woodvale 2	Belfast	91
Crevagh 3	Derry	92
Springtown 1	Derry	93
Culmore 4	Derry	94
Ebrington 2	Derry	95
Ballee	Ballymena	96
Devenish	Fermanagh	97
Rosemount	Derry	98
Victoria Derry	Derry	99
Valley 2	Newtownabbey	100

**TABLE 1: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – INCOME DOMAIN 2010**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Upper Malone 2	Belfast	101
Cliftonville 3	Belfast	102
Derryaghy 1	Lisburn	103
Cross Glebe	Coleraine	104
Enagh 1 Derry	Derry	105
Northland	Carrickfergus	106
Monkstown 1	Newtownabbey	107
Island 1	Belfast	108
Culmore 3	Derry	109
Beechwood	Derry	110
Chichester Park 1	Belfast	111

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Blackstaff 2	Belfast	112
Derrymore 1	Newry and Mourne	113
Central Coleraine	Coleraine	114
Corcrain 1	Craigavon	115
Ballykeel	Ballymena	116
Glen Road 1	Belfast	117
Coalisland North	Dungannon	118
Foyle Springs 2	Derry	119
Hillhall 1	Lisburn	120
Carnmoney 1	Newtownabbey	121
Beechmount 3	Belfast	122
Carn Hill 1	Derry	123
Silver Bridge 1	Newry and Mourne	124
Creggan	Newry and Mourne	125
Court 1	Craigavon	126
Mossley 2	Newtownabbey	127
Glen Road 3	Belfast	128
Beechmount 1	Belfast	129
Drumgask 1	Craigavon	130
Enagh 2 Limavady	Limavady	131
Woodstock 3	Belfast	132
Court 2	Craigavon	133
Bessbrook	Newry and Mourne	134
Ballyloran	Larne	135
Churchland	Coleraine	136
Dungiven	Limavady	137
Dunclug	Ballymena	138
Church	Craigavon	139
Antiville	Larne	140
Ballysaggart	Dungannon	141
Keady	Armagh	142
Glencairn 2	Belfast	143
Sunnylands	Carrickfergus	144

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Glen 1	Ards	145
Bloomfield 1 Belfast	Belfast	146
West 2	Strabane	147
Legoniel 2	Belfast	148
Bellevue 2	Belfast	149
Daisy hill 2	Newry and Mourne	150

**TABLE 1: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – INCOME DOMAIN 2010**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Derrymore 2	Newry and Mourne	151
Ballysillan 1	Belfast	152
Newtownstewart	Strabane	153
Forkhill 1	Newry and Mourne	154
Coole	Newtownabbey	155
Irvinestown	Fermanagh	156
Moat	Ballymena	157
Ardboe	Cookstown	158
Glenderg	Strabane	159
Craig Hill	Larne	160
Woodville 1	Craigavon	161
Falls Park 3	Belfast	162
Ladybrook 2	Belfast	163
Conlig 3	North Down	164
Farranshane	Antrim	165
Whitehouse	Newtownabbey	166
Love Lane	Carrickfergus	167
Central Ards	Ards	168
Ardglass 1	Down	169
Glebe 2 Magherafelt	Magherafelt	170
Scrabo 2	Ards	171
Knocklayd	Moyle	172
Caw	Derry	173

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Finn	Strabane	174
Portaferry 2	Ards	175
Gortrush 1	Omagh	176
Lisnaskea	Fermanagh	177
Taghnevan	Craigavon	178

**TABLE 2: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – EMPLOYMENT DOMAIN 2010****EMPLOYMENT DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Whiterock 2	Belfast	1
Whiterock 3	Belfast	2
Upper Springfield 3	Belfast	3
Falls 2	Belfast	4
Crumlin 2 Belfast	Belfast	5
Creggan Central 1	Derry	6
East	Strabane	7
New Lodge 1	Belfast	8
Strand 1 Derry	Derry	9
Falls 3	Belfast	10
Whiterock 1	Belfast	11
Falls 1	Belfast	12
Shankill 2	Belfast	13
The Diamond	Derry	14
Clonard 1	Belfast	15
Upper Springfield 1	Belfast	16
New Lodge 2	Belfast	17
Twinbrook 2	Lisburn	18
Westland	Derry	19
New Lodge 3	Belfast	20
Ardoyne 3	Belfast	21
Shantallow East	Derry	22
Drumnamoe 1	Craigavon	23

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Clondermot 1	Derry	24
Water Works 1	Belfast	25
Clonard 2	Belfast	26
Creggan Central 2	Derry	27
Water Works 2	Belfast	28
Duncairn 1	Belfast	29
Greystone Limavady	Limavady	30
Glen Road 2	Belfast	31
Highfield 3	Belfast	32
Crumlin 1 Belfast	Belfast	33
Creggan South	Derry	34
Glencolin 3	Belfast	35
Ballycolman	Strabane	36
Shankill 1	Belfast	37
Glencolin 4	Belfast	38
Glencolin 2	Belfast	39
Brandywell	Derry	40
Kilwee 2	Lisburn	41
Culmore 2	Derry	42
Woodvale 3	Belfast	43
Woodvale 1	Belfast	44
Duncairn 2	Belfast	45
Ardoyne 1	Belfast	46
Ballymote	Down	47
Ballymacarrett 3	Belfast	48
Twinbrook 1	Lisburn	49
Drumgask 2	Craigavon	50

**TABLE 2: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – EMPLOYMENT DOMAIN 2010**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Beechmount 2	Belfast	51
Ardoyne 2	Belfast	52

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Ladybrook 3	Belfast	53
Collin Glen 3	Lisburn	54
Shantallow West 1	Derry	55
Crevagh 2	Derry	56
Castlederg	Strabane	57
Upper Springfield 2	Belfast	58
Ballymacarrett 2	Belfast	59
Glen Road 1	Belfast	60
Woodvale 2	Belfast	61
Shantallow West 2	Derry	62
Collin Glen 1	Lisburn	63
Altnagelvin 1	Derry	64
Glencairn 1	Belfast	65
Rosemount	Derry	66
Shaftesbury 3	Belfast	67
Legoniel 1	Belfast	68
Water Works 3	Belfast	69
Drumgullion 1	Newry and Mourne	70
Drumgor 2	Craigavon	71
Collin Glen 2	Lisburn	72
Ballysally 1	Coleraine	73
Upper Malone 2	Belfast	74
Coolessan	Limavady	75
West 2	Strabane	76
Victoria Derry	Derry	77
Beechwood	Derry	78
Coalisland South	Dungannon	79
Glencairn 2	Belfast	80
Sion Mills	Strabane	81
Cliftonville 3	Belfast	82
Carn Hill 2	Derry	83
Beechmount 3	Belfast	84
Ebrington 2	Derry	85

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Farranshane	Antrim	86
Cliftonville 1	Belfast	87
Craigy Hill	Larne	88
Poleglass 1	Lisburn	89
Blackstaff 2	Belfast	90
Court 1	Craigavon	91
Newtownstewart	Strabane	92
Ballysillan 1	Belfast	93
Foyle Springs 2	Derry	94
Woodstock 2	Belfast	95
Ballybot	Newry and Mourne	96
Sunnylands	Carrickfergus	97
Monkstown 1	Newtownabbey	98
Shaftesbury 2	Belfast	99
Court 2	Craigavon	100

**TABLE 2: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – EMPLOYMENT DOMAIN 2010**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Highfield 2	Belfast	101
Ballymacarrett 1	Belfast	102
Falls Park 3	Belfast	103
Beechmount 1	Belfast	104
The Mount 1	Belfast	105
Finn	Strabane	106
Dunanney	Newtownabbey	107
Whitehouse	Newtownabbey	108
Chichester Park 1	Belfast	109
Crossmaglen	Newry and Mourne	110
Ladybrook 2	Belfast	111
Andersonstown 2	Belfast	112
Enagh 1 Derry	Derry	113
Woodville 1	Craigavon	114



<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Corcrair 1	Craigavon	115
Churchland	Coleraine	116
Northland	Carrickfergus	117
Springtown 1	Derry	118
Portaferry 2	Ards	119
North	Strabane	120
Ballee	Ballymena	121
Glen Road 3	Belfast	122
Ardglass 1	Down	123
Dunnamanagh	Strabane	124
Crevagh 3	Derry	125
Bessbrook	Newry and Mourne	126
Valley 2	Newtownabbey	127
Taghnevan	Craigavon	128
Legoniel 2	Belfast	129
Minnowburn	Castlereagh	130
Daisy hill 1	Newry and Mourne	131
Glenderg	Strabane	132
The Mount 2	Belfast	133
Lisanelly 2	Omagh	134
Devenish	Fermanagh	135
Antiville	Larne	136
Andersonstown 3	Belfast	137
Carn Hill 1	Derry	138
Dungiven	Limavady	139
Culmore 4	Derry	140
Cross Glebe	Coleraine	141
Sydenham 1	Belfast	142
Coole	Newtownabbey	143
Roeside	Limavady	144
Caw	Derry	145
Carnmoney 1	Newtownabbey	146
Ardboe	Cookstown	147

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Central Coleraine	Coleraine	148
New Buildings 1	Derry	149
Cathedral 2	Down	150

**TABLE 2: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS – EMPLOYMENT DOMAIN 2010**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Drumnamoe 2	Craigavon	151
Botanic 5	Belfast	152
The Cut	Banbridge	153
Mourneview	Craigavon	154
Enagh 2 Limavady	Limavady	155
Stewartstown	Cookstown	156
Victoria Bridge	Strabane	157
Kilkeel Central 2	Newry and Mourne	158
Tavanagh	Craigavon	159
Bellevue 2	Belfast	160
Moat	Ballymena	161
Old Warren	Lisburn	162
South 1	Strabane	163
Route	Ballymoney	164
Scrabo 2	Ards	165
Lisnagelvin 1	Derry	166
Hillhall 1	Lisburn	167
Ballyloran	Larne	168
Clare	Strabane	169
Ballybay	Craigavon	170
Castleview 3	Belfast	171
Shaftesbury 1	Belfast	172
Central Ards	Ards	173
Falls Park 2	Belfast	174
West 1	Strabane	175
Artigarvan	Strabane	176

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Employment Deprivation Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Andersonstown 1	Belfast	177
Aldergrove 3	Antrim	178

**TABLE 3: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING DOMAIN**

**EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Shankill 2	Belfast	1
Island 1	Belfast	2
Crumlin 1 Belfast	Belfast	3
Ballymacarrett 3	Belfast	4
Woodvale 3	Belfast	5
Crumlin 2 Belfast	Belfast	6
Duncairn 1	Belfast	7
Shankill 1	Belfast	8
Whiterock 2	Belfast	9
Woodvale 2	Belfast	10
Falls 2	Belfast	11
Falls 3	Belfast	12
Woodvale 1	Belfast	13
Highfield 3	Belfast	14
The Mount 1	Belfast	15
Whiterock 3	Belfast	16
Glencairn 1	Belfast	17
The Mount 2	Belfast	18
Shaftesbury 3	Belfast	19
Shaftesbury 1	Belfast	20
Dunanney	Newtownabbey	21
Shaftesbury 2	Belfast	22
New Lodge 1	Belfast	23
Falls 1	Belfast	24
Ballymacarrett 1	Belfast	25

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
New Lodge 3	Belfast	26
Drumgask 2	Craigavon	27
Upper Springfield 3	Belfast	28
Drumgor 2	Craigavon	29
Woodstock 2	Belfast	30
Woodstock 3	Belfast	31
Ballee	Ballymena	32
Tullycarnet	Castlereagh	33
Ballymacarrett 2	Belfast	34
Collin Glen 3	Lisburn	35
Corcraun 2	Craigavon	36
Woodstock 1	Belfast	37
Collin Glen 2	Lisburn	38
Shantallow West 2	Derry	39
Northland	Carrickfergus	40
East	Strabane	41
Monkstown 1	Newtownabbey	42
Upper Springfield 2	Belfast	43
Duncairn 2	Belfast	44
Ardoyne 3	Belfast	45
New Lodge 2	Belfast	46
Collin Glen 1	Lisburn	47
Ballysillan 1	Belfast	48
Blackstaff 2	Belfast	49
Upper Springfield 1	Belfast	50

**TABLE 3: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Twinbrook 2	Lisburn	51
Enagh 2 Limavady	Limavady	52
Devenish	Fermanagh	53

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Shantallow West 1	Derry	54
Poleglass 1	Lisburn	55
Crevagh 2	Derry	56
Drumnamoe 1	Craigavon	57
Ballysally 1	Coleraine	58
Old Warren	Lisburn	59
Coole	Newtownabbey	60
Love Lane	Carrickfergus	61
Greystone Limavady	Limavady	62
Culmore 2	Derry	63
Glencolin 4	Belfast	64
Corcraïn 1	Craigavon	65
Bloomfield 1 Belfast	Belfast	66
Water Works 1	Belfast	67
Ardoyne 2	Belfast	68
Upper Malone 2	Belfast	69
Ardoyne 1	Belfast	70
Twinbrook 1	Lisburn	71
Glen 1	Ards	72
Dunclug	Ballymena	73
Ballyloran	Larne	74
Creggan Central 1	Derry	75
Coolessan	Limavady	76
Blackstaff 1	Belfast	77
Whiterock 1	Belfast	78
Cregagh	Castlereagh	79
Scrabo 2	Ards	80
Legoniel 1	Belfast	81
Scrabo 1	Ards	82
Ballymote	Down	83
Ballykeel	Ballymena	84
Brandywell	Derry	85
Conlig 3	North Down	86

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Culmore 3	Derry	87
Clonard 1	Belfast	88
Daisy hill 1	Newry and Mourne	89
Carnmoney 1	Newtownabbey	90
Moat	Ballymena	91
Beechmount 2	Belfast	92
Creggan South	Derry	93
Glencairn 2	Belfast	94
Hilden 2	Lisburn	95
Altnagelvin 1	Derry	96
Antiville	Larne	97
Donaghadee South 1	Ards	98
Glengormley 2	Newtownabbey	99
Tavanagh	Craigavon	100

**TABLE 3: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Cliftonville 3	Belfast	101
Lisanelly 2	Omagh	102
Castleview 1	Belfast	103
Daisy hill 2	Newry and Mourne	104
Botanic 5	Belfast	105
Court 1	Craigavon	106
Carn Hill 2	Derry	107
Shantallow East	Derry	108
Hillhall 1	Lisburn	109
Steeple	Antrim	110
Ballybay	Craigavon	111
Glencolin 1	Belfast	112
Clonard 2	Belfast	113
Callan Bridge	Armagh	114

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Legoniel 2	Belfast	115
Coalisland South	Dungannon	116
Clipperstown	Carrickfergus	117
Valley 2	Newtownabbey	118
Ballycolman	Strabane	119
Mossley 2	Newtownabbey	120
Drumgullion 1	Newry and Mourne	121
Bessbrook	Newry and Mourne	122
Ballycraigy	Antrim	123
Highfield 2	Belfast	124
Sunnylands	Carrickfergus	125
Bellevue 2	Belfast	126
Woodville 1	Craigavon	127
Hilden 1	Lisburn	128
Whitehill	North Down	129
Glencolin 2	Belfast	130
Beechmount 3	Belfast	131
Ballysillan 2	Belfast	132
Glencolin 3	Belfast	133
Tonagh	Lisburn	134
Water Works 2	Belfast	135
Shantallow West 3	Derry	136
Ballynafeigh 3	Belfast	137
Cross Glebe	Coleraine	138
Botanic 1	Belfast	139
Minnowburn	Castlereagh	140
Ladybrook 3	Belfast	141
Ballylough & Bushmills	Moyle	142
Kilwee 2	Lisburn	143
Creggan Central 2	Derry	144
Portavogie 1	Ards	145
Comber North 1	Ards	146
Church	Craigavon	147

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Farranshane	Antrim	148
Castlewellan 1	Down	149
Ballysaggart	Dungannon	150

**TABLE 3: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Drumgask 1	Craigavon	151
Water Works 3	Belfast	152
Edenderry	Banbridge	153
Blackcave	Larne	154
Enagh 1 Derry	Derry	155
Botanic 3	Belfast	156
Belmont 3	Belfast	157
Cloughfern 2	Newtownabbey	158
Botanic 2	Belfast	159
Ballybot	Newry and Mourne	160
Gortalee	Carrickfergus	161
Botanic 4	Belfast	162
Loughview 2	North Down	163
Clonallan 1	Newry and Mourne	164
Lambeg 2	Lisburn	165
Enler	Castlereagh	166
Central Ards	Ards	167
Millisle 1	Ards	168
Derrymore 1	Newry and Mourne	169
New Buildings 1	Derry	170
Sydenham 3	Belfast	171
Sydenham 1	Belfast	172
Lagan Valley 1	Lisburn	173
Fair Green	Ballymena	174
Coalisland North	Dungannon	175



<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Loughview 1	North Down	176
Newhill	Ballymoney	177
Kilkeel South 2	Newry and Mourne	178

**TABLE 4: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - HEALTH DEPRIVATION & DISABILITY DOMAIN**

**HEALTH DEPRIVATION AND DISABILITY DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Whiterock 2	Belfast	1
Falls 2	Belfast	2
Falls 1	Belfast	3
Whiterock 3	Belfast	4
Clonard 1	Belfast	5
Ardoyne 3	Belfast	6
New Lodge 2	Belfast	7
Falls 3	Belfast	8
Collin Glen 3	Lisburn	9
Upper Springfield 1	Belfast	10
New Lodge 1	Belfast	11
Shankill 1	Belfast	12
Creggan Central 1	Derry	13
Twinbrook 2	Lisburn	14
Upper Springfield 3	Belfast	15
Drumnamoe 1	Craigavon	16
Crumlin 2 Belfast	Belfast	17
East	Strabane	18
Drumgask 2	Craigavon	19
Shankill 2	Belfast	20
New Lodge 3	Belfast	21
Lisanelly 2	Omagh	22
Ballymacarrett 3	Belfast	23
Brandywell	Derry	24

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Clonard 2	Belfast	25
Duncairn 1	Belfast	26
Strand 1 Derry	Derry	27
Kilwee 2	Lisburn	28
Water Works 1	Belfast	29
Glencolin 4	Belfast	30
Shantallow West 1	Derry	31
Glencolin 2	Belfast	32
Collin Glen 1	Lisburn	33
Clondermot 1	Derry	34
Twinbrook 1	Lisburn	35
Drumgor 2	Craigavon	36
Shaftesbury 2	Belfast	37
Creggan South	Derry	38
Whiterock 1	Belfast	39
Ardoyne 1	Belfast	40
The Diamond	Derry	41
Shantallow West 2	Derry	42
Ardoyne 2	Belfast	43
Ballycolman	Strabane	44
Water Works 2	Belfast	45
Creggan Central 2	Derry	46
Shaftesbury 3	Belfast	47
Beechmount 2	Belfast	48
Crumlin 1 Belfast	Belfast	49
Collin Glen 2	Lisburn	50

**TABLE 4: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - HEALTH DEPRIVATION & DISABILITY DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
The Mount 1	Belfast	51
Devenish	Fermanagh	52

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Drumgullion 1	Newry and Mourne	53
Woodville 1	Craigavon	54
Highfield 3	Belfast	55
Botanic 5	Belfast	56
Glen Road 3	Belfast	57
Ballymacarrett 2	Belfast	58
Ballymote	Down	59
Shantallow East	Derry	60
Woodstock 2	Belfast	61
Coalisland South	Dungannon	62
Upper Springfield 2	Belfast	63
Coolessan	Limavady	64
Woodvale 3	Belfast	65
Shaftesbury 1	Belfast	66
Poleglass 1	Lisburn	67
Old Warren	Lisburn	68
Drumgask 1	Craigavon	69
Callan Bridge	Armagh	70
Glen Road 2	Belfast	71
Blackstaff 2	Belfast	72
Carn Hill 2	Derry	73
Westland	Derry	74
Beechmount 1	Belfast	75
Culmore 2	Derry	76
Court 1	Craigavon	77
The Mount 2	Belfast	78
Duncairn 2	Belfast	79
Glencolin 3	Belfast	80
Daisy hill 1	Newry and Mourne	81
Foyle Springs 2	Derry	82
Chichester Park 1	Belfast	83
Legoniel 1	Belfast	84
Glencairn 2	Belfast	85

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Glen Road 1	Belfast	86
Falls Park 1	Belfast	87
Ebrington 2	Derry	88
Cross Glebe	Coleraine	89
Ballymacarrett 1	Belfast	90
Water Works 3	Belfast	91
Crevagh 2	Derry	92
Ballybot	Newry and Mourne	93
Falls Park 3	Belfast	94
Greystone Limavady	Limavady	95
Beechmount 3	Belfast	96
Central Coleraine	Coleraine	97
Ladybrook 3	Belfast	98
Springtown 1	Derry	99
Daisy hill 2	Newry and Mourne	100

**TABLE 4: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - HEALTH DEPRIVATION & DISABILITY DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Ballysally 1	Coleraine	101
Woodvale 1	Belfast	102
Crevagh 3	Derry	103
Blackstaff 1	Belfast	104
Cliftonville 1	Belfast	105
The Cut	Banbridge	106
Court 2	Craigavon	107
Castleberg	Strabane	108
Kilkeel South 2	Newry and Mourne	109
Dunanney	Newtownabbey	110
Culmore 4	Derry	111
Coole	Newtownabbey	112
Kilkeel Central 2	Newry and Mourne	113

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Taghnevan	Craigavon	114
Cliftonville 3	Belfast	115
Beechwood	Derry	116
Enagh 1 Derry	Derry	117
Rosemount	Derry	118
Glencairn 1	Belfast	119
Valley 2	Newtownabbey	120
Victoria Derry	Derry	121
Gortrush 1	Omagh	122
Bessbrook	Newry and Mourne	123
Ladybrook 2	Belfast	124
St Mary's	Newry and Mourne	125
Andersonstown 2	Belfast	126
Crossmaglen	Newry and Mourne	127
Conlig 3	North Down	128
Derrymore 1	Newry and Mourne	129
Minnowburn	Castlereagh	130
Woodstock 3	Belfast	131
Sion Mills	Strabane	132
Derryagh 1	Lisburn	133
Chichester Park 2	Belfast	134
Portaferry 2	Ards	135
Andersonstown 3	Belfast	136
Drumglass	Dungannon	137
Corcrair 1	Craigavon	138
Mossley 2	Newtownabbey	139
Upper Malone 2	Belfast	140
Northland	Carrickfergus	141
Killyclogher 1	Omagh	142
Altnagelvin 1	Derry	143
Newtownstewart	Strabane	144
Whitehouse	Newtownabbey	145
Mourneview	Craigavon	146

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Monkstown 1	Newtownabbey	147
Farranshane	Antrim	148
Ballycraigy	Antrim	149
Sunnylands	Carrickfergus	150

**TABLE 4: TOP 20 % MOST DEPRIVED SUPER OUTPUT AREAS - HEALTH DEPRIVATION & DISABILITY DOMAIN**

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
West 2	Strabane	151
Ballysaggart	Dungannon	152
Sydenham 1	Belfast	153
Hillhall 1	Lisburn	154
Ballybay	Craigavon	155
Ardboe	Cookstown	156
Tavanagh	Craigavon	157
Edenderry	Banbridge	158
Enler	Castlereagh	159
Castle Demesne	Ballymena	160
Woodstock 1	Belfast	161
Bloomfield 1 Belfast	Belfast	162
Legoniel 2	Belfast	163
Newhill	Ballymoney	164
Corcraun 2	Craigavon	165
Castleview 1	Belfast	166
Kilwee 1	Lisburn	167
Gortrush 2	Omagh	168
Ballee	Ballymena	169
Lisnagelvin 1	Derry	170
Camowen	Omagh	171
Irvinestown	Fermanagh	172
Woodvale 2	Belfast	173
Seaview 2	Newry and Mourne	174

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>Local Government District</b>	<b>Health Deprivation &amp; Disability Domain 2010 Rank (Where 1 = most deprived)</b>
Steeple	Antrim	175
Oldtown	Cookstown	176
Falls Park 2	Belfast	177
Coalisland North	Dungannon	178

### **Percentage Unemployment Rate**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 10551/11-15, in light of the number of economically active people and the number of claimants of unemployment related benefits in the North Down area, to detail how the percentage unemployment rate of 3.7 percent was derived.

**(AQW 11986/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimate of the unemployment rate for Northern Ireland is based on the number of unemployed persons (aged 16 and over) expressed as a percentage of the equivalent economically active population.

However, due to the limitations of the LFS sample size it is not possible to provide reliable estimates of the unemployment rate at District Council level.

In such instances, it is necessary to use Claimant Count data, that is people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance at Job Benefits Offices.

The figure of 3.7 per cent that was provided in AQW 10551/11-15 is derived from the Claimant Count and was calculated by dividing the total number of claimants (1,877 in March 2012) in the North Down District Council Area (DCA) by the total 2010 mid-year population, aged 16-64, of North Down DCA (50,775).

### **Business Premises Occupied by Charity Shops**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps are being taken to assess and make available information on the number of business premises occupied by charity shops, or otherwise exempt from rates, across each of the district council areas.

**(AQW 12039/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information relating to movements within the non domestic valuation list is provided by Land & Property Services (LPS) to District Council Finance Officers on a quarterly basis. These updates show the number and value of properties within the valuation list by the various categories, including those properties shown in the list as exempt from rates.

The domestic and non domestic valuation lists are available to view on the LPS website via the following link:

[http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps/index/property\\_valuation/valuation-of-property/valuation-lists.htm](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/lps/index/property_valuation/valuation-of-property/valuation-lists.htm)

The lists show all properties on a district, ward and street basis and include details as to the distinguishment of each property, whether for example, Exempt, Industrial, or Sport & Recreation. LPS has currently no plans to assess and make available information on the number of business premises occupied by charity shops or otherwise exempted from rates, over and beyond the arrangements as detailed above.

## Review of Public Administration

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what powers or functions he plans to devolve to local councils under the Review of Public Administration; and whether this represents a change to his previous commitments.

**(AQW 12063/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** No powers or functions within my department have been identified for transfer to local councils under the Review of Public Administration either at the current time or previously.

## Boards of Department's Arm's Length Bodies

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of his Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity.

**(AQW 12066/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** There is currently one former senior civil servant serving on a paid basis on the board of one of DFP's arm's length bodies. There are no unpaid former senior civil servants serving on any of these boards.

## Apprenticeship Programmes

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the apprenticeship programmes available within his Department; (ii) the apprenticeship programmes provided by his Department; (iii) the number of people currently enrolled in these programmes; and (iv) the number of places available on the programmes.

**(AQW 12087/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Programme-Led Apprenticeship (PLA) was introduced by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in September 2009. This is an intervention measure to assist young people who have been unable to find employment as apprentices during the economic downturn. The Department contributes to this programme by providing 16 placements for participants on the PLA programme.

We are also currently working to make additional places available for the Steps to Work apprenticeship programme, which is DEL's main adult return to work programme.

The Department is currently working with DEL to provide a pilot ICT Apprenticeship scheme. The scheme would involve the Department and private sector employers committing to employing and training ICT apprentices. A working group comprising public and private sector representatives are finalising the details of the scheme, which will launch in the autumn.

There is currently 1 person enrolled on the Programme-Led Apprenticeship with the Department, this leaves a further 15 places available.

The Department plans to offer 10 apprenticeship placements, with other private sector partners offering an additional 15 apprentices on the ICT Apprenticeship scheme.

## Vacant Business Premises in the North Down Constituency

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the amount of revenue lost in domestic and regional rates, in the North Down constituency, as a result of vacant business premises, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 12130/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Liability to unoccupied rate for both the domestic and non-domestic rate sectors is prescribed in legislation.



The legislative provisions supporting unoccupied rates are set out in Article 25A of the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977, as amended, (“the 1977 Order”) and the Rates (Unoccupied Hereditaments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (2011 No. 36). In the case of unoccupied non-domestic hereditaments rate liability is 50% and in the case of unoccupied domestic hereditaments rate liability is 100%.

There are a number of exceptions to unoccupied rates. These are set out in Regulations and the hereditaments concerned attract 100% exclusion from rate liability.

Maximum rate liability is therefore imposed by legislation and in the case of vacancy the discharge of associated rating liability is not classified as a loss. The only losses that can be incurred from vacant properties arise from certain write-off activity. Since write-off losses are not separately categorised for unoccupied hereditaments it is not possible to quantify that loss.

### **Empty Premises Rate Relief Scheme**

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the North Down constituency qualify for the Empty Premises Rate Relief Scheme.

**(AQW 12131/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of businesses who would qualify is not readily available. Qualification for the Empty Premises Rate Relief Scheme requires an application to be made and is based on the property being vacant for 12 months or more and having been previously used for retail purposes. Information on applications is not available for the North Down Constituency as information is collated at district council and ward level only. As at 25th May 2012, two applications for Empty Premises Rate Relief have been received (in the Ards Borough Council Area). To date no awards have been made for properties in the North Down or Ards Borough Council Areas.

### **Vacant Business Premises in the North Down Constituency**

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide the addresses of the business premises that are currently vacant in the North Down constituency.

**(AQW 12132/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** This information cannot be provided as it may disclose personal information relating to sole traders. Data on vacant premises are not available at constituency level as they are collated at District Council and Ward level only.

As at 20th May 2012 there were 582 and 443 non-domestic properties recorded as vacant in the Ards and North Down Borough Council Areas respectively. The following tables provide a breakdown of the number of vacant non-domestic properties at Ward level within the two Councils.

#### **VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL AS AT 20TH MAY 2012**

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Ballygowan	13
Ballyrainey	58
Ballywalter	16
Bradshaws Brae	48
Carrowdore	18
Central	134
Comber East	58
Comber North	*

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Comber West	12
Donaghadee North	38
Donaghadee South	6
Glen	*
Gregstown	*
Killinchy	9
Kircubbin	19
Lisbane	12
Loughries	6
Millisle	35
Movilla	13
Portaferry	39
Portavogie	23
Scrabo	11
Whitespots	*
<b>Ards Borough Council Total</b>	<b>582</b>

\* 5 properties or less

#### **VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL AS AT 20TH MAY 2012**

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Ballyholme	*
Ballymagee	*
Bangor Castle	40
Bloomfield	27
Broadway	7
Bryansburn	8
Clandeboyne	15
Conlig	70
Craigavad	*
Crawfordsburn	6
Cultra	*
Dufferin	*
Groomsport	22
Harbour	113
Hollywood Demesne	44

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Hollywood Priory	31
Loughview	7
Princetown	*
Rathgael	16
Silverstream	8
Spring Hill	*
Ward Area not known	*
<b>North Down Borough Council Total</b>	<b>443</b>

\* 5 properties or less

### **Vacant Business Premises**

**Mr Cree** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many business premises are currently vacant in (i) Bangor; (ii) Hollywood; (iii) Donaghadee; and (iv) Millisle.

**(AQW 12133/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Information on the number of business premises that are currently vacant in (i) Bangor; (ii) Hollywood; (iii) Donaghadee; and (iv) Millisle is not available as information is collated at district council and Ward level only.

As at 20th May 2012 there were 582 and 443 non-domestic properties recorded as vacant in the Ards and North Down Borough Council Areas respectively. The following tables provide a breakdown of the number of vacant non-domestic properties at ward level within the two Councils.

### **VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL AS AT 20TH MAY 2012**

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Ballygowan	13
Ballyrainey	58
Ballywalter	16
Bradshaws Brae	48
Carrowdore	18
Central	134
Comber East	58
Comber North	*
Comber West	12
Donaghadee North	38
Donaghadee South	6
Glen	*
Gregstown	*
Killinchy	9

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Kircubbin	19
Lisbane	12
Loughries	6
Millisle	35
Movilla	13
Portaferry	39
Portavogie	23
Scrabo	11
Whitespots	*
<b>Ards Borough Council Total</b>	<b>582</b>

\* 5 properties or less

#### **VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL AS AT 20TH MAY 2012**

<b>Ward Area</b>	<b>Number of vacant non-domestic properties</b>
Ballyholme	*
Ballymagee	*
Bangor Castle	40
Bloomfield	27
Broadway	7
Bryansburn	8
Clandeboye	15
Conlig	70
Craigavad	*
Crawfordsburn	6
Cultra	*
Dufferin	*
Groomsport	22
Harbour	113
Hollywood Demesne	44
Hollywood Priory	31
Loughview	7
Princetown	*
Rathgael	16
Silverstream	8
Spring Hill	*

Ward Area	Number of vacant non-domestic properties
Ward Area not known	*
<b>North Down Borough Council Total</b>	<b>443</b>

\* 5 properties or less

### Disputes on the Value of Property

**Mr McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of whether an independent arbitration process would be of assistance in resolving disputes on the value of property, especially where investment and employment potentials are affected by a protracted disagreement with Land and Property Services on the disposal of property in the ownership of Executive Departments.  
**(AQW 12141/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Land & Property Services (LPS) advise NI Departments at every stage of the disposal process. In many high value and high demand sales, disposals are advanced by open market private treaty with estate agents acting on behalf of Departments. In some sales, for example, where there is limited market interest, or low offers, or where there is a special purchaser, the process is often concluded by direct negotiations between LPS and interested parties.

Disposing bodies are required by legislation to get the best price for land.

I consider that the existing procedures within the Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in NI guidelines are adequate in resolving the many different scenarios that can arise in the sale of land. The guidelines do not include recourse to arbitration and my assessment is that arbitration would not be of assistance in the circumstances you describe.

### District Councillors

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many days special leave, with pay, are district councillors, who are employees of central government Departments, entitled to for the conduct of their council duties.  
**(AQW 12192/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Employees of central government departments who are elected members of district councils are allowed up to a limit of 18 days per leave year for the conduct of their council duties. This total may be increased up to a limit of 24 days per leave year if the department is satisfied that the duties equate to those of a Lord Mayor.

### Sickness Absence

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the percentage of sickness absence in his Department in each of the last three years; and the agreed target rate of sickness as set out in any memoranda of understanding between his Department and the trade unions.  
**(AQW 12213/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The information requested is detailed in the following table:

Year	Ministerial Target	Absence Rate
09/10	8.5 days	10.3 days (4.6%)
10/11	9.7 days	9.5 days (4.3%)
11/12	9.1 days	* 9.1 days (4.1%)

\* Remains un-validated. The 2011/2012 validated absence rate will not be available until the autumn.

## Introduction of Universal Credit

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the potential impact of the introduction of Universal Credit on (i) annual managed expenditure; (ii) departmental expenditure; and (iii) the block grant received from the Government of the United Kingdom.

**(AQW 12216/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Universal Credit is one of the measures included within the GB Welfare Reform Act 2012.

Benefit related spending on Universal Credit is expected to be higher as protection has been included to ensure that a customer will not see a reduction in the level of benefit at the point of change where their circumstances remain the same. Benefit uptake levels are also expected to increase due to a simpler benefit claiming process.

Departmental expenditure on administering the Universal Credit is expected to increase as the new system and processes are designed and implemented and as customers migrate from the existing benefits to the new universal credit. However in the longer term administration costs are expected to decrease as delivery methods are more cost effective.

Spending on social security benefits is demand led and, as such, is classified as Annually Managed Expenditure (AME). Annually Managed Expenditure is funded directly from HM Treasury in line with actual need. The Block grant received will be adjusted to reflect changes in AME spending.

The cost of administering the benefits systems is met from the Northern Ireland Executive's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL). The NI DEL, and therefore the Block grant, will be adjusted to reflect Barnett consequentials of any allocations to the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of the Welfare Reform programme. However, Barnett consequentials are unhypothecated and as such it is for the Executive to decide how these should be used.

The evaluation of the impact on Annually Managed Expenditure and departmental spending will continue as work on Universal Credit progresses from planning into implementation and delivery.

## Public Servants in Department's Arm's-Length Bodies

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether any civil servants or public servants in his Department's arm's-length bodies are working 'off payroll' so that their salaries are paid in such a way that corporation tax rather than income tax is paid.

**(AQW 12252/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** I refer the member to my response to questions AQW 8394/11-15 and AQW 9668/11-15 answered on the 12th April 2012 and AQW 10514/11-15 answered on the 27th April 2012. I can confirm that the position remains, as set out in those answers.

## Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to his Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.

**(AQW 12288/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Department currently has 5 small arm's length bodies.

- NI Building Regulations Advisory Committee
- Statistics Advisory Committee
- Public Service Commission for NI (PSC)
- Lay Observer for NI
- Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) Governance Group

In 2008 and 2009 the Department also had responsibility for The NI Law Commission, Lands Tribunal for NI and the NI Valuation Tribunal.

The NI Law Commission transferred to the Department of Justice (DoJ) with effect from 12 April 2010 and the Lands Tribunal for NI and the NI Valuation Tribunal transferred to DoJ with effect from 1 April 2011.

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) Governance Group was first established with effect from 1 February 2010.

Further information on my Department's arm's length bodies can be found on the DFP Internet site in the document - Bodies for which DFP has a degree of responsibility.

### **Civil Service: Freeze on Promotion**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has any plans to remove the freeze on promotion to higher grades in the Civil Service, should other public sector employees, who are currently remote from the main centralised public sector jobs, have an opportunity for promotion through the de-centralisation of public sector jobs.

**(AQW 12349/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** There is no embargo on promotion to any grade, including to higher grades, in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS).

There is no central programme or strategy for the decentralisation of public sector jobs. Individual public bodies, departments and Ministers can of course consider the location of public sector facilities and jobs subject to the normal requirements of business need, value for money and affordability.

Other public sector employees can only avail of employment and promotion opportunities with the NICS if they have been recruited in accordance with the Recruitment Policy ([www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk](http://www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk))

and in compliance with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code ([www.nicscommissioners.org](http://www.nicscommissioners.org)).

Staff within the NICS are promoted in accordance with the NICS Careers Opportunity and Promotion Policy, ([www.dfpni.gov.uk/1.05-career-opportunities-and-promotion.pdf](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/1.05-career-opportunities-and-promotion.pdf)).

All staff who meet the essential criteria are eligible to apply and to be assessed for promotion. Staff who are successful in promotion competitions are offered promotion opportunities in line with Departments' needs to fill their vacant posts to meet business objectives.

### **Remuneration for Board Members of Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the current total annual cost of remuneration for board members at his Department's arm's-length bodies and quangos.

**(AQW 12410/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The annual cost of remuneration for Board members of my Department's arm's-length bodies is listed in the table overleaf.

<b>Arms length Body</b>	<b>Number of members and remuneration</b>			
	<b>Chair</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>£</b>
NI Building Regulations Advisory Committee	1	Expenses only	17	Expenses only
Statistics Advisory Committee	1	Expenses only	7	Expenses only

Arms length Body	Number of members and remuneration			
	Chair	£	Members	£
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

### Managing Public Money Northern Ireland

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if he can confirm that the sentiments contained in the foreword, together with the chapters and annexes, of the Managing Public Money Northern Ireland document, apply equally to all public bodies in Northern Ireland, including all 26 local councils. **(AQW 12418/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Managing Public Money Northern Ireland, issued by DFP, sets out the main principles for dealing with resources used by public sector organisations in Northern Ireland. The guidance must be followed by all NI departments, Executive Agencies and NDPBs.

District councils are independent of central Government and responsible for their own financial affairs. They are regulated by specific pieces of legislation and codes of practices which set out the framework within which they may manage their finances.

### Vacant Business Premises

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many business premises in the (i) North Down; and (ii) Ards Borough Council areas were vacant on 31 March 2012. **(AQW 12424/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** As at 31st March 2012, the number of vacant non-domestic properties in (i) the North Down Borough Council area and (ii) the Ards Borough Council area was (i) 448 and (ii) 582, respectively.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Use of Trans Fats

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to reduce the use of trans fats; and whether he has considered banning or limiting their use. **(AQW 11969/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** Trans fats have been shown to raise blood cholesterol levels and increase the risk of Coronary Heart Disease. Current average dietary intakes are lower than the recommended 2% total energy. As dietary intakes of saturated fats in the UK represent the greater heart health risk it is appropriate, and in the best interests of consumer health that the Department of Health and the Food Standard Agency's priority has been to reduce saturated fat intakes. Any food industry action to reduce trans fats should not serve to further increase saturated fat content.



This is an area led by FSA, and supported by my Department. We welcome the voluntary commitments and initiatives undertaken by manufacturers, retailers, food service organisations and their suppliers to reduce levels of both saturated fats and trans fats in their products, especially through the UK-wide Responsibility Deal.

Evidence indicates that the levels of trans fats from artificial sources have been reduced in recent years. The food industry has already voluntarily removed hydrogenated vegetable oils and reduced levels of artificial trans fats from 55% to less than 2%. My Department, through the Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022: A Fitter Future for All, continues to support the work of the FSA to help manufacturers reformulate products to contribute to reductions in saturated and trans fat in foods and advise consumers to reduce consumption of foods high in both saturated fat and trans fat.

The Public Health Agency is also undertaking a range of initiatives in this area including implementing nutritional standards in schools, developing an accredited Healthy Catering award for Northern Ireland and nutrition training for Environmental Health Officers, and increasing the procurement of fresh, local sustainable food in health service facilities

### Funding Allocated to Mental Health Provision and Suicide Prevention

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of funding allocated to (i) mental health provision; and (ii) suicide prevention in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 11979/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The level of funding allocated to mental health provision and suicide prevention in each of the last three years is contained in the following table:

	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m
(i) Mental health provision (including Suicide Prevention)	235.9	237.2	240.1
(ii) Suicide prevention (Protect Life Strategy and Lifeline)	6.8	6.9	6.9

Figures for 2012/13 are not yet available.

The information requested is not available by constituency.

### Public Health Agency's Protect Life Strategy

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of funding allocated to date through the Public Health Agency's Protect Life Strategy, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 11980/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Since 2010-11, the Public Health Agency has provided funding of £3.3m per annum for its Protect Life strategy. A further £3.6m per annum was allocated to support Lifeline.

The information requested is not available by constituency.

### Health and Social Care Trusts: Events or Seminars

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people employed by the Health and Social Care Trusts attended events or seminars in 2011, not under the auspices of their employment with the Trusts, to speak about their field of expertise at (i) locations in Northern Ireland; (ii) locations in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland; and (iii) any other location.

**(AQW 11988/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department does not hold this information centrally. The information requested could only be obtained by asking each HSC Organisation to undertake a special manual exercise and this could only be done at a disproportionate cost.

### Implementation of an Early Years Strategy

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what collaboration his Department has had with the Department of Education in relation to the implementation of an early years strategy.

**(AQW 12045/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department is committed to working collaboratively with DE on areas of common interest. A liaison group on Early Years and Childcare, jointly chaired by DHSSPS/DE has been set up and acts as the conduit for this work.

In addition to this, both DHSSPS and DE are represented on the Programme Board that has been established to oversee the projects that will deliver the outcomes set out in Delivering Social Change.

### Arm's-Length Bodies: Invoices

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what percentage of invoices was paid by each of his Department's arm's-length bodies within 30 days, in the last 12 months.

**(AQW 12052/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The percentage of invoices paid by my Department's arms length bodies within 30 days only in the 2011/12 financial year is contained in the table below.

The reporting of payment within 30 days only is not in accordance with extant Departmental guidance, which requires HSC organisations to report performance within 30 days or other agreed terms. Details of the percentage of invoices paid under this requirement are therefore also included for comparison purposes.

#### PROMPT PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

Arms Length Body	2011/2012	
	% of bills paid within 30 days only	% of bills paid within 30 days or other agreed terms
Northern Trust	87.74	93.88
Belfast Trust	86.75	92.00
Western Trust	92.74	96.20
South Eastern Trust	86.10	92.60
NIAS Trust	92.33	97.50
Southern Trust	81.70	91.20
HSCB	81.65	91.70
BSO	92.30	95.70
NIBTS	96.20	96.20
NIFRS	95.40	95.40
NIGALA	95.91	98.70
NIMDTA	97.60	97.60

Arms Length Body	2011/2012	
	% of bills paid within 30 days only	% of bills paid within 30 days or other agreed terms
NIPEC	94.01	98.70
NISCC	80.32	86.00
PCC	92.17	96.80
PHA	76.29	92.32
RQIA	92.62	96.20

### **Antrim Area Hospital: Complaints**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last three years, to detail what representations or complaints were made to his Department on staff shortages, waiting times and other clinical problems at the Antrim Area Hospital, broken down by representations or complaints made by (i) senior management in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust; (ii) staff at the Antrim Area Hospital; and (iii) members of the public.

**(AQW 12054/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information is not available in the format requested and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost to the Department.

### **Management Structure of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what reviews have been carried out, in the last year, in relation to the management structure of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, including how management communicates with medical staff in hospitals.

**(AQW 12055/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Health and Social Care Trust's Senior Management Team was restructured in July 2011.

There are various forums used to communicate with medical staff on corporate, directorate and service level information. Whilst many of these forums are cross directorate/ cross professional, there are also arrangements in place for specific professions. For medical staff, this includes Chief Executive briefings every two months attended by senior medical staff, including Clinical Directors and the Chief Executive is invited to attend meetings of Medical Staff Committees on a regular basis.

The Northern Trust's Acute Hospital Services Directorate has participated in a number of audits to test the effectiveness of engagement within the directorate and this includes communications with medical staff. Most recently, the Trust has adopted a "road show" type approach within acute services to talk about key challenges on a multi disciplinary basis.

### **Boards of Department's Arm's Length Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many former senior civil servants, from deputy secretary grade to permanent secretary grade, serve on the boards of his Department's arm's length bodies in a (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid capacity.

**(AQW 12096/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department is aware of one former senior civil servant, a former deputy secretary in DHSSPS, currently serving on one of its arm's length bodies and in a paid capacity.

In accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland my Department does not ask applicants for their full employment history, as this plays no part in the selection process.

### Referral to Occupational Therapist

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average waiting time for a referral to an occupational therapist in each Health and Social Care Trust area. **(AQW 12119/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Table 1 below details the number of people waiting from referral to treatment by an occupational therapist, by aggregate time band, in each HSC Trust at 30 April 2012.

**TABLE 1**

HSC Trust	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Occupational Therapy (by weeks waiting) <sup>1</sup>					Total
	0-3	>3 to 6	>6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	
Belfast	561	528	470	242	19	1,820
Northern	695	494	286	46	0	1,521
South Eastern	381	312	194	102	19	1,008
Southern	319	320	192	101	68	1,000
Western	268	332	212	44	0	856
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>6,205</b>

1 Figures detailed in reply to this question were provided on request by the HSC Board and have not been validated by the DHSSPS.

The median waiting time from referral to treatment in each HSC Trust was “>3 to 6” weeks.

The information collected cannot be disaggregated by geographical areas smaller than HSC Trust.

### Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service: Scrap Cars for Training

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) how much it has cost the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to (a) purchase scrap cars to be used in training; and (b) buy missing parts for the scrap cars; and (ii) all suppliers of scrap cars and missing parts, broken down by command area.

**(AQW 12121/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

(i) (a) Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service expenditure for scrap cars from 2007-2012.

Area	2007/08 £	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
Northern	-	21,000	28,450	19,880	22,535
Southern	-	15,900	33,160	17,255	23,240
Eastern	12,650	10,310	21,530	15,300	10,790
Western	-	24,335	35,680	22,020	19,230
Training Centre	-	12,830	9,690	17,190	13,060

Area	2007/08 £	2008/09 £	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	2011/12 £
Community Development	-	990	1,890	2,960	2,175
Driving Change Project	-	-	-	-	700
Yearly expenditure	12,650	85,365	130,400	94,605	91,730

- (b) NIFRS does not purchase missing parts for scrap vehicles.
- (ii) The table below outlines the suppliers of scrap cars for the period September 2005 to October 2012, broken down by Command Area.

### SUPPLIERS OF SCRAP CARS BY COMMAND AREA

#### SEPTEMBER 2005 – OCTOBER 2012

Eastern	Western	Northern	Southern	Training Centre
Agnew Recovery Service	Alcorn Recovery	Agnew Recovery Service	Agnew Recovery Service	Agnew Recovery Service
Beatties Recycling	Hilltop Garage	Beatties Recycling	Beatties Recycling	Beatties Recycling
John Beers	Lakeland Recovery	John Beers	John Beers	John Beers
B & C McKeown	Robert McDaid Car Breakers	Hilltop Garage	Gavins Recovery	B & C McKeown
Ruddel Metyals	Morrow Recovery	B & C McKeown	B & C McKeown	R R Recovery
Temple Auto Salvage	Temple Auto Salvage	R R Recovery	R R Recovery	Temple Auto Salvage
T-Met	T-Met	Temple Auto Salvage	Ruddell Metals	T-Met
Two Trees	Two Trees		Temple Auto Salvage	Two Trees
			John Tinnelly & Sons	
			T-Met	
			Two Trees	
			Watson 24 Hour Recovery	

### Population Plans for Trust Areas

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how many groups are involved in the production of the population plans for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area; (ii) the names and professions of members of the Professional Advisory Groups; and (iii) the groups working on the Compton Report.

**(AQW 12122/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has set up fifteen Professional Advisory Groups to support the development of the population plan for the Northern Trust area, as set out below:

- 1 Acute and General Medicine
- 2 Anaesthetics, Transport and Critical Care
- 3 Cardiology
- 4 Care of the Elderly and Stroke Medicine
- 5 Diabetes and Endocrinology
- 6 Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care and Minor Injuries
- 7 Gastroenterology and Nutrition
- 8 General Surgery
- 9 Medical Diagnostics
- 10 Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Haematology)
- 11 Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- 12 Paediatrics
- 13 Palliative Care
- 14 Respiratory Medicine
- 15 Pain Relief

The Professional Advisory Groups have been supported by the NHSCT Chief Executive, Medical Director, Nursing Director, Director of Acute Hospital Services and Director of Planning, Performance Management and Support Services and Local Commissioning Group representatives.

The groups consist of a cross section of staff including clinical, nursing and primary care representatives. The names and professions of the members of each group are provided on the table below. The General Practitioners involved move between different groups and their names are therefore not recorded against any specific Professional Advisory Group.

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Professional Advisory Group</b>
Dr Abraham Varghese	Consultant Physician	Acute & General Medicine
Dr Anil Xavier	Consultant - AGE team	Acute & General Medicine
Dr Charles Jack	Consultant Physician	Acute & General Medicine
Dr Ian Carl	Consultant Physician	Acute & General Medicine
Dr Naila Satti	Consultant Acute Physician	Acute & General Medicine
Dr Alexander Abraham	Consultant Anaesthetist	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Dr Geoff Wright	Consultant Anaesthetist	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Dr George Gardiner	Lead Clinician, Critical Care Network in Northern Ireland	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Dr Gregory Furness	Clinical Director ATICS	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Dr Ronald Bailie	Consultant Anaesthetist	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Kate McCusker	Ward Manager, ICU	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Professional Advisory Group</b>
Kay Johnston	Lead Nurse, Anaesthetics	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Ms Linda Mulholland	Network Manager, Critical Care Network in Northern Ireland	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Wanda Love	Physiotherapist	Anaesthetics, Transport & Critical Care
Dr E Hunter	Consultant Physician	Cardiology
Dr John Riddell	Consultant Cardiologist	Cardiology
Dr Tom Trouton	Consultant Cardiologist	Cardiology
Karen McMaster	Physiotherapy Services Manager	Cardiology
Alison Friel	Orthoptics	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Dr David Craig	Consultant Geriatrician	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Dr Fergal Tracey	Consultant Physician	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Dr James Gilmore	Clinical Lead Care of Elderly and Stroke	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Dr Marina Lupari	Assistant Director Nursing Research & Development	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Mrs Janice Russell	Physiotherapy Lead, Antrim Area	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Ms Roisin Doyle	General Manager Acute Rehabilitation and SW	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Paula Ford Hutchinson	Stroke Specialist Nurse	Care of the Elderly & Stroke Medicine
Alison Campbell Smyth	Podiatry Services Manager	Diabetes and Endocrinology
Dr Adele Kennedy	Consultant in Community Diabetes & Endocrinology	Diabetes and Endocrinology
Dr Rebecca Houghton	Consultant Clinical Psychologist	Diabetes and Endocrinology
Dr S Kassim	Consultant Physician	Diabetes and Endocrinology
Dr S Starzynski	Consultant Physician	Diabetes and Endocrinology
Jill Curry	Dietetics Services Manager	Diabetes and Endocrinology
Rosemary Megaw	Diabetic Nurse Specialist	Diabetes and Endocrinology
David McManus	NIAS representative	Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care & Minor Injuries
Denise Quinn	OT Lead	Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care & Minor Injuries

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Professional Advisory Group</b>
Dr Brendan Lavery	Consultant in Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care & Minor Injuries
Dr Fergal Dunn	Consultant in Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care & Minor Injuries
Dr Mark Jenkins	Consultant in Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care & Minor Injuries
Heather McKeown	Emergency Nurse Practitioner	Emergency Medicine, Urgent Care & Minor Injuries
Dr George Jacob	GI Consultant	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Dr Gerard Rafferty	Consultant Gastroenterologist	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Margaret Kyle	Endoscopy Lead Nurse	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Mary Kane	Stoma Care Nurse Specialist	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Oonagh Moffett	Dietitian	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Patrick Allen	GI Consultant	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Pearse McDonald	Ward Manager, C4	Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Hazel Winning	OT Services Manager	General Surgery
Mr Colman Byrnes	Consultant Surgeon	General Surgery
Mr James Patterson	Consultant Surgeon	General Surgery
Mr M Whiteside	Consultant Surgeon	General Surgery
Mr Stephen Dace	Consultant Surgeon	General Surgery
Dr Barry Patterson	Consultant Radiologist	Medical Diagnostics
Dr Dianne Kirkpatrick	Consultant Radiologist	Medical Diagnostics
Dr Myles Nelson	Clinical Director Medical Diagnostic Specialities	Medical Diagnostics
Dr Paul Horan	Consultant Cardiologist	Medical Diagnostics
Dr Scott McCloskey	Consultant Haematologist	Medical Diagnostics
Mr David Wallace	GM in Radiology	Medical Diagnostics
Mr Geoff Kennedy	General Manager, Laboratory	Medical Diagnostics
Ms Geraldine McCafferty	Trust Clinical Lead Radiographer	Medical Diagnostics
Ms Virginia Anderson	Service Manager, Cardio-Respiratory Investigations	Medical Diagnostics
Prof Michael Scott	Head of Pharmacy	Medical Diagnostics
Dr Camille Harron	Clinical Lead Medical Specialities	Medical Specialities (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)



<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Professional Advisory Group</b>
Dr Claire Riddell	Consultant Rheumatologist	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Dr Nabla McLoone	Consultant Dermatologist	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Dr Philip Windrum	Consultant Haematologist	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Dr Tom Esmonde	Consultant Neurologist	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Gerry Totten	Charge Nurse, Renal Unit	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Linda Millar	GM Surgery, Endoscopy and Gastroenterology	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Linda Patton	Gm Medical Services	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Lyn Gordon	Rheumatology Physiotherapist	Medical Specialties (Renal, Neurology, Dermatology, Rheum, Haem)
Dr B Marshall	Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Dr Robert McMillen	Consultant Gynaecologist	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Dr Shahnaz Nawaz	Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Dr Shona Hamilton	Consultant Midwife	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Janice Allen	Specialist Physiotherapist	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Mrs Caroline Diamond	Lead Midwife	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Mrs Margaret Gordon	Assistant Director - Acute Hospital Services (Obs/Gynae)	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Mrs Sinead O'Kane	Head of Midwifery	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Dr Michael Ledwith	Clinical Director Paediatrics	Paediatrics
Fiona Brown	Head of Children's Nursing	Paediatrics
Joy Peters	Orthoptic Service Manager	Paediatrics
Mildred Bell	Head of SLT & Associated Services	Paediatrics
Mrs Bernie Hartley	Project Manager - Paediatric Reform	Paediatrics

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Professional Advisory Group</b>
Ron Cooper	Consultant Anaesthesiologist	Pain Management
Bernie McGreevy	Specialist Physiotherapist	Palliative Care
Dr Alan McPherson	Consultant in Palliative Care	Palliative Care
Dr Yvonne Duff	MacMillan Consultant in Palliative Medicine	Palliative Care
Fiona Gilmour	Palliative Care Services Improvement Lead	Palliative Care
Sue Patchett	Macmillan Education Facilitator	Palliative Care
Christine Gamble	Respiratory Specialist Physiotherapist	Respiratory Medicine
Dr Julian Leggett	Consultant Respiratory Physician	Respiratory Medicine
Dr Liam Polley	Consultant in Respiratory Medicine	Respiratory Medicine
Dr Ronan Donnelly	Consultant in Respiratory Medicine	Respiratory Medicine
Dr Wendy Anderson	Consultant in Respiratory Medicine	Respiratory Medicine
Heather Gilmore	Respiratory Nurse	Respiratory Medicine
Pamela Armstrong	Physiotherapist	Respiratory Medicine
Sheila McGuckian	Clinical Physiologist	Respiratory Medicine
Siobhan Bradley	Respiratory Nurse Specialist	Respiratory Medicine
Tracey Norris	Clinical Services Lead	Respiratory Medicine
Dr L Beck	GP	
Dr B Bonnar	GP	
Dr T Brown	GP	
Dr Ian Buchanan	GP	
Dr K Caldwell	GP	
Dr B Connor	GP	
Dr Gillian Crooks	GP	
Dr Brian Dunn	GP	
Dr S Fannin	GP	
Dr Jan Ferguson	GP	
Dr Kathy Ferguson	GP	
Dr S Gallagher	GP	
Dr Hasson	GP	
Dr Brian Hunter	GP	

Member Name	Title	Professional Advisory Group
Dr David Johnston	GP	
Dr I Lalsingh	GP	
Dr T Lennox	GP	
Dr T Magowan	GP	
Dr Reginald McAuley	GP	
Dr K McConkey	GP	
Dr Bernard McCoy	GP	
Dr A McIlroy	GP	
Dr John McSparron	GP	
Dr Martin O'Kane	GP	
Dr Brian Patterson	GP	
Dr Barbara Savage	HSCB Medical Advisor	
Dr Colin Spence	GP	
Dr Turlough Tracey	GP	
Dr D White	GP	

### Hinds and Rutter Reports into the Antrim Area Hospital

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the Hinds and Rutter reports into the Antrim Area Hospital, what action he intends to take, particularly in relation to the finding of a failure to meet the 'fundamental human needs' of patients.

**(AQW 12128/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Both the Hinds and Rutter reviews were commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) as part of their performance management strategy to improve patient waiting times and the overall patient experience at Antrim Area Hospital. This aligns with the work of the Emergency Department Improvement Action Group which I requested be established by the HSCB, in liaison with the Public Health Agency, to secure significant improvements in the performance of A&E Departments across Northern Ireland and the patient experience.

The HSCB will be reporting to the Department on the totality of the work on improving Emergency Department quality and performance and these reports make a helpful and important contribution to this work. As required by the Department, the Board is examining and applying the best available, evidence based, good practice in whole system, not just Emergency Department, management.

### Consultant Posts at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how many consultant posts are currently vacant at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen, broken down by post; and (ii) whether all the posts will be filled prior to the opening of the South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen.

**(AQW 12139/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Western Health and Social Care Trust advised that there are currently 11 vacancies for Consultants at Erne Hospital, Enniskillen.

The Trust further advised that one Consultant Cardiology post and one Consultant Radiologist post have been offered and accepted with the successful applicants taking up post in August 2012. Funding

for a second Consultant Radiologist has been confirmed and the post will be advertised in June, but may be filled by a locum in the interim. Interviews are due to be held on 15 June for three Emergency Medicine Consultant posts (these posts are currently filled by two Trust locums and one agency locum). Two temporary locum Anaesthetic Consultant posts have been appointed to fill short term requirements with the successful applicants taking up post in August 2012. An agency locum is currently in situ for a vacant Elderly Care and Stroke Medicine post which will be re-advertised. A Trust locum is currently in situ for a vacant Obstetrics and Gynaecology post. Adverts for a Consultant Physician have been unsuccessful and the post will be re-advertised.

Information for this question was obtained directly from the Western Health and Social Care Trust and has not been validated by the Department.

### **Prompt Payment Performance Figures**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) which Health and Social Care Trusts submitted their 10-day prompt payment performance figures in line with Annex 4.6.3 of Managing Public Money, prior to the issue of the departmental guidance contained in HSC(f)27/2012; and (ii) which Trusts have decided to change their reporting period from calendar days to working days.

**(AQW 12151/11-15)**

#### **Mr Poots:**

- (i) In responding to AQW 7723/11 (13 February 2012), it became apparent that only the Southern HSC Trust had submitted 10-day prompt payment performance figures in line with Annex 4.6.3 of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland.
- (ii) HSC (F) 27/2012 requires all trusts to use working days as a basis for their 10 day prompt payment calculations.

### **Prompt Payment Performance Figures**

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 7723/11-15, whether existing departmental guidance states that all Health and Social Care bodies, that report prompt payment performance figures, are expected to count the days elapsed from the date an invoice is first received.

**(AQW 12153/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The current Departmental guidance on this issue is contained in Circular HSS (F) 54/2008, which states that all possible steps should be taken to ensure that suppliers are paid in respect of valid invoices or from the receipt of goods/services (whichever is the later) as promptly as possible. In practice, this means the date on which an invoice is received by an organisation.

### **Paediatric Physiotherapists**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why paediatric physiotherapists are rated at Band 6 in the Western Health and Social Care Trust, and at Band 7 in the Northern, Southern, and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts

**(AQW 12202/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am advised that there is a combination of Band 6 and Band 7 paediatric physiotherapists in the Western HSC Trust; this is similar to the skill-mix in the Northern, Southern, and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts.

## Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to his Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.

**(AQW 12231/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety currently has 17 Arms Length Bodies which are:

- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust;
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust;
- Western Health and Social Care Trust;
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust;
- NI Ambulance Service Trust;
- The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) ;
- The Public Health Agency (PHA);
- The Business Services Organization (BSO);
- The Patient and Client Council (PCC);
- NI Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS);
- NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency (NIGALA);
- NI Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA);
- NI Social Care Council (NISCC);
- NI Practice & Education Council for Nursing & Midwifery (NIPEC);
- Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA); and,
- NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS)

The figures for the years (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii)2010; and (iv) 2011 are shown in the table below:

	Year			
	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of Arm's Length Bodies	22	17	17	17

## Relationship between Unemployment and the Rate of Suicide

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is any research which suggests a relationship between increasing unemployment and a corresponding increase in the rate of suicide.

**(AQW 12247/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There have been a number of research studies undertaken on the relationship between increased unemployment and suicide rates.

In particular, studies indicate that unemployed people are at 2-3 times more risk of suicide (Platt S, Hawton K. Suicidal behaviour and the labour market. In: Hawton K, van Heeringen K, eds. The international handbook of suicide and attempted suicide. New York: Wiley, 2000: 310-84), and that every 1% increase in unemployment is associated with a 0.79% rise in suicides amongst people under 65 years of age (David Stuckler, Sanjay Basu, Marc Suhrcke, Adam Coutts, Martin McKee. The public

health effect of economic crises and alternative policy responses in Europe: an empirical analysis. outline goes here

The Lancet, Volume 378, Issue 9786, Pages 124 - 125, 9 July 2011).

### Advertisements Relating to Bowel Cancer

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of advertisements relating to bowel cancer that have been published in the printed media, by his Department and its arm's-length bodies, from 31 March 2011 to 31 March 2012, broken by the distribution in each council area.

**(AQW 12273/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** A total of 32 advertisements relating to bowel cancer were published in the printed media from 31 March 2011 to 31 March 2012 by the Public Health Agency. This information cannot be broken by the distribution in each council area.

### People Diagnosed with Bowel Cancer

**Mr McClarty** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last five years, broken down by council area.

**(AQW 12274/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The following table includes information regarding the number of new cases of colorectal cancer (ICD-10\* C18-21) diagnosed in each year between 2005 and 2009 in N. Ireland, by Local Government District.

Local Government District	Number of cases				
	Year of diagnosis				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Antrim	20	24	31	29	20
Ards	53	39	62	51	54
Armagh	26	31	44	29	34
Ballymena	29	42	34	44	35
Ballymoney	17	25	27	25	26
Banbridge	21	17	26	23	31
Belfast	167	187	206	183	183
Carrickfergus	31	23	29	26	29
Castlereagh	41	34	43	46	42
Coleraine	40	37	35	39	43
Cookstown	19	11	28	21	20
Craigavon	44	50	54	49	46
Derry	51	61	73	50	56
Down	44	59	36	47	46
Dungannon	29	24	38	29	36

Local Government District	Number of cases				
	Year of diagnosis				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fermanagh	36	35	43	45	40
Larne	24	26	20	19	19
Limavady	14	10	15	19	18
Lisburn	71	82	63	75	72
Magherafelt	23	22	20	23	32
Moyle	10	8	16	13	8
Newry & Mourne	53	54	44	61	60
Newtownabbey	40	54	62	52	39
North Down	50	52	57	49	47
Omagh	25	25	31	33	22
Strabane	22	21	18	21	26
Unknown	10	11	13	14	8

\* 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://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ICD-10\\_codes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ICD-10_codes).

### Condition Management Programme

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Employment and Learning about the Condition Management Programme and its future after March 2013.

**(AQW 12276/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has had no discussions with the Department for Employment and Learning about the Condition Management Programme and its future after March 2013.

### Social Workers on Sick Leave

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last two years, how many social workers have been on sick leave for a period of more than a week in (i) Co Fermanagh; and (ii) the rest of Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 12315/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on sick leave among social workers within Northern Ireland Health and Social Care is not available at county level, but by Health and Social Care Trust.

The number of social workers who have been on sick leave for a period of more than a week was provided by the HSC Trusts and is set out below:

Trust Name	April 2010-March 2011	April 2011- March 2012
Belfast	234	230

Trust Name	April 2010-March 2011	April 2011- March 2012
South Eastern	170	172
Southern	197	147
Northern	133	193
Western	198	192

### Distribution of Generic Drugs

Mr Kinahan asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the process of approving the use and distribution of generic drugs, including who determines the efficacy of generic versus proprietary drugs.

#### (AQW 12318/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the UK government agency that is responsible for ensuring that medicines work effectively and are acceptably safe. Whether it is a medicine that can be bought, or one prescribed as part of a course of treatment, medicines which are placed on the UK market legitimately are subject to scrutiny by the MHRA before they can be used by patients. This ensures that medicines, whether they are generic or proprietary, meet acceptable standards on safety, quality and efficacy.

The use of generic medicines in favour of branded equivalents is a central strand in my Department's overall strategy to improve quality in medicines management for all patients through cost effective prescribing. However it remains for the clinician, in consultation with their patient, to decide on an appropriate course of treatment for the patient and to prescribe the medication to best support that treatment. Clear guidelines are issued to prescribers and dispensers outlining situations where it is appropriate that medicines are prescribed and dispensed in the proprietary form.

### Qualified Medical Personnel from the Indian Sub-Continent

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action is being taken to recruit qualified medical personnel from the Indian sub-continent to help fill vacancies which are likely to occur, particularly at the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine.

#### (AQW 12321/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) attempted to recruit junior doctors from the Indian sub continent in 2009, and again in 2010. However these recruitment drives met with only modest success. Changes to the immigration rules in 2008 have made it more difficult to recruit doctors from outside the EEA. NIMDTA is currently undertaking a recruitment round of junior doctors for August 2012 and anticipates that most, if not all, vacancies in Emergency Medicine at Causeway hospital will be filled.

### Referrals to Private Sector Providers for Outpatient Surgical Specialities

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to referrals to private sector providers for outpatient surgical specialities such as general surgery or gynaecology, what proportion of referrals, compared with referrals to Health Service outpatients, generate complex investigations such as CT or MRI scans, or surgical interventions.

#### (AQW 12361/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** Information on the proportion of outpatients assessed by private sector providers in the general surgery and gynaecology specialties that required complex investigations such as CT or MRI scans, or surgical interventions, compared to that for outpatients assessed in these specialties within the Health Service, is not available in the format requested. Provision of this information by Health and Social Care Trusts would incur a disproportionate cost.



## Staff Re-employed After Receiving a Redundancy Package

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQ 11848/11-15, whether he can confirm that no staff currently employed in his Department have been re-employed after receiving a redundancy package from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

**(AQW 12385/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can confirm that my Department has no record of any staff currently employed, who have been re-employed after receiving a redundancy package from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

## Senior Occupational Therapists

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many sensory occupational therapists are employed in each Health and Social Care Trust area; and what is the average waiting time to see one of these therapists in each area.

**(AQW 12386/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Trusts have informed the Department that they do not employ dedicated Sensory Occupational Therapists. Occupational Therapists use the Sensory Profile assessment and Sensory Processing Measure as tools in conjunction with other assessments to assist in determining sensory issues. A number of Occupational Therapists in all Trusts have completed some modules of Sensory Integration Training.

The Occupational Therapy Service has a waiting list of clients who require an assessment. Some of these clients may require an element of sensory intervention but until assessment is completed this will not be confirmed.

Therefore information on waiting lists for specific interventions such as sensory is not available.

## Health Service Dental Treatment

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average waiting time for patients, who have special needs, to receive Health Service dental treatment.

**(AQW 12394/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on the average waiting time for patients, who have special needs, to receive Health Service dental treatment, is not available in the format requested.

## Text Messages to Remind Patients of Scheduled Appointments

**Mrs Hale** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there are any legislative or data protection issues preventing General Practitioners from sending text messages to remind patients of scheduled appointments.

**(AQW 12404/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Under the General Medical Services Contract there are no legislative issues preventing practices from sending text messages to remind patients of scheduled appointments. The supply of a mobile phone number would suggest that a patient had given consent to be contacted using that number. Provided the message issued did not include any personal or identifiable information there are unlikely to be any Data Protection issues.

Missed appointments represent a substantial cost to the health service and an unacceptable waste of scarce public resources. All options that can help to reduce the numbers of missed appointments and ensure better use of taxpayers' money should be explored.

## Closure of Treehouse Kindergarten Crèche, Dungannon

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the closure of Treehouse Kindergarten Crèche, Dungannon, to detail (i) the monitoring role carried out by his

Department and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust; (ii) what compensation will be made available to (a) parents who paid in advance for a place for their children; and (b) staff for unpaid wages; and (iii) what measures will be taken to provide extra childcare facilities for the families who used this facility.

**(AQW 12471/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (the Order) requires day care settings to be registered and inspected to protect children, to provide reassurance to persons using independent services who are arranging for their child to be looked after by someone who is not a relation and may be a stranger, to ensure services meet acceptable standards and to ensure that people wishing to provide services for children do so within an agreed framework. No assessment is made of the financial viability of any day care setting that is registered and inspected.

The last inspection of Treehouse Kindergarten Crèche, Dungannon, was carried out by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust on 28th September 2011 and all statutory requirements were in place.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has no role in compensating the staff or customers of a failed private enterprise.

Under the provisions of the Order, the Department has a statutory requirement to provide day care for children in need. It is not the Department's role to provide or support private enterprises to carry out commercial activity. However, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust is working with the appropriate parties to identify a Registered Person who could take over management of the facility.

### **Rheumatology Department, Antrim Area Hospital**

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are on the waiting list for the Rheumatology Department at the Antrim Area Hospital; and how this figure compares with other hospitals.

**(AQW 12500/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Waiting times for a first outpatient appointment are collected on a Health and Social Care Trust, not hospital, basis.

The number of patients waiting and the length of time they were waiting in weeks, for a first outpatient appointment in the Rheumatology specialty, at each HSC Trust, at 31st March 2012, the latest quarter for which official statistics are available, are outlined in the table below.

HSC Trust	Waiting time (in weeks)						Total waiting
	0 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 13	13 - 21	21 - 26	26 and over	
Belfast	423	169	141	276	189	237	1,435
Northern	284	123	79	74	11	0	571
South Eastern	385	156	132	113	4	1	791
Southern	240	85	65	42	0	0	432
Western	240	49	0	0	0	0	289
Northern Ireland	1,572	582	417	505	204	238	3,518

**Source:** Departmental Return CH3

There were no patients waiting at 31st March 2012 for inpatient admission to the Northern HSC Trust in the Rheumatology specialty. Inpatient admissions in the Rheumatology specialty at the Northern HSC Trust are predominantly planned admissions. These are patients waiting to be admitted at a 'planned' or 'clinically appropriate' time, and are therefore not included on the inpatient waiting list.

## Northern Health and Social Care Trust's Revised Proposal on Statutory Residential Homes

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the need to implement recommendation 18 of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's revised proposal on statutory residential homes which was published in March 2009, what progress has been made in securing capital commitments and obtaining planning permission for new accommodation and services on the site of Greenisland House.

**(AQW 12518/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has been working with colleagues in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to identify the priorities for development of Supported Housing within its locale and Greenisland House has been prioritised for replacement within this programme. The Trust has had regular meetings with a local stakeholder group regarding the proposal to develop a supported housing scheme on this site.

I can advise that the Trust is currently awaiting the appointment, by NIHE, of a housing provider to progress the planning of the build and application for planning permission with the expectation that will be completed during the financial year 2013/2014.

## Sexually Transmitted Infections

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been treated for sexually transmitted infections, in each GUM clinic, in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 12524/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The total number of attendances<sup>1</sup> at consultant led outpatient clinics within the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) specialty, at each hospital providing this service for each of the last ten years is outlined in the table below.

Financial Year	Hospital			Total
	Altnagelvin	Daisy Hill	Royal Victoria <sup>2</sup>	
2002/03	6,454	1,426	17,750	25,630
2003/04	7,222	1,615	16,762	25,599
2004/05	7,201	1,731	16,905	25,837
2005/06	7,008	1,650	17,335	25,993
2006/07	6,532	1,522	14,844	22,898
2007/08	6,434	1,830	14,504	22,768
2008/09	4,354	2,034	15,057	21,445
2009/10	4,859	2,003	19,065	25,927
2010/11	4,983	1,840	19,185	26,008
2011/12 <sup>P</sup>	6,191	1,371	16,168	23,730

**Source:** Departmental Return KH09 Part 1 (2002/03 to 2007/08) and Departmental Return QOAR (2008/09 to 2011/12) PData are currently provisional

- 1 These data relate to total number of attendances at outpatient clinics within the GUM specialty and does not equate exactly to the total number of patients that attended these services each year, as a single patient may have had multiple attendances.
- 2 The Belfast HSC Trust also provides GUM services at the Causeway hospital. Attendances at this service are included within the figures for the Royal Victoria hospital.

## Graduate Internship Programmes

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many internships are available in his Department; and if none, what plans he has to introduce an internship scheme.

**(AQW 12551/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Northern Ireland Civil Service internships are managed centrally by Corporate HR within DFP. In the 2012/13 academic year, DHSSPS will be providing one internship opportunity.

## Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 12166/11-15, when he intends to make a decision on this matter.

**(AQW 12554/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Executive is committed to a policy of parity in public sector pensions. I will consider this issue fully once decisions have been taken at national level.

## Department of Justice

### Illegal Protest in Ardoyne

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the failure to overturn convictions at the Court of Appeal for the illegal protest in Ardoyne, Belfast, in July 2012, to detail (i) the cost of Legal Aid to date, broken down by (a) solicitor; and (b) counsel; (ii) the estimated final cost of Legal Aid; and (iii) how many law firms and counsel were instructed.

**(AQW 11862/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** To date, the Legal Aid costs in respect of the illegal protest in Ardoyne, Belfast, in July 2011 are as follows:

Solicitors - £48,444.56 (inc. VAT and Disbursements)

Counsel - £6,989.35 (inc. VAT and Disbursements)

In addition, a further £5378.08 (inc. VAT and Disbursements) has been paid under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) to solicitors, (PACE fees are not payable to Counsel)

It is not possible to provide a final estimate of costs as twenty three claims for legal fees are still outstanding in relation to the cases heard in the Crown Court.

A total of 30 solicitors firms were instructed in relation to this incident. It is not possible to provide a figure in respect of the number of counsel instructed until all of the claims have been received.

### Cases of Death in Custody

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 11411/11-15, whether it was appropriate for two members of Prison Service staff, who were involved in the investigation or disciplinary process following the death in custody of Colin Bell, to be involved in the investigation or disciplinary process following the death in custody of John Deery.

**(AQW 12016/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Both members of staff were carrying out their respective duties following both deaths, in accordance with the current Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline.

## Signage to Designate HM Prisons

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice whether there has been any change in the format and design used for internal or external signage to designate HM Prisons in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months.

**(AQW 12019/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In the last twelve months, a number of new signs have been erected at Maghaberry Prison which include the Department of Justice logo and therefore reflect the corporate identity of NIPS as an agency of the Department of Justice. No new signs have been erected at either Magilligan Prison or Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and Prison in the last twelve months.

## Magilligan Prison

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Justice when the main block of Magilligan Prison was built.

**(AQW 12021/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There is no designated 'main' accommodation block on the Magilligan site. The prison houses several accommodation blocks. The build dates for these blocks are listed below:

H Blocks x 3 – built in 1979

Foyleview – built in 1990

Sperrin House – built in 2001

Alpha – built in 2007

Halward House – built in 2008

## Staff Employed at Magilligan Prison

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister of Justice how many staff are employed in Magilligan Prison, broken down by post.

**(AQW 12023/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The breakdown of NIPS staff currently employed in Magilligan Prison is summarised in the tables below.

### DISCIPLINE STAFF

Post / Grade	No of Staff
Governor (G1, G3, G4 and 4 x G5)	7
Principal Officer (PO)	11
Senior Officer (SO)	46
Main Grade Officer (MGO)	197
Night Custody Officer (NCO)	53
Operational Support Grade (OSG)	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>

### CIVILIAN STAFF

Post / Grade	No of Staff
Principal Psychologist (Grade 7)	1

<b>Post / Grade</b>	<b>No of Staff</b>
Deputy Principal (DP)	5
Staff Officer (SO)	13
Executive Officer 1 (EO1)	8
Executive Officer 2 (EO2)	5
Administrative Officer (AO)	26
Administrative Assistant (AA)	4
Civilian Driver	1
Kitchen Porter / Driver	7
Part time organist (Sundays)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>

### **Review of the Youth Justice System**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice when he will report to the Committee for Justice on the recommendations that he intends to take forward from the Review of the Youth Justice System.

**(AQW 12030/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The consultation on the Youth Justice Review received 77 inputs, comprising 63 written responses, the reports of three specially commissioned targeted consultations, seven public events and four HCN meetings. Each of these documents is now available on the Department of Justice website. Copies of the response documents, a briefing paper and the summary of responses document were supplied to the Committee for Justice in advance of the oral briefing given by my officials to the Committee on 31 May.

I will attend the Justice Committee meeting on 28 June to set out how I am minded to proceed and to give members a further opportunity to offer advice before final decisions are made. I will then make an announcement in the Assembly early in the new session on the way forward.

### **Review of the Youth Justice System**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice when he will publish the analysis of the consultation responses to the Review of the Youth Justice System.

**(AQW 12031/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The consultation on the Youth Justice Review received 77 inputs, comprising 63 written responses, the reports of three specially commissioned targeted consultations, seven public events and four HCN meetings. Each of these documents is now available on the Department of Justice website. Copies of the response documents, a briefing paper and the summary of responses document were supplied to the Committee for Justice in advance of the oral briefing given by my officials to the Committee on 31 May.

I will attend the Justice Committee meeting on 28 June to set out how I am minded to proceed and to give members a further opportunity to offer advice before final decisions are made. I will then make an announcement in the Assembly early in the new session on the way forward.

### **Review of the Youth Justice System**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice whether the Youth Justice Review will have an oversight body or commissioner to ensure its proper implementation.

**(AQW 12110/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I will be appearing before the Justice Committee on 28 June to set out my proposed approach to the implementation of the Youth Justice Review and will be interested to hear members' views at that time. In terms of oversight of the implementation process, I have already clearly indicated that reform in this area is a priority and I will be taking a direct and personal interest in its progress against a published implementation plan.

At this stage, I am not persuaded that a new or additional oversight mechanism is necessary, given the roles that Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland and the Justice Committee already play. However, I recognise the importance of being able to objectively validate the extent to which implementation has been completed and am considering how best to achieve that outcome.

## **Review of the Youth Justice System**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice to list the responses that have been received to the consultation on the Youth Justice Review.

**(AQW 12112/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The consultation on the Youth Justice Review received 77 inputs, comprising 63 written responses, the reports of three specially commissioned targeted consultations, seven public events and four Housing Community Network meetings. Each of these documents is now available on the Department of Justice website, along with the Summary of Responses document which also contains a list of respondents.

## **Report into the Prisoner Assessment Unit Closure**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether HM Inspector of Prisons has been furnished with the report into the Prisoner Assessment Unit closure and details of issues which have followed.

**(AQW 12157/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** HM Inspector of Prisons has responsibility for arranging inspections of prison establishments in England and Wales. He has no direct responsibility for inspections of prison establishments in Northern Ireland but does so at the invitation of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI). The Northern Ireland Prison Service has therefore not furnished HM Inspector of Prisons with a copy of the report into the Prisoner Assessment Unit closure.

However a copy of the Report of the Investigation into the Prisoner Assessment Unit was shared with Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) for information purposes in relation to the ongoing CJINI thematic inspection into the management of life sentence prisoners. The report was not retained by CJINI and no further updates have been provided to CJINI regarding any follow up action being taken or under consideration.

## **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice why civilian members of the PSNI are not eligible for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**(AQW 12187/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Diamond Jubilee medal is awarded to recognise and reward the service and dedication of key frontline services and, in particular, to those who are exposed regularly to difficult, often emergency situations and who potentially risk their lives. Eligibility is not extended to police staff in any part of the UK, and this is consistent with previous Jubilee medals.

## **Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme in England and Wales**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme in England and Wales; and whether he intends to introduce, or pilot, a similar scheme.

**(AQW 12208/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Child sex offender disclosure schemes operate in the other UK jurisdictions. Although the number of disclosures has been low, the evaluation report of the pilot schemes suggests the schemes are successful additional child protection measures.

I intend to consult on whether a similar scheme should be introduced in Northern Ireland. The PSNI is considering its position. I await the result of that, prior to taking decisions on the issue of a consultation paper.

### **Dismissal of Defendant**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the reasons for the dismissal of the case against the defendant at East Tyrone Magistrates Court on Wednesday 23 May 2012, after he was arrested on foot of warrants issued in cases 05/064502 and 06/052489.

**(AQW 12232/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** On 23 May 2012 at Dungannon Magistrates' Court the District Judge (Magistrates' Court) ordered that the charges in case numbers 05/064502 and 06/052489 be withdrawn.

This is a judicial decision and the reasons underpinning it are not recorded.

### **Forensic Services Northern Ireland**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many cases are (i) currently being analysed; and (ii) waiting to be analysed by Forensic Services Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 12268/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** At 31 May 2012, there were 1,132 cases at various stages of the analysis or reporting process in Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI) relating to approximately 4,700 items submitted for examination. 172 cases were pending analysis.

### **Injury on Duty Pension for Police Officers**

Mr Givan asked Minister of Justice to outline the process for appealing the decision by the Independent Medical Referee to the Medical Appeal Tribunal, in respect of decisions taken for the non-award of a retrospective Injury on Duty pension for police officers.

**(AQW 12277/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The decision of an Independent Medical Referee (IMR) cannot be appealed to a medical appeal tribunal. It can be challenged either by approaching the Policing Board and seeking their agreement to a reconsideration or by Judicial Review.

The decision of the Policing Board as to the award of an Injury on Duty pension – which would be based upon the medical opinion of the IMR – can be appealed to a medical appeal tribunal. The appeal should be made in writing to the Policing Board.

### **Compensation Claims for Criminal Injuries**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many compensation claims for criminal injuries sustained by victims of crime have been received in each of the last five years; and how many of these were (i) successful; and (ii) unsuccessful.

**(AQW 12302/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information requested is outlined in the tables below.



**CRIMINAL INJURIES 1988 ORDER**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Claims Received under the Criminal Injuries 1988 Order</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>Live Claims Remaining</b>
2007/08	39	27	11	1
2008/09	15	9	5	1
2009/10	26	8	8	10
2010/11	21	3	8	10
2011/12	16	0	1	15

**TARIFF SCHEME**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Claims Received under the Tariff Scheme (Introduced in 2002)</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>Live Claims Remaining</b>
2007/08	4,922	1,941	2,808	173
2008/09	5,294	2,106	2,963	225
2009/10	5,059	1,833	2,795	431
2010/11	5,403	1,471	2,691	1,241
2011/12	5,260	323	1,236	3,701

**Note:**

From the live claims remaining no confirmation can be given of how many of these will ultimately be successful.

**Forensic Services Northern Ireland**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what is the current average waiting time for forensic reports from Forensic Services Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 12309/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Calculating an average waiting time for forensic reports involves combining data across a number of different examination types and processes within a diverse range of science specialisms, each with their own timescales for examination, analysis and reporting.

Whilst urgent reports are often turned around in hours or days, other formal reports may, for operational reasons, take several months or longer, although interim findings may be given informally at an early stage.

FSNI manages its work on a work allocation basis, each allocation generating a report. Cases vary considerably in the nature and volume of the allocations assigned to them.

The length of time between original allocation and the associated final report may be as short as one to five days for some reports whilst, overall, 90% are within 150 days. There are however, some historical allocations remaining open for several years, as part of ongoing police investigations.

The average time for reporting the approximately 9000 allocations per year - not including DNA Criminal Justice (CJ) samples, but including the historical cases - is 72 days.

With the 8000 DNA CJ samples included, the overall Agency average is 44 days.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Justice what measures are being taken in the North Antrim constituency to (i) prevent human trafficking; (ii) convict the perpetrators; and (iii) raise local awareness of human trafficking.

**(AQW 12327/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Organised Crime Task Force's Immigration and Human Trafficking sub group shares intelligence and works in partnership to tackle human trafficking. Membership is drawn from a broad range of law enforcement agencies including Police Service of Northern Ireland, United Kingdom Border Agency, Serious and Organised Crime Agency and An Garda Síochána so that issues relevant to Northern Ireland as a whole are taken into account along with the cross border and wider aspects of human trafficking. Law enforcement investigations into human trafficking are focused on the criminals involved and not on specific areas. PSNI and others will follow the evidence, wherever it leads, and pursue convictions where evidence is available.

There have been two convictions for human trafficking recently in separate cases and others are being prosecuted by the Public Prosecution Service.

The OCTF has run awareness campaigns across Northern Ireland. It has also commissioned research into "changing the mindset" to inform its strategy to change attitudes and behaviours towards organised crime, including human trafficking. The results of the latest phase of the research are expected shortly.

There is significant interest in human trafficking and I know from the conferences and events that I attend that the Non Governmental Sector in Northern Ireland is keen to engage, as is the Assembly All Party Group on Human Trafficking.

I am currently consulting on how the Department of Justice can enhance its engagement with this sector. I hope those with an interest will respond to this.

## Dispersal Orders

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Justice (i) why Dispersal Orders were not introduced when Anti-Social Behaviour Orders came into effect in 2004; and (ii) for his assessment of the value of Dispersal Orders in aiding the PSNI in tackling anti-social behaviour.

**(AQW 12368/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The decision to introduce the Anti-Social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 was taken prior to the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Executive. I am therefore not privy to the reasoning as to why the then Justice Minister, Paul Goggins MP, did not introduce Dispersal Orders at that time.

The recent public consultation on a new Community Strategy provided an opportunity for consideration of the current approach to tackle anti-social behaviour, which is based on a graduated response of prevention, intervention and enforcement, and which has contributed to a reduction of over 20% in anti-social behaviour incidents since 2008. Respondents to the consultation on the Community Safety Strategy endorsed a preventive approach to anti-social behaviour, with enforcement seen as a last resort. There were no compelling arguments in support of Dispersal Orders.

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland has recently undertaken an inspection of the criminal justice system's approach to addressing anti-social behaviour. The purpose of this inspection was to assess the approach to anti-social behaviour across the criminal system, including the Police Service for Northern Ireland. It considered Strategy and Governance, Delivery, and Outcomes as well as how the approach to anti-social behaviour in Northern Ireland aligns with existing good practice. The outcome of the inspection is due in the coming months and I will consider any recommendations arising from it.

## Convictions Against Claims Management Companies

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured against claims management companies, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 12369/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information requested is not available. Court conviction datasets do not hold the information required to identify companies and their business sector(s).

## Regulation of Claims Management Companies

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department has had any discussions with the Ministry of Justice in England and Wales regarding the better regulation of claims management companies.

**(AQW 12370/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Whilst the responsibility for the regulation of Claims Management Companies in England and Wales rests with the Ministry of Justice, my Department does not have a similar remit in Northern Ireland. I have therefore recently written to the Minister for Finance and Personnel to ask that the Minister considers the matter. I have also drawn this to the attention of the First and deputy First Minister.

## Statistics on Sentencing

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice why his Department's latest statistics on sentencing do not go beyond 2006.

**(AQW 12371/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department's Statistics and Research Branch had previously encountered technical difficulties in translating files from criminal justice organisations' legacy systems; however, an alternative source to access the information required has now been secured.

Provisional data on convictions for 2007 and 2008 has been available for answering Assembly Questions since October 2011. Conviction data for 2009 will be available after the summer recess.

Work is currently progressing in parallel to verify all of the information and provide data from 2010 onwards.

## Referral Fees in Car Insurance Cases

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to outlaw referral fees in car insurance cases.

**(AQW 12372/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As I said in AQW11491/11-15 at present solicitors in Northern Ireland are prohibited from paying or receiving referral fees in respect of personal injury (or indeed any) claims.

It is a matter for the Department of Finance and Personnel whether any further regulation of the solicitors' profession is required.

## Trustee of the RUC George Cross Foundation

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Justice how many applications were received for the position of Trustee of the RUC George Cross Foundation; and how many were rejected at the sift stage.

**(AQW 12392/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** A total of nine applications were received for the position of Trustee of the RUC George Cross Foundation. During the sift exercise the Competition Selection Panel deemed three applications as not successful.

## Offender's Levy

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Justice when he plans to bring into force the offenders levy as provided for under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

**(AQW 12405/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Provisions of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which allow for the introduction of the offender levy to immediate custody, court fines and penalty notices commenced on 6 June 2012.

## Department for Regional Development

### Translink: Consultants

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development how much Translink has spent on consultants in each of the last three years; and for what purpose were the consultants engaged.

**(AQW 11978/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** The Translink expenditure on the use of external consultants in each of the last three financial years is set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Expenditure £k
2009/10	97
2010/11	112
2011/12	139*

\* 2011/12 Provisional Outturn

The majority of this expenditure (£74k / £99k / £139k over the three years) was on consultants engaged by Translink to provide specialist services to carry out inspections and structural assessments of bridges. The other consultancy costs relate to the provision of advice on organisational and change management issues.

### All-Ireland Freight Forum

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the remit of the All-Ireland Freight Forum and whether it includes road transport; and what actions were agreed by the Steering Group on 7 November 2011.

**(AQW 12013/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The All Island Freight Forum brings government and industry together with the aim of enhancing the competitiveness, connectivity and sustainability of the freight sector in Ireland. There are working groups looking at five priority areas which are

- Being Competitive in a Sustainable Manner
- Safer, Compliant, Eco Efficient Road Freight Transport
- Rail Freight and other alternatives
- International Connectivity
- Network Management

The Forum had a plenary meeting on 7 November 2011 in Belfast that was attended by representatives from government, the freight sector and the wider business community. This meeting looked at the work done by the working groups and the major issues facing the freight sector on a local and international

scale. A subsequent administrative steering group met on 13 March 2012 and agreed that the work of the forum will need to focus on new areas in order to remain relevant to the needs of the freight sector.

### **Rural Community Transport**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Regional Development what action has been taken to restore community transport for people in rural areas who have to attend hospital appointments.

**(AQW 12014/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My response to AQW 9282/11-15 dated 15 March 2012 sets out my Department's position in regard to this matter. There has been no change to my Department's approach to funding services under the Rural Transport Fund (RTF) and provided by Rural Community Transport Partnerships.

### **Department-Owned Public Space in Portadown Town Plaza**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 11326/11-15, to list the cases, in the last three years, where a road or sewer bond was not adequate to fund the outstanding work required to bring a development up to standard; and the cost to the public purse of the additional work.

**(AQW 12026/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's officials have advised that within the past three years, six developments where the bonds in place were not sufficient to cover all outstanding works have been completed following enforcement proceedings to bring them up to adoptable standards. The six developments are:

- Westlands Development, Portavogie
- Oakfields, Craigavon
- Broomhill, Magheralin
- Brookvale, Aghory
- Clonabay, Coalisland
- Bramblewood, Crumlin.

At this time, it is not possible to say what the final cost to the public purse will be for these sites. That is because my Department is still pursuing recovery of costs over and above the bond values, under civil debt procedures as provided for in the Private Streets (Northern Ireland) Order 1980. Recovery is sought from the developers or, where they have ceased trading, from the administrator, liquidator, or other legally responsible party.

Final costs to the public purse will only be known when these debt recovery proceedings have been concluded.

### **Apprenticeship Programmes**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the apprenticeship programmes available within his Department; (ii) the apprenticeship programmes provided by his Department; (iii) the number of people currently enrolled in these programmes; and (iv) the number of places available on the programmes.

**(AQW 12090/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department, along with other Departments, contributes to the Programme-Led Apprenticeship (PLA) programme which was introduced by the Department for Employment and Learning in September 2009. This programme assists young people who have been unable to find employment as apprentices during the economic downturn.

Under the PLA programme, DRD has made a total of 12 work placements available, all within its Roads Service workshops. Of these placements, 10 are currently filled.

## Southern Relief Road Scheme in Newry

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 10097/11-15, to detail the figures in the feasibility report findings which related to the number of HGV lorries, with trailers attached, that (i) enter; and (ii) exit Warrenpoint Port each week.

**(AQW 12120/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that there was a comprehensive programme of traffic surveys undertaken to inform the feasibility study into the proposed Newry Southern Relief Road, the specific details requested by the Member are not available. The purpose of these surveys was to determine the traffic conditions prevailing on the road network likely to be affected by the proposed road and to assess how much traffic might transfer to the proposed new road.

However, Roads Service has further advised that a Manual Classification Count survey was also undertaken on the A2 Newry Road, Warrenpoint, at the entrance to Warrenpoint Harbour, at that time. While the range of vehicle classifications does not include the specific category requested, it does include a classification covering the larger Heavy Goods Vehicles. This classification, "Other Goods Vehicles 2" (OGV2), includes 3-axle articulated vehicles and vehicles with 4 or more axles, which includes 4-axle rigid vehicles.

Roads Service has advised that the survey data indicated that during the period of the survey, from 7:00am to 7:00 pm on Thursday 3 May 2007, a total of 240 OGV2 vehicles entered Warrenpoint Harbour and 183 OGV2 vehicles exited from the port.

## Restoring the Rail Service to Donegal

**Mr Spratt** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has had any discussions with the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport in the Republic of Ireland about restoring the rail service to Donegal.

**(AQW 12191/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have not had any discussions on this matter with the Irish Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

During the development of the Northern Railways Corridor Study, my officials met with members of Donegal County Council to explore the possibility of a feasibility study in relation to constructing rail links to and through Donegal. It was noted that progress of a feasibility study would require the agreement of the Irish Government.

Since then, Irish Rail has published its "2030 Rail Network Strategy Review". This report carried out a preliminary appraisal of proposals for rail links between Londonderry and Letterkenny and between Londonderry and Strabane/Lifford. Neither proposal performed sufficiently well in the appraisal to be considered further. I understand that, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is not prepared to support a further feasibility study at this time.

If, in the longer term, proposals come forward from the Irish authorities for a rail connection between Londonderry and Donegal, these could be considered further in the forthcoming investment prioritisation framework to be established under the new approach to Regional Transportation Strategy.

## Arm's-Length Bodies and Quangos

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the current number of arm's-length bodies and quangos that are attached to his Department; and how this figure compares with the number in (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; and (iv) 2011.

**(AQW 12289/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department currently has two Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs). This is the same number of ALBs as in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

## Funding for Easylink and Fermanagh Community Transport

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the reduction in his Department's funding for Easylink and Fermanagh Community Transport in the last twelve months; and for his assessment of the impact of these reductions on rural dwellers depending on the service.

**(AQW 12395/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Easilink received £549,454 for the 2011/12 financial year and Rural Lift and Fermanagh and South Tyrone (FAST) Rural Community Transport Partnerships (these two companies propose to merge into one company, Fermanagh Community Transport (FCT) later this year) received £529,164 funding for the same period. Included in these figures were additional support of (£30,600 and £29,281) which was provided towards the end of year and which reflected overall resources in the Department following in year monitoring rounds.

For 2012/13 the level of funding available to Easilink will be £483,207 and for Rural Lift/Fast (FCT) will be £446,454. It is not possible to anticipate at this stage if this will be supplemented in-year.

The baseline level of funding from the Rural Transport Fund which is administered by my Department was not reduced during the last budget exercise. In year monitoring rounds may be helpful in supplementing funding available but this is not guaranteed.

The increase in demand for services and the rising cost in providing these should lead all the partnerships to consider how efficiently they are running their organisations, make changes where necessary to prioritise front line services.

## Department for Social Development

### Adaptations Carried out on Housing Executive and Housing Association Properties

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of (i) major; and (ii) minor adaptations carried out on (a) Housing Executive; and (b) housing association properties in each of the last five years, broken down by district office area.

**(AQW 11636/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** The information cannot be provided in the format requested because figures for minor adaptations for 2009/10 are only available by Housing Executive Area, as the database which held those details was replaced by an alternative computer system.

In relation to Housing Associations, it is not possible to report separately on the number of major and minor adaptations nor can this figure be provided by Housing Executive District Office or Area.

Tables 1 to 5 below details the major and minor adaptations to Housing Executive properties in each of the last five years, and Table 6 details the number of grants approved by the Housing Executive for disabled adaptations to Housing Association properties in each of the last five years.

**TABLE 1 – 2007/08**

<b>NIHE District</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast West	25	231	256
Belfast East	41	200	241
Belfast South	29	179	208
Belfast North	43	357	400
Shankill	51	264	315
<b>Belfast Area</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>1231</b>	<b>1420</b>

<b>NIHE District</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bangor	47	182	229
Ards	49	245	294
Castlereagh	37	180	217
Lisburn	51	276	327
Dairyfarm	18	115	133
Downpatrick	62	182	244
<b>S.East Area</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>1444</b>
Banbridge	22	112	134
Newry	56	199	255
Armagh	21	121	142
Craigavon	32	121	153
Portadown	17	69	86
Dungannon	26	58	84
Fermanagh	30	165	195
<b>South Area</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>1049</b>
Ballymena	21	217	238
Antrim	19	135	154
N'abbey1	14	80	94
N'abbey2	16	200	216
Carrick	11	157	168
Larne	3	90	93
Ballycastle	13	51	64
Ballymoney	21	217	238
Coleraine	20	195	215
N.East	138	1342	1480
Waterloo	38	77	115
Waterside	23	115	138
Collon Tce	39	58	97
Limavady	23	64	87
Magherafelt	11	57	68
Strabane	29	75	104
Omagh	9	81	90
Cookstown	17	23	40
<b>West Area</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>739</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>5148</b>	<b>6132</b>



**TABLE 2 – 2008/09**

<b>NIHE DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast West	27	240	267
Belfast East	23	183	206
Belfast South	31	200	231
Belfast North	33	308	341
Shankill	29	261	290
<b>Belfast Area</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1192</b>	<b>1335</b>
Bangor	18	155	173
Ards	32	312	344
Castlereagh	22	215	237
Lisburn	52	217	269
Dairyfarm	8	92	100
Downpatrick	28	129	157
<b>South East Area</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1280</b>
Banbridge	20	129	149
Newry	38	165	203
Armagh	18	113	131
Craigavon	23	145	168
Portadown	21	74	95
Dungannon	20	82	102
Fermanagh	16	127	143
<b>South Area</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>991</b>
Ballymena	17	201	218
Antrim	10	116	126
N'abbey1	10	84	94
N'abbey2	16	152	168
Carrick	10	155	165
Larne	6	71	77
Ballycastle	5	36	41
Ballymoney	10	94	104
Coleraine	18	160	178
<b>North East</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1069</b>	<b>1171</b>
Waterloo	36	60	96
Waterside	24	136	160

<b>NIHE DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Collon Tce	38	74	112
Limavady	20	33	53
Magherafelt	15	65	80
Strabane	24	84	108
Omagh	11	65	76
Cookstown	16	56	72
<b>West Area</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>757</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>4789</b>	<b>5534</b>

**TABLE 3A MAJOR ADAPTATIONS– 2009/10**

<b>NIHE DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast West	35	35
Belfast East	26	26
Belfast South	20	20
Belfast North	40	40
Shankill	37	37
<b>Belfast Area</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>158</b>
Bangor	31	31
Ards	44	44
Castlereagh	35	35
Lisburn	42	42
Dairyfarm	12	12
Downpatrick	43	43
<b>South East Area</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>207</b>
Banbridge	26	26
Newry	47	47
Armagh	19	19
Craigavon	33	33
Portadown	22	22
Dungannon	17	17
Fermanagh	18	18
<b>South Area</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>182</b>
Ballymena	29	29
Antrim	7	7

<b>NIHE DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Total</b>
N'abbey1	11	11
N'abbey2	9	9
Carrick	11	11
Larne	4	4
Ballycastle	11	11
Ballymoney	15	15
Coleraine	18	18
<b>North East</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>115</b>
Waterloo	33	33
Waterside	26	26
Collon Tce	32	32
Limavady	27	27
Magherafelt	22	22
Strabane	14	14
Omagh	15	15
Cookstown	15	15
<b>West Area</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>846</b>

**TABLE 3B – MINOR ADAPTATIONS 2009/10**

<b>NIHE AREA</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Belfast Area	1104
North East Area	1005
South Area	784
South-East Area	1019
West Area	564

**TABLE 4 -2010/11**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast West	40	225	265
Belfast East	26	*	26
Belfast South	26	162	188
Belfast North	39	379	418
Shankill	34	243	277
<b>Belfast Area</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>1174</b>

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bangor	31	*	31
Ards	36	175	211
Castlereagh	27	176	203
Lisburn	40	172	212
Dairyfarm	9	49	58
Downpatrick	14	138	152
<b>South East Area</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>867</b>
Banbridge	22	108	130
Newry	41	159	200
Armagh	18	122	140
Craigavon	33	126	159
Portadown	5	87	92
Dungannon	32	66	98
Fermanagh	17	81	98
<b>South Area</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>917</b>
Ballymena	25	115	140
Antrim	11	101	112
N'abbey1	11	75	86
N'abbey2	17	87	104
Carrick	13	68	81
Larne	7	44	51
Ballycastle	6	18	24
Ballymoney	5	45	50
Coleraine	27	89	116
<b>North East</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>764</b>
Waterloo	18	87	105
Waterside	19	133	152
Collon Tce	20	91	111
Limavady	8	67	75
Magherafelt	12	69	81
Strabane	21	26	47
Omagh	15	90	105
Cookstown	20	57	77
<b>West Area</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>753</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>3730</b>	<b>4475</b>

**TABLE 5 – 2011/12**

<b>NIHE DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast West	29	311	340
Belfast East	20	179	199
Belfast South	16	169	185
Belfast North	28	344	372
Shankill	18	192	210
<b>Belfast Area</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>1306</b>
Bangor	40	146	186
Ards	34	285	319
Castlereagh	39	200	239
Lisburn	40	376	416
Dairyfarm	12	46	58
Downpatrick	16	209	225
<b>South East Area</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>1262</b>	<b>1443</b>
Banbridge	11	102	113
Newry	30	181	211
Armagh	13	134	147
Craigavon	36	196	232
Portadown	6	103	109
Dungannon	10	64	74
Fermanagh	8	96	104
<b>South Area</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>990</b>
Ballymena	15	172	187
Antrim	16	160	176
N'abbey1	10	152	162
N'abbey2	10	180	190
Carrick	12	151	163
Larne	1	54	55
Ballycastle	7	72	79
Ballymoney	9	98	107
Coleraine	20	183	203
<b>North East</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1222</b>	<b>1322</b>
Waterloo	19	68	87
Waterside	20	126	146

<b>NIHE DISTRICT</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Total</b>
Collon Tce	24	87	111
Limavady	12	86	98
Magherafelt	14	76	90
Strabane	12	67	79
Omagh	12	74	86
Cookstown	15	62	77
<b>West Area</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>774</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>5201</b>	<b>5835</b>

**TABLE 6 - HOUSING ASSOCIATION DISABLED ADAPTATION APPROVALS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Approvals</b>
2007/08	1,200
2008/09	1,211
2009/10	1,472
2010/11	1,430
2011/12	767*
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,080</b>

\* The number of Approvals decreased from 2010/11 to 2011/12 because they exclude: -

- applications made by Housing Associations for Disabled Adaptation Grants which have not yet been approved.
- applications made by Housing Associations for Disabled Adaptation Grants which have expired / been withdrawn / ineligible.
- adaptations carried out by Housing Associations for which Disabled Adaptation Grants have not been claimed.

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.

### **Arm's-Length Bodies**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the (i) religious; and (ii) gender composition of the employees in each of his Department's arm's-length bodies in each of the last ten years. **(AQW 11801/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Department sponsors three arm's length bodies: the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; ILEX (jointly sponsored with OFMDFM); and the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI).

The religion of staff within these bodies is not held, but, as required by the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 (FETO), information is collected by them on the perceived community background of staff and applicants. Each body is responsible for the recruitment of its staff, and for complying with equality of opportunity legislation.

The table at Annex 1 provides details of the religion and gender details of staff in the NIHE for each year in the last ten years. The Department cannot provide details on the religion of staff in ILEX and CCNI, as the Equality Commission guidance on the release of community background information provides that an organisation must have a minimum number of 25 employees for this information to be released. This guidance is to protect identifying the religion of staff. Both ILEX and the CCNI employ less than 25 staff respectively. The table at Annex 2 provides the gender breakdown for both ILEX and CCNI.

## ANNEX 1

### COMMUNITY BACKGROUND PROFILE: NIHE (2003 – 2012)

Year	Religion			Gender		Total*
	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Not Determined	Male	Female	
Jan 2012	1408 44.6%	1696 53.7%	54 1.7%	1578 50.0%	1580 50.0%	3158
Jan 2011	1426 44.6%	1717 53.7%	55 1.7%	1591 49.7%	1607 50.3%	3198
Jan 2010	1466 44.5%	1771 53.8%	55 1.7%	1655 50.3%	1637 49.7%	3292
Jan 2009	1532 45.6%	1767 52.7%	57 1.7%	1732 51.6%	1624 48.4%	3356
Jan 2008	1589 45.2%	1866 53.1%	60 1.7%	1800 51.2%	1715 48.8%	3515
Jan 2007	1599 45.9%	1828 52.5%	57 1.6%	1803 51.8%	1681 48.2%	3484
Jan 2006	1643 46.6%	1828 51.9%	51 1.5%	1833 52.0%	1689 48.0%	3522
Jan 2005	1661 47.0%	1826 51.6%	49 1.4%	1848 52.3%	1688 47.7%	3536
Jan 2004	1632 47.1%	1776 51.3%	54 1.6%	1793 51.8%	1669 48.2%	3462
Jan 2003	1610 48.2%	1693 50.7%	36 1.1%	1762 52.8%	1577 47.2%	3339

#### Notes

\* Figures are representative of permanent and temporary staff and includes staff on Career Break and Seconded Out staff.

**Source:** Northern Ireland Housing Executive

**.ANNEX 2****GENDER BREAKDOWN FOR ILEX**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
2004	-	2	2
2005	-	3	3
2006	-	3	3
2007	2	5	7
2008	6	7	13
2009	6	7	13
2010	8	10	18
2011	10	13	23

**Notes:** Figures are based on the calendar year end

**GENDER BREAKDOWN FOR CCNI**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
2010		1	1
2011	4	9	13

**Notes:** Figures are based on the calendar year end

**Board Members of Public Bodies**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister for Social Development how many former civil and public servants are employed as (i) paid; and (ii) unpaid board members of public bodies which are sponsored by his Department; and what this figure is as a proportion of the total number of board members.

**(AQW 11948/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There are six paid and one unpaid former civil and public servants serving as board members on public bodies sponsored by my Department. This represents 26% of the total number of board members.

**Relocation of Social Security Agency Posts**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the relocation of Social Security Agency posts, which deal with state pension, to Londonderry.

**(AQW 11956/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The relocation of State Pension services from Windsor House in Belfast to Carlisle House, Londonderry is progressing as scheduled. The necessary numbers of staff required for the new Pension Centre have been recruited and trained resulting in over 80 staff who worked in other locations across Northern Ireland being able to work in a location close to home. The staff who previously worked in State Pension have been redeployed to fill vacant posts across my department in the Belfast area. The accommodation work and associated IT and telephony changes required at the existing Pension Centre at Carlisle House to effect the transfer of services is close to finalisation and, subject to this being completed as planned, the relocation will take place in July this year. The transfer of services is also designed in such a way that customers are not required to undertake any additional or new activities when contacting the State Pension service.



## Legislation on the Licensing of Pavement Extensions

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the timescale for the introduction of legislation on the licensing of pavement extensions for cafés and restaurants.

**(AQW 11957/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Subject to Executive agreement, I plan to introduce a Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill into the Assembly during autumn 2012.

## Pavement Extensions to Cafes and Restaurants

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development whether the proposed pavement extensions to cafés and restaurants will be regulated by licence; and whether they will be subject to additional rating.

**(AQW 11959/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Subject to Assembly approval to the proposed Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill, cafe, restaurant, bar owners etc wishing to place tables and chairs on the pavement will require a licence issued by their district council.

As regards additional rates the Minister for Finance and Personnel has advised that in relation to pavement cafes an increase in rates is by no means automatic and in the majority of cases such a marginal and seasonal increase in seating areas would be disregarded as trivial under rating law. There will, however, be occasions where it will be substantial enough add to the rental value of the premises and in these case it may lead to a small increase in rates payable. In deciding the matter the District Valuer will need to decide if a 'typical tenant' would pay any more rent for the right to put tables outside and if so, by how much. It is worth noting this has not been a major issue in the rest of the UK where these sorts of licences have been operating for many years under a similar business rates regime that exists in NI. Should any business be concerned and wish to consider before entering into a licence agreement they should contact the District Valuer, LPS for advice.

## Pavement Extensions to Cafes and Restaurants

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the proposed pavement extensions for cafés and restaurants, what is the minimum threshold in terms of the pavement area to be used; and if it will be subject to additional rates.

**(AQW 11960/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The proposed Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill will introduce a legal framework through which district councils will be able to grant a licence to an occupier of relevant premises to extend his or her business onto a public area. It is not intended to specify in the Bill a minimum threshold for the area of a proposed pavement café as individual applications will be decided on their own merit. The Bill will require a council to consult with DRD Roads Service before deciding on initial applications.

As regards additional rates the Minister for Finance and Personnel has advised that in relation to pavement cafes an increase in rates is by no means automatic and in the majority of cases such a marginal and seasonal increase in seating areas would be disregarded as trivial under rating law. There will, however, be occasions where it will be substantial enough add to the rental value of the premises and in these case it may lead to a small increase in rates payable. In deciding the matter the District Valuer will need to decide if a 'typical tenant' would pay any more rent for the right to put tables outside and if so, by how much. It is worth noting this has not been a major issue in the rest of the UK where these sorts of licences have been operating for many years under a similar business rates regime that exists in NI. Should any business be concerned and wish to consider before entering into a licence agreement they should contact the District Valuer, LPS for advice.

## Letting Agents

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) what regulations exist in relation to letting agents; and (ii) whether his Department has any plans to make the regulations more stringent. **(AQW 11976/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There are no regulations which exist in relation to letting agents. However, it is proposed to introduce to the Assembly by November 2012, the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. This Scheme will not regulate letting agents, however, it will require a landlord to name any agent (including a letting agent) acting on his behalf.

## Replacement Dwelling Grants

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of successful applications for Replacement Dwelling Grants under 'exceptional circumstances', broken down by district council area. **(AQW 12050/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below details the number of successful applications to the Housing Executive's Exceptional Circumstances Committee for which Replacement Grant was recommended, broken down by District Council, since the introduction of the Exceptional Circumstances Committee in 2009.

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>Number</b>
Ards Borough Council	2
Armagh City and District Council	4
Banbridge District Council	3
Ballymena Borough Council	1
Belfast City Council	1
Cookstown District Council	4
Down District Council	3
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	4
Fermanagh District Council	14
Limavady Borough Council	4
Lisburn City Council	1
Magherafelt District Council	1
Newry and Mourne District Council	9
Omagh District Council	2
Strabane District Council	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

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## Housing Executive Double-Glazing Scheme

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he can offer an assurance that the review of the Housing Executive double-glazing scheme, which is aimed at reducing the cost of the

scheme, will not impact on tenants in terms of the quality of installation or the redecoration grants received.

**(AQW 12076/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** For some time I have been concerned that the Housing Executive's specification for the supply and fitting of double glazing did not offer value for money and I therefore asked my officials to research the specifications used. I am particularly concerned about the requirement to remove and replaster around frames, which necessitates the payment of redecoration grants and causes inconvenience to tenants and also the specification for hinges and handles, as these are much higher than industry standards for domestic properties. I am advised that there is potential for significant savings to be made. I therefore wrote to the Housing Executive's Chief Executive asking him to rigorously and urgently review this specification.

I intend to ensure that we meet the Programme for Government target whilst ensuring best value for money, meeting industry standards in terms of quality of installation and reducing any disturbance to tenants, which in turn will reduce the amount required for redecoration grants.

### Social Housing Tenancies

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many social housing tenancies have been agreed during this financial year to date; (ii) for an estimate of how many of the homes may be deemed to be under-occupied under new Housing Benefit legislation; and (iii) how prospective tenants are advised of the implications of the changes to Housing Benefit.

**(AQW 12108/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In relation to (i) – a total of 914 social housing allocations were made in April 2012. The information for May 2012 is not yet available.

In relation to (ii) - from April 2013, for working age tenants in the social rented sector, a restriction on the Housing Benefit award of 14% applies where claimants are one bedroom below full occupancy and 25% where claimants are two or more bedrooms below full occupancy. The table below details the number of Housing Executive tenants that will be affected by the under-occupation rule: -

Under-occupation level	Singles	Couples	Family	Totals
1 bedrooms	9,215	601	9,034	18,850
2 or more bedrooms	5,415	1,047	856	7,318
Totals	14,630	1,648	9,890	26,168

In relation to (iii) - the Housing Executive has formed an internal working group in order to address the issues that will be raised in relation to the introduction of the new Welfare Reform agenda. The group has identified a range of actions including the need to inform all applicants being offered accommodation of the pending changes to Housing Benefit regulations.

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.

### Tackling Fuel Poverty

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) for his assessment of the criticisms of Northern Ireland's approach to tackling fuel poverty in Lord Whitty's report for the Consumer Council 'Energising Northern Ireland'; and (ii) whether he intends to move towards an area-based approach to tackle energy inefficiency.

**(AQW 12111/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have noted the comments made by Lord Whitty in his report however, I do not feel that they accurately reflect the huge amount of work on going, not just within my own department, but between a number of government departments to tackle fuel poverty. I believe we are now all too aware of the extent of the problem in Northern Ireland and that just talking about the problem doesn't resolve it. My department is clearly focused on delivering practical solutions to help the thousands of households struggling to pay their energy bills.

Officials from my department are working with the University of Ulster and District Councils to pilot an area based approach to tackling fuel poverty. Working in partnership with the University of Ulster, other Departments such as OFMdFM and DARD and with councils we will target areas most affected by fuel poverty and provide appropriate solutions to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the area. The pilot will run during the current financial year.

### **Employment and Support Allowance Appeals**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Employment and Support Allowance appeals are pending from claimants who have been deemed fit for work.

**(AQW 12127/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** At the end of April 2012, 3,326 appeals were pending from Employment and Support Allowance customers appealing against the decision to disallow them Employment and Support Allowance on the basis that they did not have limited capability for work.

### **Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of the unanimous vote at the British Medical Association's Local Medical Committee Conference 2012 in favour of a proposal to end the Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance, what action will be taken to address the problems associated with it.

**(AQW 12142/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I am aware of the vote that was taken recently at the British Medical Association's Local Medical Committee Conference and that the Department for Work and Pensions's Chief Medical Adviser also recently met with representatives from the National British Medical Association and advised them that his Department is committed to continuously improving the Work Capability Assessment to ensure that it is as fair and accurate as possible.

Whilst I myself have some concerns regarding the Work Capability Assessment based on representation made to me by constituents and Assembly members, I recognise that the Work Capability Assessment is subject to review in accordance with the legislative requirement set out in Section 10 of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Professor Malcolm Harrington conducts independent annual reviews on my behalf into all areas of the Work Capability Assessment and his first two reports were laid before the Assembly in September 2011 and November 2011. Professor Harrington's third review is already underway and the report is expected in November / December 2012.

One example of how concerns have been taken on board is how the Department, in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions, undertook an informal consultation on proposals for making the Work Capability Assessment work better for cancer patients, recognising the challenges for this particular group.

In addition the Social Security Agency has appointed a Health Assessment Adviser who is responsible for monitoring and reporting to the Agency on the quality and standards of the current process and how they are being applied.

## Apprenticeship Programmes

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the apprenticeship programmes available within his Department; (ii) the apprenticeship programmes provided by his Department; (iii) the number of people currently enrolled in these programmes; and (iv) the number of places available on the programmes.

**(AQW 12155/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Programme Led Apprenticeship (PLA) programme was introduced by the Department for Employment and Learning in September 2009. This is an intervention measure to assist young people who have been unable to find employment as apprentices during the economic downturn. The Department of Employment and Learning, along with other Northern Ireland departments (including my department), contributes to this programme by providing work placements for participants on the PLA programme. There are currently 3 people enrolled on this Programme within my Department.

Furthermore contracts awarded by my Department are inclusive of social clauses where appropriate, and dependent on labour value, which include work placement opportunities; provided by the contractor rather than the Department.

## Income Support Claimants

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the proportion of people who have been claiming Income Support for a period of over (i) 1; (ii) 2; (iii) 5; and (iv) 10 years.

**(AQW 12217/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is set out in the table below.

Time Period	Claimants	Proportion of Income Support Customers
(i) Over 1 year	67,910	88%
(ii) Over 2 years	61,390	79%
(iii) Over 5 years	44,020	57%
(iv) Over 10 years	24,540	32%

**Data Source:** Income Support Midas Scans – March 2012

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.

## Introduction of Universal Credit

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how the introduction of Universal Credit will reduce the financial risks for people moving into work or increasing their working hours.

**(AQW 12218/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Universal Credit will be a simple, integrated benefit which will replace income based Jobseekers Allowance, income related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit and elements of the Social Fund. By reducing the complexity of the current system and removing the distinction between in work and out of work benefits the risks associated with moves into employment will be reduced.

Universal Credit will improve work incentives by allowing individuals to keep more of their income as they move into work and ensuring that support is reduced at a consistent and predictable rate. This will be achieved by simplifying the interaction between entitlement and earnings. The amount of earnings that people can have without losing benefits will be increased and the rate at which benefit is

withdrawn as earnings rise will be reduced. This approach will help ensure that work always pays and also provide strong incentives for workless households to take up jobs for a small number of hours, which is important in helping people who have spent long periods unemployed into the labour market.

In addition, additional funding has been made available to extend support for childcare costs which will be available to all lone parents and couples, where both members are in work, regardless of the number of hours they work. Removing the current requirement to work 16 hours per week will provide an important financial incentive to those taking their first steps into paid employment.

### **Introduction of Universal Credit**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development whether the introduction of Universal Credit will change his departmental accommodation requirements.

**(AQW 12248/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The introduction of Universal Credit will change how we engage with our customers. I am however committed to maintaining a strong network of front-line offices to ensure that customers have the necessary advice and support channels they will need as Universal Credit and other changes are introduced.

Work is underway to consider the organisational and staffing considerations for Universal Credit, which will include accommodation. Although it is too soon to be more specific, my officials will continue to work closely with the Department for Employment and Learning to better understand the accommodation requirements for Universal Credit as plans develop.

### **Northern Ireland Housing Executive Assistance Grant**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any plans to restore the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Assistance Grant to enable home-owners to make necessary repairs.

**(AQW 12250/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Due to the reduction in funding for Private Sector Grants since May 2009 the Housing Executive has been unable to accept any new Discretionary Grant enquiries. Disabled Facility Grants, Mandatory Repair Grants and all approved grant applications continued as normal and payments were made when work was completed. However, Discretionary Renovation, Replacement and Home Repair Assistance Grants can only be approved in exceptional circumstances where the Housing Executive's Exceptional Circumstances committee has considered all the information presented to it by the Grants Manager, and the Committee agrees that the Exceptional Circumstances Criteria have been met. The current position is that the budget allocated by the Housing Executive for Private Sector Grants is £15.95m, with a significant part of this required to fund the mandatory disabled facilities and repair grants. While I intend to reallocate available funding into the Private Sector Grants budget in the June Monitoring Round, which will increase the budget to £18.45m, funding for all capital programmes has reduced and the allocation for private sector grants decreases in each of the next three years. Unfortunately therefore there is no scope to reintroduce grants on a wider basis within the current capital funding available as this would probably require additional funding of £20m - £25m each year.

### **Pensioner Bungalows**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the criteria used by the Housing Executives to allocate the tenancy of pensioner bungalows for people who are not of pension age.

**(AQW 12258/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** All Housing Executive accommodation, including bungalows, is deemed to be general needs accommodation and is allocated in accordance with the Rules of the Housing Selection Scheme. Rules 46 and 47 of the Housing Selection Scheme apply in relation to the allocation of social housing and there are no age restrictions per se in relation to the allocation of general needs accommodation. Rules 46 and 47 are as follows:

**Rule 46** All applicants will be assessed and placed on a Waiting List which is used by all participating landlords. As a general rule each dwelling will be offered to the relevant Applicant with the highest points.

**Rule 47** In the present context an Applicant is a “relevant applicant” if

- 1 He/she has applied for, or is deemed to have applied for accommodation with the locational and other characteristics of the dwelling in question and
- 2 The Landlord is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the non-locational characteristics of the dwelling meet the Applicant’s needs and having regard to all of the circumstances, do not substantially surpass those needs.

Offers are made in accordance with Rule 57 of the Selection Scheme as detailed below: -

**Rule 57** In considering whether a particular offer is reasonable, the Designated Officer must consider the reasonable needs of the Applicant, including the Applicant’s household, having particular regard to the following factors:

- 1 Size of accommodation – the dwelling must be of a suitable size for the Applicant’s household. The minimum size of accommodation normally deemed as reasonable for the household is outlined in Schedule 3.
- 2 Suitability of location – the offer of accommodation shall as far as possible be in an area corresponding with the Applicant’s choice. The location shall take into consideration the place of work, schools and essential support requirements of the Applicant or a member of his/her household.
- 3 Suitability of features – the dwelling must be reasonably suitable having regard to the particular needs of the Applicant or a member of the Applicant’s household.
- 4 Condition of accommodation – the dwelling must not be statutorily unfit and it must be in reasonable condition of repair and safe for occupation at the commencement of tenancy.

In summary, accommodation which may be considered suitable for pensioners may be allocated to persons of non pensionable age subject to the above Rules of the Housing Selection Scheme.

## Review of Public Administration

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development what powers or functions he plans to devolve to local councils under the Review of Public Administration; and whether this represents a change to his previous commitments.

**(AQW 12263/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Under the previous Reform of Public Administration proposals, the following DSD functions had been earmarked to transfer to councils from May 2011:

### Urban Regeneration and Community Development Functions

- Tackling town and city regeneration (operational delivery of physical development projects including Comprehensive Development, Public Realm and Environmental Improvement Schemes;
- Area-based regeneration including Neighbourhood Renewal; and
- Support for the voluntary and community sectors at local level e.g. the Community Support Programme and Community Investment Fund.

### Housing Functions

- Regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)
- Housing Unfitness including repair and demolition notices;
- Living Over the Shops (LOTs); and
- Local Energy Conservation

As the overall list of functions to transfer from central government to councils was decided upon over 3 years ago, it is now being subjected to review. Ultimately, the Executive will decide the way forward and the package of functions to transfer.

### **Employment and Support Allowance Appeal Panels**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the payment, per case, to panel members who sit on Employment and Support Allowance appeal panels.

**(AQW 12301/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** An ESA tribunal panel consists of a legally qualified chairperson and a registered medical practitioner who may be a general practitioner. The fee for a medical member is £155 per session (each session has three ESA appeal hearings). This fee increases to £185.50 per session when the member has attended over 40 sessions in the year. The fee for a legally qualified chairperson is £218.

### **State Benefit Claimant**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development whether John Gallagher was in receipt of any state benefits, whilst he resided in Strabane, after absconding from the Central Mental Hospital, Dublin.

**(AQW 12415/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Department for Social Development does not provide data on an individual customer basis.

### **Housing Executive's Current Specification to Contractors for Double-Glazing Installation**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 11510/11-15, to list the local companies that are members of the Glass and Glazing Federation; and to list any meetings he has had with these companies since May 2011.

**(AQW 12420/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested cannot be provided as my Department does not hold a list of local companies that are members of the Glass and Glazing Federation.

## **Northern Ireland Assembly Commission**

### **MLAs and Employees of the Assembly Commission Salaries**

**Mr Allister** asked the Assembly Commission whether any (i) MLAs; or (ii) employees of the Assembly Commission are working 'off payroll' so that their salaries are paid in such a way that they pay corporation tax rather than income tax.

**(AQW 12241/11-15)**

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Assembly Commission requires that (i) MLAs and (ii) the Commission's employees are remunerated through the payroll system and subject to the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax regime. This requirement also extends to independent appointments made by the Assembly Commission such as members of the Independent Financial Review Panel or the Secretariat Audit and Risk Committee. The Commission has entered into a contract for the supply of "agency" workers. This contract stipulates that agency workers placed within the Assembly should be employed by the contracting party and subject to PAYE.



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Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

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**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

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ISBN 978-0-339-70254-7

