

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 22 June 2012

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 22 June 2012

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what plans they have to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee by way of a gift on behalf of her subjects in this part of the UK.

(AQW 6871/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): At its meeting on 31 May the Executive agreed to present a gift, at no cost to the public purse, to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Governance Review into Procurement

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 10635/11-15, what role the Community Relations Council staff member, who declared a conflict of interest at tender evaluation stage, had in drawing up the tender documentation and setting the criteria; and whether she had access to such information.

(AQW 12129/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Community Relations Council (CRC) was asked to take forward the governance review by OFMDFM. The member of staff from CRC, who subsequently declared a conflict of interest at tender evaluation stage, was a member of a panel responsible for drawing up the tender documentation and setting the criteria.

Implementation Plan for their 2012-13 European Priorities

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will publish an implementation plan for their 2012-13 European Priorities.

(AQW 12346/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Barroso Task Force Working Group is developing an Implementation Plan for the Executive's 2012-13 European Priorities. We will take a decision on its publication once this work is complete.

Petition from Victims Campaigners

Mr McDevitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what actions they intend to take following receipt of the petition from victims campaigners, subsequent to the research commissioned by the Wave Trauma Centre.

(AQO 2103/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We welcome the findings of the report recently launched by WAVE Trauma Centre and thank all those involved in the report for their hard work and commitment to this extremely important issue. This research was funded by OFMDFM through the Strategic Support Fund.

We remain committed to improving the lives of all victims of the conflict. Our officials have had a positive meeting with the Chief Researcher and Chief Executive of WAVE to discuss the report and the implications for future services for Victims and Survivors.

Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

Ms S Ramsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the current status of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration.

(AQO 2098/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are committed to building a shared and united community and to continue to build on the progress that our society has made in improving community relations here.

The Programme for Government recently agreed by the Executive reaffirms this commitment and we recognise that the finalised good relations Strategy will be an important building block in achieving the change we all want to see.

The Cross-Party Working Group has been meeting since September 2011 with a view to agreeing a finalised strategy and high level action plan. We in the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister are eager to see the work of the group finalised as soon as possible but we are also mindful of the need to ensure that the final strategy is one that carries as much consensus as possible.

The range of issues required to underpin the final strategy are wide-ranging and complex. Therefore we must balance the need to bring forward a strategy without undue delay with the importance of taking into account the wealth of views expressed throughout the public consultation.

We asked the Working Group to conclude its deliberations within the next few weeks and to provide a report to them for discussion at a meeting of party leaders. It is disappointing that the Alliance party has taken the decision to withdraw from the cross-party working group process as the intention of establishing the group was to give opportunity to all of the Executive parties to shape the final strategy. However, we remain committed to the process and to bringing forward, alongside the other 3 parties, a robust and effective community relations strategy and high level action plan.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Cree asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the timescale for the delivery of the Social Investment Fund.

(AQO 2102/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The final proposals for the delivery of the Social Investment Fund received Executive approval on 17 May 2012. The £80 million fund which was established by the Executive seeks to address dereliction and deprivation throughout 9 social investment zones.

There will be 4 zones in Belfast (based on Assembly constituencies) 1 zone in Derry/Londonderry with 4 further zones based on Health Trust boundaries. Each zone will have a steering group which will be responsible for supporting the development of strategic area plans to facilitate the allocation of monies to those areas within zones that can clearly identify objective evidenced need.

We will shortly be putting together the steering groups with a view to spend being released from the Fund as soon as practicable.

Equality Commission

Mrs Hale asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the Equality Commission's compliance with equality legislation.

(AQO 2105/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are advised that the Equality Commission is complying with the requirements of equality legislation and that they continue to take a range of measures to try and resolve their current employee balance.

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the process and the criteria used by the Victims Commissioners in making appointments to the Victims Forum; (ii) the role of their Department in the appointment process; and (iii) what notice of an appointment is given to their Department.

(AQW 12662/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Commission selected members of the Forum by direct appointment. Their aim was to appoint members who would be representative of the range of victims and survivors.

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.

There was no notice of appointment given to the Department, nor is there a requirement to do so.

Historical Institutional Abuse: Legislation

Mr F McCann asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they expect the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse legislation to be brought into operation.

(AQO 2167/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our aim is that the legislation will be operative by Christmas 2012.

We introduced our Bill to the Assembly on Tuesday 12 June.

Members will have an opportunity to debate the Bill on Monday 25 June, at its second reading. Committee stage will then start on 26 June and our officials are fully committed to assisting and supporting the OFMDFM Committee in its scrutiny of the Bill.

Victims and Survivors Service

Mr I McCrea asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Victims and Survivors Service since it became operational on 2 April 2012.

(AQO 2172/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The new Victims and Survivors Service will deliver funding through a new assessment and commission-based delivery model, bringing together some £11 million of funding into a single, unified service. The objective is to transform current services from being grants-led to needs-led.

In its first few weeks of operation, the Service had over 150 requests for information. To date, over 75 assessments have been carried out and a number are booked for the near future, with most people being seen within seven days. This is very encouraging news and is an early, but hopeful, sign that the Service is attracting those victims and survivors who, for whatever reason, may not have availed of victims services in the past.

An assessment model has been completed and staff from the Service have been meeting with various victims' groups and agencies to ensure the work they will carry out is what is needed.

Arrangements are almost complete for the staff of both the Community Relations Council and the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund to join the Service. Their expertise will be a valuable link and ensure there will be no gap in services to victims.

We, along with the Service, are committed to continuing to work hard to ensure that it provides the best service possible and that victims and survivors receive from it the support they expect and deserve.

10 Year Strategy for Children and Young People

Mr Storey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the 10 year Strategy for Children and Young People.

(AQO 2173/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The 10 year Children and Young People's Strategy was published in June 2006 and focused on 6 high-level outcomes for children and young people. These are:

- healthy;

- enjoying, learning and achieving;
- living in safety and with stability;
- experiencing economic and environmental well-being;
- contributing positively to community and society; and
- living in a society which respects their rights.

It includes strategic indicators. Our March 2012 update on these indicators shows that for post primary pupils, there has been, for example:

- a significant increase in those taking part in sport or physical activity;
- a reduction in smoking and the use of illegal drugs;
- an increase in school leavers continuing on to Further and Higher Education; and
- an increase in those achieving 5 or more GCEs or equivalent at grades A*–C.

The Executive remains committed to improving outcomes for our children and young people and implementation of the Strategy will now be taken forward through the Delivering Social Change Children and Young People Programme.

This Programme will comprise a small number of flagship projects, through which focused efforts across Departments will produce real dividends.

Victims' Commissioner

Mr Hilditch asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made on the appointment of a Victims Commissioner.

(AQO 2174/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Interviews were held on 28 and 29 May 2012. The selection panel has recommended the successful candidates to us for consideration.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Hamilton asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the Social Investment Fund.

(AQO 2177/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: As you will be aware, the Executive agreed to the proposals for the final operation of the Social Investment Fund on 17 May.

We are keen to move quickly into the operational phase of the programme and our officials have already begun the process of establishing Steering Group membership. A series of public information events has been arranged throughout all 9 Social Investment zones, starting on Monday 11 June in Derry/Londonderry.

The purpose of these information events is to outline the nomination process. Applications will close on Friday 29 June 2012 to ensure the Steering Groups are established during the summer.

We are also working on the political and statutory membership of the Steering Groups and have carried out a detailed analysis of elected representation in each zone using the D'Hondt method. We would hope to have Party decisions on their nominations for the groups over the coming weeks. We will also be inviting the relevant statutory organisations to identify key representatives to be involved in the steering groups.

The Steering Groups will be brought together to discuss the framework for implementation of the Fund, key issues, collaborative working practices and the technical assistance process to engage with the wider community and develop the area plans.

More details on the composition of the steering groups and nomination process can be obtained on the NI Direct website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/sif.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Review of Public Administration

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what powers or functions she plans to devolve to local councils under the Review of Public Administration; and whether this represents a change to her previous commitments.

(AQW 11919/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): In the context of the EU Commission proposals on CAP Reform and the 2014-2020 round of Structural Funds, I will be considering the policy needs for the agricultural sector and wider rural community in the preparation and implementation of a future Rural Development Programme (RDP).

My Department will be working with local government and DFP officials over the coming months to consider possibilities for local government involvement in elements of a future RDP or other EU programmes.

This position is consistent with previous commitments under the Review of Public Administration which identified the EU Rural Development Programme as an area of work which could potentially transfer to local government.

Visit to Scotland by Senior Forest Service Officials

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what lessons have been learned as a result of the recent visit to Scotland by senior Forest Service officials.

(AQW 12448/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Forestry Commission hosted a Health & Safety summit in Edinburgh on 5/6 March 2012. The Chief Executive and Director of Forestry represented Forest Service at the summit. The purpose was to bring together key industry representatives to appraise the Health & Safety performance of the forestry sector.

The main outcome from the summit was broad industry commitment to the establishment of a forest industry safety group to lead on matters of Health & Safety improvement. Further meetings are planned to refine the remit and constitution of the group.

There was no opportunity to discuss Commission experiences in wind farm development and community impacts in the margins of the summit.

Following the summit, the Chief Executive was briefed on the Commission's international work on forest policy and on opportunities for co-operation on forest research.

Grant Payments Towards E-Logbooks

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of applications, from boat owners for grant payments towards E-Logbooks, which have yet to be processed and awarded; and (ii) what plans he has to ensure the prompt payment of these grants to avoid any negative impact on the local fishing industry.

(AQW 12479/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has received 112 applications and claims for grant payments towards E-Logbooks and 36 claims remain unpaid to date, either as a result of the late submission of claim form, incomplete supporting evidence of payment, or, vessel owners not having confirmed that the equipment has been installed and is ready for testing.

My officials will continue to work directly with applicants to ensure all claims are paid as soon as the full conditions of award have been satisfied.

TB in Badgers

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) why veterinary advice was not followed and a study of the prevalence and distribution of Tuberculosis (TB) in badgers and a badger-removal trial were not undertaken, despite the statement made by her predecessor to the Assembly in December 2008 which indicated that this was on the agenda (ii) how she plans to assess the cost of any future badger-intervention strategy and where any cull or other intervention would be most effective, given the lack of research carried out; and (iii) whether she has any plans to commission a study into the prevalence and distribution of TB in badgers, including details of when she expects this to take place.

(AQW 12512/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) It is not the case that veterinary advice was not followed. Additional funding of around £4 million has been allocated in my Department's budget to conduct TB and wildlife research and studies to provide the evidence base to guide our TB eradication strategy in the future. My Department has taken a comprehensive look at the evidence needs for TB and commissioned 5 Literature Reviews, which were completed in 2011/12 on TB tests in cattle, TB tests in badgers, cattle to cattle transmission, badger to cattle transmission and badger vaccination. We have discussed the evidence needs and priorities with industry and wider stakeholders and I am considering how best to use that funding.
- (ii) Considerable research has been carried out internationally into the causes of bovine TB, but there is still a lot of scientific uncertainty about how the disease is spread and what can be done to prevent its spread between cattle and between wildlife and cattle. It is important that we do not duplicate the expensive research work that is ongoing in other areas, but that we draw down lessons from that work and also collaborate where appropriate. My Department is closely tracking the work that is being conducted in Britain and the south of Ireland to develop an oral bait badger vaccine that could be delivered in a cost effective way. I am following how the Defra badger culling pilot proposals are implemented and if they successfully withstand legal challenge. I am also monitoring how the Welsh badger vaccination programme is implemented. As the badger is a protected species, any direct interventions in the badger population here will be subject to the agreement of the Environment Minister and to the issue of the necessary licences and also to the availability of the substantial funding required.
- (iii) A number of TB and wildlife studies have been commissioned here to help establish local evidence. The results of the TB Biosecurity Study, which was carried out in a TB high incidence area in Co Down, are expected later this year. An evaluation of the use we currently make in the TB programme of the gamma-interferon blood test is underway. A badger-cattle proximity study, which aims to assess the interactions between cattle and badgers both in farm buildings and at pasture in the north, has recently started in a TB high incidence area. Last month my Department hosted an International Vaccination Experts' Scientific Symposium in Belfast to consider all the relevant issues associated with vaccinating the badger to achieve a reduction in TB in cattle. I am currently considering how we best use the funding that is allocated in my Department's budget to conduct further TB and wildlife research and studies. Any wildlife interventions will incur substantial cost and must be fully justified in cost-benefit terms. With limited funding I want to ensure that we get maximum benefit from our research. While a Badger Prevalence Study is one possible option, it would be a very expensive exercise that would use up most of the allocated budget. I will take account of the views of industry and wider stakeholders along with all the other relevant factors in deciding what further TB and wildlife research and studies to commission.

Internships

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many internships her Department offers; and if it does not offer any, whether she has any plans to introduce an internship scheme.

(AQW 12529/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am pleased to advise that my Department is currently in the process of offering one internship for the first semester of the 2012/13 academic year. This placement is being arranged under an NICS scheme run in conjunction with the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast.

My Department has facilitated an internship under the same scheme during the academic year 2011/12.

Wind Farm Developers

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the occasions on which Forest Service officials have taken part in hospitality trips, engagements, dinners, meetings or events arranged by, or on behalf of, wind farm developers in the last four years, broken down by (i) location; (ii) attendees; (iii) the companies present or represented; (iv) the matters that were discussed; (v) who covered the cost of each event; and (vi) what was the purpose and outcome of each engagement.

(AQW 12545/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In the period 2008-2012 Forest Service officials have not taken part in any hospitality trips, engagements or dinners organised by, or on behalf of wind farm developers.

Two Forest Service officials attended two workshop events in the Hilton Hotel Belfast, one on 20 January 2011, another on 26 January 2012. Both events were held by the NI Renewable Industry Group (NIRIG). The 2011 event marked the formal launch of NIRIG which represents the Irish Wind Energy Association and Renewable Energy UK in the north of Ireland. The workshop focussed on actions considered necessary to deliver the Strategic Energy Framework (DETI 2010).

The 2012 NIRIG workshop event focussed on issues around renewable energy infrastructure and responsible environmental development.

My Department does not hold a list of those companies present or represented at the NIRIG events, however, the website www.iwea.com provides contact information for further details of the events. Fees for those FS officials who attended the events were paid by my Department and hospitality including tea, coffee and lunch was provided by the workshop organisers.

Forest Service officials have had meetings with a number of companies involved in wind farm development in the period specified. I have provided a list of these meetings detailing the companies, dates, venues and subject matter of these meetings overleaf. Light refreshments were provided by the respective parties organising the meeting venues.

Countryside Management Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when all payments due under the Countryside Management Scheme will be made.

(AQW 12581/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department makes Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) payments on an on-going basis. CMS is claimed throughout the year around the anniversary date of the agreement.

The new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) is claimed annually on the Single Application Form. With regard to the 913 claims made to NICMS in 2010, my Department has paid 861 (95%) of these. At 13 June 2012 there were 50 claims that had not yet been paid for a number of reasons including over-declarations, dual claims, probate or BACS (banking) problems.

With regard to 2011 NICMS claims, the timescale to complete all these payments will be determined by the findings of inspections which are currently being carried out. DARD aims to begin making payments in September 2012.

QUANGOs

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans she has to reduce (i) the number of QUANGOs; and (ii) the operational cost of QUANGOs.

(AQW 12601/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD currently sponsors five Non- Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) – the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI), the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB), the Drainage Council (DC), the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) and the NI Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA). Two other NDPBs, the Pig Production Development Committee (PPDC) and the Research and Education Advisory Panel (REAP), were dissolved in March 2008 and August 2010 respectively.

While I have no current plans to further reduce the number of NDPBs, the need for and status of each of the bodies is kept under regular review, for example a review of the Livestock and Meat Commission was completed in 2011 and the potential for the commercialisation of the body remains, though a number of outstanding issues would need to be addressed.

The Operational cost of each of these bodies is shown in the table below

DARD Sponsored Non- Departmental Public Bodies	Operational Costs for 2011/12 (unless otherwise stated)
Agri -food and Biosciences Institute	£54.2 m
Agricultural Wages Board	£17,000
Drainage Council	£4,700
Livestock and Meat Commission	£1.7 m
NI Fishery Harbour Authority	£862,000 (2010/11)

Rural Broadband Initiative

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the rural broadband initiative, including the timeframe for completion of the scheme; and for her assessment of the current level of broadband coverage in rural areas.

(AQW 12624/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The lead department in telecommunications is the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI) and they have responsibility for access to and the upgrade of the broadband network in the north.

DETI has advised that it has delivered a number of initiatives in recent years that were either entirely or substantially aimed at providing high speed broadband access for business and residential consumers located in rural areas. Initiatives completed are:

- the £51m Next Generation Broadband Project, which included a £2.5 million investment from my Department specifically to improve access to broadband in rural areas. This project rolled out the highest level of fibre-to-the-cabinet technology across GB and the North;
- the £1.9m Northern Ireland Broadband Fund which has seen significant roll-out of fixed-wireless broadband services through providers such as North West Electronics and Net 1 Ltd; and
- the remote Broadband Services contracts, previously with Avanti Communications and now with Onwave Ltd, through which satellite broadband services have been made available region-wide.

These initiatives mean that those living, working or conducting business in rural areas have access to services, that can offer download speeds of at least 2Mbps and in some areas of rural NI 100Mbps usually from a number of providers.

As you know, I announced my Department's intention to invest a further £5 million in Broadband and my officials are working with DETI to ensure that these funds are specifically targeted at rural areas to eliminate "not spots" and improve line speeds.

Strategic Differences Between the Forest Service and Forestry Commission, Scotland

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the strategic differences between the Forest Service and Forestry Commission, Scotland.

(AQW 12631/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The strategic differences are the governing arrangements and scale.

The Forestry Commission, Scotland (FCS) is responsible to Scottish Ministers for advising and implementing forest policy. The Forest Service (FS) has similar functions in the north of Ireland.

The legislative basis for forestry is different in each county. The Forest Commission is governed by a Board of Commissioners and in Scotland these functions are delegated to the National Committee for Scotland. In the north of Ireland the Forest Service is an Agency within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and subject to the direction of the Minister.

Forestry Commission Scotland has responsibility for 1.4 million hectares, including 0.5 million hectares managed by its Agency, Forest Enterprise, and spends £110 million. Forest Service manages 0.06 million hectares and spends £11.5 million.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the current staff complement of the Central Investigation Service and how this compares with each of the last five years.

(AQW 12663/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: There are currently 3.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff in post in DARD Central Investigation Service (CIS). This includes:

- 1.0 Deputy Principal (DP) Head of CIS
- 2.0 Staff Officer (SO) Investigators
- 0.8 Administrative Officer (AO)
- At 1 April 2011 there was 4.8 FTE staff in post. During 2011/12 this reduced by 1 SO Investigator to the 3.8 FTEs currently in post.
- At 1 April 2010 there was 6.8 FTE staff in post i.e. 1 DP, 5 SO Investigators and a 0.8 AO. During the 2010/11 year this reduced by 2 SO Investigators to 4.8 FTEs.
- At 1 April 2009 there was also 6.8 FTE staff in post.
- At 1 April 2008 there was 5 FTE staff in post i.e. 1 DP, 3 SO Investigators and 1 AO. During the 2008/09 year this increased by 2 SO Investigators to 6.8 FTEs (the AO moved to part time working).
- At 1 April 2007 there was 7 FTE staff in post i.e. 1 DP, 4 SO Investigators, 1 EO1 and 1 AO. During the 2007/08 year this reduced by 1 SO Investigator and 1 EO1 to 5 FTEs.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of cases (i) referred to; (ii) investigated by; and (iii) completed by the Central Investigation Service in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12664/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In the current financial year to date 72 cases have been referred to the Central Investigation Service (CIS). Following assessment, 30 of these cases did not proceed to investigation. The remaining 42 cases are currently under investigation.

During the previous 5 year period the following cases were referred by DARD Business areas and, through Service Level Agreement arrangements, by other Public Sector Organisations.

2007-2008

		Investigated and Completed by CIS	Case Assessment not to proceed with an investigation	Referred to PSNI
DARD Cases	60	51	8	1
Other Government Department Cases	3	2	1	0
	Total 63	53	9	1

2008-2009

		Investigated and Completed by CIS	Case Assessment not to proceed with an investigation	Referred to PSNI
DARD Cases	54	42	11	1
Other Government Department Cases	7	4	3	0
	Total 61	46	14	1

2009-2010

		Investigated and Completed by CIS	Case Assessment not to proceed with an investigation	Referred to PSNI
DARD Cases	71	47	24	0
Other Government Department Cases	11	6	5	0
	Total 82	53	29	0

2010-2011

		Investigated and Completed by CIS	Case Assessment not to proceed with an investigation	Referred to PSNI
DARD Cases	44	23	21	0
Other Government Department Cases	15	9	3	3
	Total 59	32	24	3

2011-2012

		Investigated and Completed by CIS	Case Assessment not to proceed with an investigation	Referred to PSNI
DARD Cases	35	28	7	0
Other Government Department Cases	12	8	3	1
	Total 47	36	10	1

Central Investigation Service Investigations

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Central Investigation Service investigations have resulted in prosecutions in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12665/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In the current financial year none of the Central Investigation Service investigations have resulted in prosecutions. However, one case is currently pending Public Prosecution Service direction and another will be forwarded to the Public Prosecution Service for a direction. Three cases are currently with the Police Service of NI for consideration.

During the previous 5 years the following number of cases has resulted in prosecutions.

Year	Number of Cases Prosecuted
2007-2008	10
2008-2009	4
2009-2010	8
2010-2011	4
2011-2012	3
Total	29

QUANGOS

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many QUANGOS, that are attached to her Department, have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

(AQW 12691/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: There are no Non –Departmental Public Bodies sponsored by my Department that have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Assembly since 2007.

Cases Investigated by the Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the (i) outcome; and (ii) financial value of the cases investigated by the Central Investigation Service, in each of the last five years.
(AQW 12693/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department publishes a Counter Fraud and Enforcement Activities Annual Report. The outcome of CIS investigations and their overall financial value are detailed in these Annual Reports. The Department has not yet published the 2011/2012 Counter Fraud Annual Report. However, the 2010/2011 report is available on the DARD website. www.dardni.gov.uk Previous Annual Reports are available on request.

In response to your question, I have provided, at Annex A, a summary of the outcomes of the cases referred to CIS over the last 5 full financial years. This includes the number of successful prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings and referral to the Police Service for further investigation.

In addition, individual Case Closure outcomes can include CIS recommendations to business areas in relation to highlighting areas of weakness in the operating systems to prevent future losses, imposing scheme penalties or initiating “Claw back” of EU funding.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many staff attached to Central Investigation Service have been suspended in each of the last five years; (ii) for what reasons were the suspensions imposed; and (iii) how many suspensions are extant.
(AQW 12694/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In 2011 one member of staff attached to Central Investigation Services was suspended while allegations of misconduct that may have had an adverse effect on the working of the Department were investigated. The suspension is not extant. There were no other suspensions in Central Investigation Services in the last five years.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the Central Investigation Service has ever been subjected to an independent review by an external party to establish if it is fit for purpose and aligned to good investigatory practice; and, if so, what was the outcome.
(AQW 12696/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In April 2010 the Department commissioned a review of CIS. The review resulted in a number of recommendations to improve processes, procedures and reporting of fraud cases. This was followed up by NIAO as part of the 2010-11 financial audit.

In addition, a current review of the Unit is being conducted by Internal Audit as part of the Department's annual audit programme.

I can confirm that all resulting recommendations were accepted and have now been implemented in full.

Departmental Headquarters

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration has been given to Omagh as a location for her new departmental headquarters.
(AQW 12722/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As you will be aware the advancement of the relocation of the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is one of the commitments set out in the

Executive's Programme for Government 2011-2015. Work on delivering this important commitment is progressing. I am currently considering potential locations and hope to reach a decision soon.

Village Street Regeneration Schemes

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 11812/11-15, to list the nature, budget and location of the (i) 26 projects that have been completed; and (ii) the 52 projects that are currently under way.

(AQW 12725/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Pursuant to AQW 11812/11-15 I am providing further information on the projects supported under the Village Renewal and Development measure of Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme. The detail is as recorded on the EU applications database.

Measure 3.5, Village Renewal & Development - projects completed. Position at 17 May 2012

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
3308	Antrim Borough Council	Crumlin Village Enhancement Initiative	GROW	Completed	5,000.00
7272	Carrickfergus Borough Council	Toomebridge, Doagh and Whitehead Village Masterplans	GROW	Completed	33,750.00
8594	Lisburn City Council	Lagan Rural Village Renewal Scheme	LRP	Completed	33,018.75
8012	NER	Village Links	NER	Completed	5,000.00
28507	Gleno Valley Community Association	Gleno Valley Community Association Village Renewal Plan	NER	Completed	4,875.00
28534	Moyle District Council	Ballintoy Village Plan	NER	Completed	3,000.00
28537	Carnlough Community Association	Carnlough Village Action Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00
28541	Moyle District Council	Cushendun Village Plan	NER	Completed	3,000.00
28544	Moyle District Council	Mosside Village Plan	NER	Completed	3,000.00
28565	Cullybackey Residents Association	Cullybackey Village Action Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00
28566	Stranocum & District Development Group	Stranocum Village Action Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
28575	Dervock & District Community Association	Dervock & District Village Action Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00
28577	Ballybogey & District Community Association	Ballybogey Village Action Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00
28611	Dunloy Development Partnership	Dunloy Village Plan	NER	Completed	4,500.00
28894	Moyle District Council	Hamill Terrace, Bushmills	NER	Completed	48,585.00
31692	RASHARKIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	VILLAGE PLAN FOR RASHARKIN	NER	Completed	1,875.00
31759	BALLYCARRY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	VILLAGE PLAN BALLYCARRY	NER	Completed	5,250.00
31789	Cloughmills Community Action Team	Cloughmills C.A.T. Village Renewal Phase I	NER	Completed	7,373.40
31869	Millbrook community development Association	VILLAGE PLAN MILLBROOK	NER	Completed	5,250.00
31877	Coleraine Borough Council on behalf of Macosquin Village Community Association	Macosquin Village Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00
31880	Portballintrae Residents Association	Village Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00
31900	Coleraine Borough Council on behalf of Articlave Community Development Group	Articlave Village Plan	NER	Completed	5,250.00

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
31934	Glenravel & District Community & Residents Association	Improving Glenravel Amenities	NER	Completed	9,000.00
22679	Cookstown District Council	Integrated Action Plans for 6 Rural Settlements	SWARD	Completed	39,000.00
23115	The Rainey Centre Ltd	Development Plans for Villages in Magherafelt District	SWARD	Completed	39,831.31
23964	Fermanagh District Council	Integrated action plans for 12 rural settlements	SWARD	Completed	72,999.00
	Number of Completed Projects	26	Total Grant Paid		366,307.46

Measure 3.5, Village Renewal & Development - projects currently underway. Position at 17 May 2012

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
32396	Omagh District Council	Scoping Study and Action Plans for Villages in ARC north west area	ARC NW	LOOAccepted	44,860.31
7092	Banbridge District Council	Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme	DRAP	LOOAccepted	113,622.50
33272	Ards Borough Council	Village Renewal Support Officer for the Ards, Banbridge, Down and North Down cluster	DRAP	LOOAccepted	76,197.44
35585	Down District Council	Ballyhornan Village Plan	DRAP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
35597	Saintfield Town Regeneration Committee	Saintfield Village Plan	DRAP	LOOAccepted	4,950.00
35604	Banbridge District Council	Creation of Village Plans for Banbridge District	DRAP	LOOAccepted	71,788.50

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
35716	Dundrum Village Association	Dundrum Village Plan	DRAP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
35721	Kilcoo Community Association	Kilcoo Village Plan	DRAP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
35751	Drumaroad & Clanvarghan Community Association DCCA	Clanvarghan Village Plan	DRAP	LOOAccepted	4,950.00
35757	Clough and District Community Association	Clough Village plan	DRAP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
7231	Antrim Borough Council	South Antrim Village Renewal Facilitator	GROW	LOOAccepted	106,914.00
7844	Antrim Borough Council	Crumlin Village Enhancement Scheme	GROW	LOOAccepted	230,000.00
33845	T.I.D.A.L Ltd	Toome Village Improvement Project	GROW	LOOAccepted	55,162.50
35726	Newtown-abbey Borough Council	Doagh Village Enhancement Scheme - Phase One	GROW	LOOAccepted	27,948.61
35734	Carrickfergus Borough Council	Whitehead Floral Scheme	GROW	LOOAccepted	9,641.17
35756	Antrim Borough Council	Crumlin Building Enhancement Scheme	GROW	LOOAccepted	15,000.00
34017	Lisburn City Council	Feasibility Study - Recreation Park - Maghaberry	LRP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
34018	Lisburn City Council	Feasibility Study - Recreation Park, Milltown	LRP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
34020	Lisburn City Council	Feasibility Study - Historic Interperation of Moira Demesne	LRP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
34022	Lisburn City Council	Feasibility Study - Sports & Recreation Hub, Glenavy	LRP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
34037	Castlereagh Borough Council	Mini Environmental Improvement Scheme for Moneyreagh	LRP	LOOAccepted	5,000.00
6151	moyle district council	Facilitation of Village Renewal and Development in the North east Rural Development Area	NER	LOOAccepted	113,099.00
29683	Portglenone Enterprise Group Property Limited (PEG)	Portglenone Village Renewal	NER	LOOAccepted	47,328.75
30117	Moyle District Council	Waterfoot Village Improvement Scheme	NER	LOOAccepted	62,055.75
31856	Castlerock Community Association	Village renewal - Castlerock	NER	LOOAccepted	35,482.50
33324	The Bushmills Trust	Brighter Bushmills	NER	LOOAccepted	14,310.00
33360	Coleraine Borough Council	Orientation & Interpretative Project, Castlerock	NER	LOOAccepted	27,017.25
33444	Garvagh Development Trust (GDT)	Garvagh Village Renewal	NER	LOOAccepted	45,142.50
33456	Glenravel & District Community & Residents Association	Glenravel Village Renewal	NER	LOOAccepted	17,010.00
33462	Moyle District Council	Cushendall Village Improvement Scheme	NER	LOOAccepted	51,720.00
33487	Ballymena Borough Council	Glenravel Village Renewal Part 2	NER	LOOAccepted	36,487.50
33492	Cushendall District Development Group Ltd	Cushendall Development Group Application	NER	LOOAccepted	11,190.00
34437	Moyle District Council	Hamill Terrace Public Art	NER	LOOAccepted	12,000.00

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
35612	Moyle District Council	Village Renewal Facilitation/ Animation in the NER Area	NER	LOOAccepted	88,443.50
36142	Dervock & District Community Association Limited	K.K. McArthur Festival of Running	NER	LOOAccepted	14,325.00
6579	Armagh City and District Council	Re-Imaging Villages	SOAR	LOOAccepted	94,448.82
7099	Newry & Mourne DC	Integrated Village Plans in Newry & Mourne	SOAR	LOOAccepted	187,490.00
7101	Craigavon Borough Council	Comprehensive Strategic Plans for 8 Villages across Craigavon Borough Council	SOAR	LOOAccepted	105,419.31
23218	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	Integrated Action Plans for 7 Rural Settlements	SWARD	LOOAccepted	43,500.00
35702	Annsborough Community Development Forum	Annsborough village plan	DRAP	LOOIssued	5,000.00
35725	Killyleagh Development Association Limited	Conversion of 9 Catherine Street, Killyleagh to Community Facilities	DRAP	LOOIssued	107,915.00
35803	Castlewellan Regeneration Limited	Castlewellan Integrated Plan	DRAP	LOOIssued	5,000.00
35809	Ballywalter Community Action Group	Blooming Ballywalter	DRAP	LOOIssued	3,432.36
36172	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Pomeroy	SWARD	LOOIssued	49,885.58
36173	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Moneymore	SWARD	LOOIssued	50,000.00

Application Ref No	Org Name	Project Title	DA Short	Application Status	Grant Awarded
36174	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Stewartstown 1	SWARD	LOOIssued	24,371.00
36193	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Loughshore 1 Ardboe	SWARD	LOOIssued	12,500.00
36202	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Dunamore Ward (Dunamore, Broughderg, Gortacladdy and Kileenan)	SWARD	LOOIssued	49,050.00
36359	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Loughshore 2	SWARD	LOOIssued	12,500.00
36373	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	Integrated Village Renewal for priority rural settlements	SWARD	LOOIssued	157,000.00
36374	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	Village Regeneration through environmental development in priority rural settlements	SWARD	LOOIssued	143,000.00
36392	Cookstown District Council	Village Renewal - Coagh	SWARD	LOOIssued	50,000.00
	Total number of LOOs currently underway	52	Total LOO Grant Awarded		2,482,158.85

My Department does not hold further detail on the specifics of individual projects. Information on the full nature of each project may be obtained from the Joint Council Committees contracted by my Department to deliver the Axis 3 measures detailed below.

Contact Details for Axis 3 Joint Council Committees Admin Units

GROW South Antrim	
Name	Emma Stubbs
Address	C/o Antrim Borough Council, Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim, BT41 2UB
Tel	028 94 481 311
Email	emma.stubbs@antrim.gov.uk

North East Region (NER)	
Name	Andrew McAlister
Address	Ecos Centre Millennium Environmental Centre, Kernohan's Lane, Broughshane Road, Ballymena, BT43 7QA
Tel	028 25 638 263
Email	Andrew.rdp@ballymena.gov.uk
Southern Organisation Area for Rural Development (SOAR)	
Name	Elaine Cullen
Address	Craigavon Borough Council, Lakeview Road, Craigavon, BT64 1AL
Tel	028 38 312 573
Email	elaine.cullen@craigavon.gov.uk
Assisting Rural Communities (ARC) North West	
Name	Claudine McGuigan
Address	Omagh District Council, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh, BT79 7BL
Tel	028 82 245 321
Email	Claudine.mcguigan@omagh.gov.uk
Down Rural Area Partnership (DRAP)	
Name	Marguerite Osborne
Address	Ards Business Centre, Sketrick House, Jubilee Road, Newtownards, BT23 4YH
Tel	028 91 820 748
Email	Marguerite.Osborne@ards-council.gov.uk
South West Action on Rural Development (SWARD)	
Name	Terry Scullion
Address	Gortlowry House, 94 Church Street, Cookstown, BT80 8HX
Tel	028 86 76 4714
Email	terry.scullion@cookstown.gov.uk
Lagan Rural Partnership (LRP)	
Name	Padraic Murphy
Address	c/o Lisburn City Council, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, BT27 4RL
Tel	028 9250 9383 or 07791757497
Email	Padraic.murphy@lisburn.gov.uk

Herd Numbers

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the conditions which must be met for a person to be named on more than one herd number.

(AQW 12732/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The policy is, and has been for more than 20 years, that before being issued a new herd registration number, a person should not already be an existing registered keeper of that species of animal, so there are no conditions to be met.

Herd Numbers

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of herd numbers issued in each of the last twenty years; and for an estimate of the number which were issued, in each year, to people who were already named on existing herd numbers.

(AQW 12733/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Please see table below for number of herd numbers issued/herd keepers registered in each of the last 20 years. The figure for 2012 is up to week commencing 11 June.

Year	Herds Registered
1992	1025
1993	709
1994	601
1995	684
1996	754
1997	717
1998	564
1999	434
2000	708
2001	346
2002	450
2003	140
2004	261
2005	267
2006	317
2007	166
2008	170
2009	274
2010	387
2011	451
2012	243

The policy is, and has been for over 20 years, that a person cannot be registered as a herd keeper if that person is already registered as a keeper of that species of animal. However, it is possible that this

may have happened on very rare occasions, for example, if the applicant was a keeper in their own right and a member of a registered company (i.e. a separate legal identity).

Herd keeper registrations are recorded on the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS). However, it is not possible to use APHIS to check a herd registration number against a particular name so an estimate cannot be given for the number of keeper registrations that were issued to people who were already named on an existing herd registration number.

People Applying for Herd Numbers

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what checks are carried out on people applying for a herd number, or for an additional herd number; and whether, and how, these checks have changed over the last twenty years.

(AQW 12735/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Checks are carried out to ensure that the applicant is not banned from keeping livestock, is over 18 years of age and is not already a registered keeper for that species of livestock. Checks are also carried out to see if the person already has a Customer Identification number or a Business Identification number.

In terms of how the checks have changed during the last 20 years, applicants have always been asked if they are over 18 years of age, while procedures to check if the applicant was banned from keeping livestock were set up in late 2009, and procedures for checking Customer and Business Identification numbers started 2007/2008.

People Applying for Herd Numbers

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what questions are asked of people applying for herd numbers; and whether, and how, these questions have changed over the last twenty years.

(AQW 12736/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Applicants are currently asked;

- Their address details and landline and mobile phone numbers.
- Address of premises if different.
- Farm Survey and map reference numbers.
- If they are banned from keeping livestock and what species if applicable.
- Customer or Business Identification numbers.
- Details of keeper if the applicant will not be the keeper and if the proposed keeper is banned from keeping livestock.
- The area of land and if the land is owned or leased.
- The number and type of livestock the applicant proposes to keep.
- What stock handling and isolation facilities are available.
- If the applicant is already named as a keeper in an existing herd or flock registration for the same species.
- If they are already registered as a keeper of different animal species and the registration number and number of animals kept.
- The details of the Veterinary Practice that will be carrying out routine TB testing.

We no longer ask applicants;

- If another family member is registered as a keeper and their relationship to this keeper.

- If the applicant resides and works on the home farm.
- If the applicant intends to reside on new premises and farm separately from the home farm and how far the new premises will be from the home farm.
- Was the land of the new premises previously used by the home farm.
- Will the livestock be bought or transferred from the home farm herd.

Alternative and More Sustainable Species of Fish

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department is engaged in any initiatives, with retailers and restaurants, to promote the consumption of alternative and more sustainable species of fish.

(AQW 12875/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department is not currently engaged in initiatives of this type. However Producer Organisations have a role in the marketing of fish products and the Sea Fish Industry Authority produces guidance on sustainable sources of alternative fish species.

Article 15 of the Proposed Common Fisheries Policy Regulation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the proposals to introduce an obligation to land all catches, which is the mechanism to be used to eliminate the practice of discarding fish, contained in Article 15 of the proposed Common Fisheries Policy Regulation.

(AQW 12903/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I welcome the proposed “general approach” on a new Common Fisheries Policy Regulation that was agreed at the Fisheries Council on 12 June 2012. It contains a commitment, in respect of our fisheries, to land all catches of species that are subject to catch limits. I believe that the proposed timetable is testing but achievable. Our biggest challenge is probably to reduce discards in the mixed species Nephrops fishery, however good progress is being made to identify highly selective fishing gear that will significantly reduce unwanted catches of non-target species.

Bridge at Grange Lane/Trench Lane, Mallusk

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what discussions she has had with other Departments on the replacement of the bridge at Grange Lane/Trench Lane, Mallusk.

(AQW 12935/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have had no discussions with other Departments on the replacement of the bridge at Grange Lane/Trench Lane, Mallusk. Officials in my Rivers Agency have had ongoing liaison with officials in the Department of Regional Development, Roads Service on this issue during the last year.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

QUANGOs

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans she has to reduce (i) the number of QUANGOs; and (ii) the operational cost of QUANGOs.

(AQW 12600/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):

- (i) My Department plans to wind up the World Police and Fire Games Company by March 2014. My Department is carrying out reviews of its Arm's Length Bodies (ALB) including consideration of future delivery of the functions of each body which could potentially result in further reduction in the number of ALBs.

- (ii) A table showing the operational cost of each Arm's Length Body for the last four years is attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

Name of body		Funding provided			
		2011/12 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2008/09 £000
Libraries NI		34,507	37,958	34,285	34,706
National Museums NI		15,111	24,499	17,462	21,492
SportNI		19,687	25,400	25,377	24,184
Arts Council of NI		19,445	27,178	27,481	16,334
Armagh Observatory and Planetarium		1,669	2,055	1,530	1,503
NI Screen Commission Ltd		1,648	1,368	1,450	1,479
NI Museums Council Ltd		258	324	349	309
2013 WPGF Company Ltd	1	749	nil	nil	nil
North South Language Body		6,259	6,516	6,466	6,514
Waterways Ireland		3,675	4,537	5,394	7,323
NI Events Company Ltd (NIEC)	2	-26	10	73	118
Fisheries Conservancy Board	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	739

Galbally Pearses GAA Club Awarding Medals Featuring an IRA Terrorist

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she intends to take any action following the decision of Galbally Pearses GAA club to award medals featuring an IRA terrorist to children.

(AQW 12633/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am aware of reports in the media that an individual has raised an issue over medals awarded by Galbally Pearses GAC following a recent GAA football blitz. Responsibility for the provision of medals at sporting events is wholly a matter for clubs and the relevant sports governing body. I understand that, in this case, the Tyrone County Board has agreed to look into the matter if it receives an approach from the individual concerned.

Galbally Pearses GAA Club

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the decision of Galbally Pearses GAA club to award medals, featuring an IRA terrorist, to children will have any impact on future applications for funding from the club.

(AQW 12634/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding to sport in the north of Ireland. The assessment of funding applications from sporting organisations, including Galbally Pearses GAC, and decisions relating to eligibility are, therefore, wholly a matter for Sport NI. Sport NI funding programmes have an equity clause as a standard condition of their grants and I expect that future applications from all sporting clubs and organisations will be required to satisfy the terms of that clause.

Funding for Table Tennis

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the funding which her Department has made available to support Table Tennis in each of the last three years.

(AQW 12639/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport in the north of Ireland. In the last three financial years Sport NI, has provided £315,904 exchequer funding towards the development of Table Tennis. Details are set out below:

Date	Organisation	Project	Amount
2009	UB Irish Table Tennis Association	Governing Body Investment	£66,383
2010	Alexandra Presbyterian Church Junior Table Tennis Club	Table Tennis Club Participation Initiative	£1,910
	UB Irish Table Tennis Association	Governing Body Investment	£102,617
	Na Liu	Athlete Support Programme Living Costs	£4,733
	Glenburn Methodist Church	Installation of sports floor and upgrade of lighting	£26,111
2011	UB Irish Table Tennis Association	Governing Body Investment	£98,833
	Na Liu and Paul McCreery	Athlete Support Programme Living Costs	£15,317
		Total	£315,904

Centre of Excellence for Table Tennis

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has had any discussions regarding the creation of a Centre of Excellence for Table Tennis and what arrangements would need to be put in place before such a centre could be operational.

(AQW 12640/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for the creation of Centre of Excellence for Table Tennis rests, in the first instance, with the governing body for the sport in the north of Ireland, Table Tennis Ulster.

Neither my Department nor Sport NI have received any approach from Table Tennis Ulster to discuss the development of a Centre of Excellence. Before such a centre could be operational, the agreement of Table Tennis Ulster would be required and a range of issues in relation to need, finance, design, location and, potentially, procurement would need to be considered. Sport NI can provide advice and guidance to sports organisations and other interested parties on these matters.

Armagh Museum

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail, for each of the last two years, to detail (i) the cost of (a) staffing; and (b) maintaining the Armagh Museum; and (ii) the income received by the museum, broken down by source,

(AQW 12674/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: National Museums NI has provided me with the following information:

- (i) (a) Staffing costs for Armagh County Museum amounted to:
2010-11: £208,373
2011-12: £197,374

- (b) Maintenance and running costs for Armagh County Museum amounted to:
 2010-11: £62,919
 2011-12: £60,312
- (ii) The income received by the Armagh County Museum:
 2010-11: Total income - £2,789 (made up of retail sales £1,750 and donations of £1,039)
 2011-12: Total income - £1,810 (made up of retail sales £1,082 and donations of £728).

QUANGOS

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many QUANGOS, that are attached to her Department, have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

(AQW 12690/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: One body, attached to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, has been created as a result of legislation passed by the NI Assembly since 2007.

The Northern Ireland Library Authority, known as Libraries NI, was formed in 2009 as a result of legislation laid in 2008.

Creativity Month

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of Creativity Month, which was celebrated in March 2012.

(AQW 12698/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Creativity Month aims to stimulate new thinking and new collaborations to help creative people, creative ideas and creative businesses to emerge and flourish. The initiative helps to group and profile events, workshops and activities supporting creativity and innovation.

Creativity Month in March 2012 built on the pilot launched in 2011 and there is momentum gathering behind the initiative and an appreciation of the opportunity it provides to showcase creativity and innovation across the region and particularly that from the cultural and creative industries. One such example is the Ulster Festival of Art and Design, at the University of Ulster, which this year moved from its usual June date to March in part to contribute to and benefit from Creativity Month.

The launch of the Programme for Government and Economic Strategy in March 2012 highlighted the priority to “stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity”. This should encourage cross-departmental and other stakeholder engagement in Creativity Month in 2013 and, together with the City of Culture celebrations, showcase the key role that creativity will play in rebuilding and rebalancing our economy and tackling other key priorities in health, education, social inclusion and the environment.

Creativity with the Culture Company

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update of her Department’s work to establish a digital platform to promote creativity with the Culture Company.

(AQW 12699/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: During Creativity Month in March 2012 a new online resource, www.creativityni.org, was launched by the Culture Company, in partnership with Culture NI, to profile events and activities promoting creativity. The development of the site was supported by my Department.

The site was also used to launch a competition to design the official mascot for Derry City of Culture in 2013. It will be further developed by autumn 2012 to include digital content and videos profiling innovative initiatives undertaken by DCAL Arm-length Bodies and other organisations. In addition to facilitating networking opportunities, the resource will evolve into an online hub for creativity and innovation and help to maximise the impact of City of Culture across the region.

FIPS-Mouche

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department will raise with the International Fly Fishing Association, FIPS-Mouche, its rejection of an application by the Northern Ireland Fly Fishing Association for membership, given that membership has been granted to Scotland, England and Wales.

(AQW 12775/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: This is a matter for the governing bodies of Sport, in which DCAL has no focus or remit.

Ulster Scots Agency

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding the Ulster Scots Agency has allocated to the North Down constituency, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12883/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The funding allocated by the Ulster-Scots Agency to groups in the North Down constituency in each of the last five years is shown in the table below.

Year	Amount
2007	£8,200.00
2008	£7,850.00
2009	£10,210.00
2010	£19,183.50
2011	£4,800.00

In 2012 to date the Ulster-Scots Agency has allocated £3,000.00 to groups in the North Down constituency.

Designation of Irish League Football Grounds

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what opportunities exist for Irish League football clubs, with a non-designated ground, to have a reassessment of the designation of their ground; and whether there are any plans to review the designation of Irish League football grounds.

(AQW 12978/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The criteria used to determine which football grounds should be considered for designation is prescribed under legislation, namely the Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006. Article 4(1) of the Order enables my Department, by order, to designate as requiring a safety certificate, any sports ground which, in DCAL's opinion, has accommodation for more than 5,000 spectators. Any football ground not currently designated under this legislation, but which has accommodation of more than 5,000 spectators may, therefore, be considered by my Department for designation. DCAL currently has no plans to review the designation of Irish League football grounds under this legislation.

Department of Education

Development Proposals from Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education (i) how many development proposals from primary and post-primary schools were submitted to his Department in 2011/2012, broken down by sector; and (ii) whether they (a) have been approved; (b) have been refused; or (c) are currently outstanding.

(AQW 11540/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): There have been 47 development proposals relating to primary schools, including preparatory departments, submitted to the Department in 2011 and 2012. They are broken down as follows;

Sector	Year published	Approved	Not Approved	Decision Pending
Controlled Primary	2011	12	2	0
Maintained Primary	2011	6	2	1
Grant Maintained Integrated	2011	1	1	0
Other Maintained (Irish Medium)	2011	4	3	0
Other Maintained (Not IM)	2011	1	0	0
Voluntary (Prep)	2011	1	0	0
Controlled Primary	2012	1	2	3
Maintained Primary	2012	1	0	3
Other Maintained (Irish Medium)	2012	1	0	1
Voluntary (Prep)	2012	0	0	1

There have been 6 development proposals relating to post-primary schools submitted to the Department in 2011 and 2012. They are broken down as follows;

	Year published	Approved	Not Approved	Decision Pending
Voluntary Grammar	2011	1	0	0
Controlled Secondary	2011	1	0	0
Maintained	2012	0	0	2
Grant Maintained Integrated	2012	0	0	1
Other Maintained (Irish Medium)	2012	0	0	1

Arm's-Length Bodies: Pension Schemes

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education whether all the pension schemes that are in place across his Department's arm's-length bodies are exclusively Consumer Price Indexed, including the benefits that were earned by contributions before the change from the Retail Price Index; and to detail any exceptions.

(AQW 12307/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Employees of my Department's arm's-length bodies are eligible to join either the NI Teachers' Pension Scheme (NITPS) or the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS (NI)). The NITPS is administered by the Department of Education and the LGPS (NI) is administered by the Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) which is an arm's length body of the Department of the Environment.

For LGPS (NI) pensions in payment and deferred pensions are increased by the amount specified in the Pension Increase (Review) Order (NI) made by the Department of Finance and Personnel. Since April 2011 this percentage has been based on the Consumer Prices Index.

This is also the case for NITPS with one minor exception. That exception is caused by my Department overlooking a specific reference to RPI in Regulation E5A of the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations

(NI) 1998 which deals only with additional pension for which revaluation is in line with RPI before the pension comes into payment. The Department proposes to make amending regulations in the near future to rectify this oversight.

Pre-School or Nursery Places

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the 1400 applicants for a pre-school or nursery place in the 2012/13 academic year, to detail those (i) who failed to obtain a place in the first tranche; (ii) who were offered a place in the second tranche; (iii) who dropped out of the process; and (iv) who are still seeking a place, broken down by constituency in which they live.

(AQW 12584/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At the end of Stage 1 of the 2012/2013 Pre-School Admissions Process 1,429 children were unplaced. The parents/guardians of 689 of these children stated further preferences for consideration during Stage 2 of the process and as a result 665 received an offer of a place at the end of Stage 2. The parents/guardians of the remaining 740 children did not state further preferences for consideration during Stage 2.

The 24 children for whom further preferences were stated at the end of Stage 1 which remained unplaced at the end of Stage 2, broken down by the constituency in which they live, is as follows:-

Belfast North	3
Belfast South	1
Lagan Valley	3
Mid Ulster	1
North Down	9
Upper Bann	4
South Antrim	1
South Down	2

The South Eastern Education and Library Board have advised that 3 of the 9 unplaced children who live in North Down have now been placed.

Pre-School Places

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education, in relation to his statement on 1 June 2012 regarding the 22,500 children who secured a pre-school place, to detail (i) how many secured a place at their (a) first choice and; (b) second choice; and (ii) for an estimate of the number of parents who did not pursue a pre-school place for their child after their first choice was refused.

(AQW 12734/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As I indicated in the Assembly on 23 April, at the end of Stage 1 of the Pre-School Admissions Process, 94% of the 22,800 applicants had been offered a place in a setting that their parents identified in their list of preferences. Furthermore, of those placed, some 84% secured a place at their first preference setting.

Education and Library Boards (ELBs) record details of all children who are offered a place. In addition they record details of the number of children who are placed in their first preference setting but do not collate information on the number offered places in their second or subsequent preferred settings. The provision of this information could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

There were 1429 children unplaced at the end of Stage 1 of the process. The parents of 740 of those children chose not to state further preferences by the deadline set by the Education and Library Board for consideration during Stage 2. Of the 689 children whose parents chose to state further preferences at this time all but 24 were placed.

5 or More GCSEs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of children who obtained 5 or more GCSEs, at grades A*-C, including English and Maths, in each of the last three years, who resided in (i) Belfast; (ii) Derry; and (iii) all other areas, broken down by (a) Catholic females; (b) Protestant females; (c) Catholic males; and (d) Protestant males.

(AQW 12742/11-15)

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

5 or More GCSEs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of children who obtained 5 or more GCSEs, at grades A*-C, including English and Maths, in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) Catholic females; (ii) Protestant females; (iii) Catholic males; and (iv) Protestant males, in each council area.

(AQW 12743/11-15)

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

5 or More GCSEs

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of children entitled to free school meals who obtained 5 or more GCSEs, at grades A*-C, including English and Maths in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) Catholic females; (ii) Protestant females; (iii) Catholic males; and (iv) Protestant males, in each council area.

(AQW 12744/11-15)

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

2 or More A Levels

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of children entitled to free school meals who obtained 2 or more A levels at grades A*-E, broken down by (i) Catholic females; (ii) Protestant females; (iii) Catholic males; and (iv) Protestant males, in each council area.

(AQW 12745/11-15)

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

2 or More A Levels

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of children who obtained 2 or more A levels at grades A*-E, broken down by (i) Catholic females; (ii) Protestant females; (iii) Catholic males; and (iv) Protestant males, in each council area.

(AQW 12746/11-15)

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

St Colman's Primary School, Lambeg

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of (i) the standard of education being provided to children with special educational needs at St Colman's Primary School, Lambeg; and (ii) the experience and qualifications of staff currently providing the service.

(AQW 12779/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The statutory responsibility for making provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) rests with schools and the five education and library boards (ELBs) which are responsible under special education legislation for identifying, assessing and, in appropriate cases, making

provision for children with SEN in their areas. The Department does not have any role in this process, which is intended to be conducted between parents, schools and ELBs.

The South – Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) has advised that it is not aware of any concerns regarding the standard of teaching being provided to children with SEN at St. Colman's. The most recent Education and Training Inspectorate report highlighted very good or excellent teaching in the majority of lessons which includes SEN provision.

SEELB has also confirmed that the two teachers working in the moderate learning difficulty units are fully qualified.

Pre-School Provision

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, in relation to pre-school provision, how much additional funding was allocated to the voluntary/private sector; and how much was expended, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 12790/11-15)

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

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
Original budget	£10,296,000	£10,888,000	£11,246,000
Final budget	£10,412,000	£13,032,000	£14,057,000
Additional funding	£116,000	£2,144,000	£2,811,000

As pre-school places in voluntary/private sector settings are funded on a per place basis, with payment made monthly in arrears for each child in attendance, the amount of additional funding allocated and the amount expended are the same.

Review of the Common Funding Scheme

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the review of the Common Funding Scheme, to list the membership of the Project Board and the Advisory Group.

(AQW 12791/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As set out in my letter to you on 12 June 2012, I have commissioned an independent review of the Common Funding Scheme. The review panel will be led by Sir Robert Salisbury, assisted by Dr Eemer Eivers and Evan Bates.

Arms-Length Bodies

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the resource allocation, in the 2012/13 financial year, for each of his Department's arms-length bodies.

(AQW 12793/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The initial resource allocation, in the 2012/13 financial year, for each of my Department's arms-length bodies, is as follows:

Arms Length Body (ALB)	£'000s
BELB	229,431
NEELB	300,274
SEELB	272,337
SELB	330,658

Arms Length Body (ALB)	£'000s
WELB	297,256
Staff Commission	327
CCMS*	3,223
Youth Council*	4,685
CCEA*	22,189

* Includes small elements of non-cash

These allocations will allow my arms length bodies to prepare Initial Resource Allocation Plans (RAPs) and financial plans.

Development of Integrated Education

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how, and to what extent, he has complied with the statutory duty to facilitate and encourage the development of integrated education.

(AQW 12803/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I take the Department of Education's statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education very seriously.

The integrated sector continues to grow. The most recent schools census statistics indicate that there are currently over 20,000 pupils attending 42 primary, and 20 post-primary integrated schools here.

To comply with the statutory duty, my Department provides funding to the Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) to assist the development of integrated schools for public benefit. Funding for 2012/13 is £628k.

The Department has also provided over £4m to the Integrated Education Fund since it was established, to provide assistance with the capital costs of new schools in the period prior to capital grants being available.

In addition, DE also provides funding to help schools with the process of transformation to integrated status. Funding for 2012/13 is £261k. This assists schools in the initial stages of the transformation process, and with the employment of a teacher from the minority community in the school to assist with religious education.

I recognise the vital and valuable contribution that the integrated sector, together with all sectors of education, makes to building a peaceful and stable future for our children.

However, as is the case for all of the other education sectors, my Department responds to parental demand for integrated education. It funds integrated schools that are robust, do not involve unreasonable public expenditure and meet the specified criteria. It does not favour one education sector over another.

Parental Preference for Integrated Schooling

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how, and to what extent, he has met parental preference for integrated schooling for children.

(AQW 12806/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Open Enrolment policy allows all families to express their preferences regarding which primary or post primary school their child wishes to attend. The Education and Library Boards administer the processes by which these preferences reach the schools concerned. The degree to which any school can respond to parental preference, however, is governed by their approved admissions and enrolment numbers. These numbers are set by the Department taking in to account

a number of factors including the Long Term Enrolment number of the school and the teaching accommodation available. Where a school is oversubscribed with applications it must apply its published admissions criteria in order to decide which pupils to admit. Decisions regarding which circumstances should be prioritised within the school's admissions criteria are entirely a matter for the Board of Governors of that school and the Department has no role in this.

Information provided by the Education and Library Boards shows that, at the end of the primary and post primary admissions processes for September 2012, overall 92% of pupils who identified an integrated school as their first preference in the primary sector and 88% who identified an integrated school as their first preference in the post primary sector gained a place.

As part of these processes the Department approved 53 additional places in integrated primary schools to allow primary schools who requested additional places to admit those applicants who would not be able to access an integrated school place within reasonable travelling distance of their home address. During the post-primary admission processes no integrated post-primary schools requested additional Year 8 places.

In future area planning will be the process through which demand for all education provision will be determined. I have already given a commitment to allow popular schools to grow within the area planning context. Should there be evidence that there is a need for an increase in any particular sector, this will be factored into the planning process and development proposals published to give effect to the required increases.

Shared Education Partnership

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education (i) to define a shared education partnership, co-location and shared education campus; (ii) where these exist; and (iii) how they are resourced.

(AQW 12807/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There is no formal definition of shared education at present. I see it as a broad concept that should focus on the needs of the learner, not institutions.

Shared Education is about delivering education benefits to all learners, promoting the efficient and effective use of resources and promoting equality of opportunity, good relations and community cohesion. It should bring together learners of differing community backgrounds, race, ethnicity, political opinion or socio-economic status.

The models referred to in the question are not defined in legislation. A shared education partnership involves two or more schools co-operating to provide shared education, such as in an area learning community. There are 29 area learning communities at present. Co-location involves two or more schools, with their own facilities and autonomy, within the same area. A shared education campus, such as Lisanelly, involves two or more schools sharing a site and some common infrastructure, but retaining their autonomy.

In all of these arrangements, schools are resourced in the normal way, according to their management type. Controlled and Maintained schools receive delegated budgets from Education and Library Boards; Voluntary Grammar and Grant-maintained Integrated schools receive grants from my Department. However, additional funding is available from various funding sources, to Co-location schools, depending on the type of collaboration.

School Buildings in the North Down Area

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how much of the (i) capital; and (ii) recurrent budget was spent on school buildings in the North Down area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12830/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Capital and recurrent expenditure on school buildings in each of the last five years in the North Down area is shown below:

This information is based on the schools in the North Down Constituency.

	2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent
Controlled	2153110	444511	5018774	467467	1754694	1096437	713034	699170	2171595	536280
Maintained	236289	67083	224017	65474	329099	138473	298873	97440	136568	93782
VGS	937473(a)	(b) N/K	659631	N/K	1003676	N/K	6321037	N/K	7476278	N/K
Total	3326872	511594	5902422	532941	3087469	1234910	7332944	796610	9784441	630062

- (a) Furniture & Equipment required for Voluntary Grammar Schools is funded through the capital budget.
- (b) Maintenance is funded in Voluntary Grammar Schools through their schools Local Management of School block Grant

Corran Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit, Larne

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Education when the twenty-year-old mobile classrooms at Corran Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit, Larne, will be replaced with a new purpose built school building.

(AQW 12852/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: 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.

Shared Education Advisory Group

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) when the Shared Education Advisory Group will be established; and (ii) its Terms of Reference.

(AQW 12865/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am finalising the terms of reference and membership of the Advisory Group, and intend to make an announcement in the very near future.

Free School Meals

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many pupils, who are entitled to free school meals, are currently enrolled at each school in the North Down area.

(AQW 12869/11-15)

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

PUPILS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN NURSERY, PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY – 2011/12

School name	School type	Pupils entitled to free school meal
Bangor Central Nursery School	Nursery school	19

School name	School type	Pupils entitled to free school meal
Hollywood Nursery School	Nursery school	5
Trinity Nursery School	Nursery school	9
Ballyholme Primary School	Primary school	45
Ballymagee Primary School	Primary school	61
Ballyvester Primary School	Primary school	19
Bangor Central Primary School	Primary school	183
Bloomfield Primary School	Primary school	192
Clandeboye Primary School	Primary school	65
Crawfordsburn Primary School	Primary school	26
Donaghadee Primary School	Primary school	72
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	Primary school	12
Glenlola Collegiate	Primary school	*
Grange Park Primary School	Primary school	45
Hollywood Primary School	Primary school	53
Kilcooley Primary School	Primary school	111
Kilmaine Primary School	Primary school	63
Millisle Primary School	Primary school	54
Rathmore Primary School	Primary school	69
Redburn Primary School	Primary school	16
St Anne's Primary School, Donaghadee	Primary school	9
St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor	Primary school	15
St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor	Primary school	93
St Patrick's Primary School, Hollywood	Primary school	15
Sullivan Upper School Prep. Dept.	Primary school	*
Towerview Primary School	Primary school	27
Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Post primary school	257
Bangor Grammar School	Post primary school	37
Glenlola Collegiate	Post primary school	51
Priory College	Post primary school	114
St Columbanus' College, Bangor	Post primary school	94
Sullivan Upper School	Post primary school	25

Source: school census

Notes:

- 1 Figures for primary schools include children in nursery, reception and year 1 – 7 classes.
- 2 '*' relates to fewer than 5 pupils.

Hybrid Worker for St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Education to detail the nature of the partnership, outlined in the Banbridge Chronicle on 13 June 2012 by a Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) spokesperson, in relation to a hybrid worker for St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge, given that the SELB has, on two occasions, not agreed to attend meetings with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to discuss the issue.

(AQW 12893/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) has advised that it works in partnership with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust on a regular basis in relation to a range of issues relating to the SEN of children and young people. In relation to the issue of a hybrid worker at St. Mary's Primary School, Banbridge, the Board advises that it has sought a meeting in recent weeks with a manager in the Trust to discuss this issue.

Baccalaureate Qualification in Schools

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of a Baccalaureate qualification in schools.

(AQW 12929/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There has been no formal consideration given to the introduction of a Baccalaureate qualification in schools here at either GCSE or GCE level.

I am aware of the GCSE model that currently exists in England, and the three-tier award that is available in Wales. I note that the English Baccalaureate is not a formal qualification but is used purely as a performance measure for schools.

Michael Gove has recently announced proposals to reform the GCE A Level system in England. I have instructed officials to consider the implications of these reforms for our young people. As part of those deliberations, I will be seeking to consider all options that are available, including Baccalaureate models. However, no definite decisions have been taken on any changes.

Department for Employment and Learning

European Social Fund

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to where the £2.6 million, which was allocated under the European Social Fund to two projects that did not accept their funding, and to one other project that reduced its funding requirement by 50 percent, has been reallocated.

(AQW 12170/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): The figure of £2.6 million quoted in the question is incorrect, but should read £1.270 million comprising both ESF and DEL funding.

In any call for applications, the Managing Authority routinely over-allocates the funds available to allow for slippage in the programme and to allow as many projects as possible to be funded early in the process. In this instance, the over-allocation amounted to 11%.

When the performance of the programme was assessed, its performance was sufficiently strong that there was no scope for any further over-allocation of funding. It was therefore decided to use the £1.270 million to reduce the over-allocation from 11% to 7%.

University of Ulster and Queen's University, Belfast: Sick Absence

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the sick absence figures, as a percentage, of each grade in the departments within the campuses of the University of Ulster and

Queen's University, Belfast, broken down by (i) part-time; and (ii) full-time staff; and (a) long-term; and (b) short-term sickness, for each of the last three years.

(AQW 12212/11-15)

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted Queen's University and the University of Ulster. The information provided by the universities is attached at Annex A which has been placed in the Assembly Library and on my Department's website <http://www.delni.gov.uk/>.

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 11774/11-115, whether he has accepted the representations put forward by the Board of Governors of St Mary's University College, Belfast.

(AQW 12468/11-15)

Dr Farry: The decision to consult on a merger involving Queen's University and Stranmillis University College was taken by my predecessor as Minister. I have since initiated a two-stage study of the teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland. Stage One of the study is an objective analysis of the financial stability and sustainability of the two university colleges. Stage Two will set out options for a more shared and integrated system for the delivery and funding of teacher education

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 11774/11-15, whether he can offer an assurance that he balanced St Mary's University College's opposition against all others who are opposed to the merger of Stranmillis University College with Queen's University, Belfast.

(AQW 12469/11-15)

Dr Farry: I have taken into consideration the responses made to the public consultation on the proposed merger of Stranmillis University College with Queen's University and the views expressed by a range of stakeholders with whom I met following the consultation exercise, started by my predecessor.

Internships

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many internships are available in his Department; and if none, what plans he has to introduce an internship scheme.

(AQW 12485/11-15)

Dr Farry: Corporate Human Resources (CHR, DFP) has responsibility for the co-ordination of internships and work placements across the Northern Ireland Civil Service. The NICS Work Experience Policy is available at www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk.

On an annual basis, Corporate HR approaches NICS Departments to identify opportunities for internships for students in the Queen's University of Belfast School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy. The Department for Employment and Learning participates in this scheme and is in the process of finalising arrangements for an internship in the 12/13 year. The key aim is to provide a workplace based learning environment that enables students to apply and develop their knowledge and skills acquired in their first years of the university and to help prepare them for further study and/or career.

Annually, the Department for Employment and Learning also provides two one year sandwich placements for students undertaking degree courses in Economics. These placements are publicly advertised by DFP and the successful students become paid employees for the period of their placements. Under the terms of this scheme, the Department is facilitating two placements in the 12/13 year.

The Public Relations industry in Northern Ireland, in association with the Department, is offering a short 8 week unpaid internship scheme for graduates interested in working in the PR industry. It is expected

up to 15 places will be offered this year. This initiative is part of the Department's development of its new young employment scheme.

Whilst the Department does not directly fund the Higher Education Institutions in relation to supporting interns, both Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster have established partnerships with a number of companies who provide scholarships to students. These scholarship packages generally include financial support, ongoing mentoring and practical experience through placements in the various workplaces. The Department does not hold information on the number of internships facilitated or planned by the Higher Education Institutions.

The new higher education strategy, *Graduating to Success*, emphasises the importance of work placements and expects the higher education institutions to facilitate an increase in placement opportunities for their students. The Strategy states that, by 2020, all higher education students in Northern Ireland will have the opportunity to avail of a work placement.

University of Ulster: Staff Redundancies

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many (i) academic; and (ii) non-academic staff have been made redundant from the University of Ulster in each of the last three years. **(AQW 12501/11-15)**

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted the University of Ulster and its response is as follows:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Academic	15	30	60
Non-Academic	44	64	77

The University has stated that only one member of those numbered was made compulsorily redundant, following a restructuring in the University's Riverside Theatre.

University of Ulster: Staff Redundancies

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether there are any plans to make more (i) academic; and (ii) non-academic staff redundant from the University of Ulster in the run-up to the relocation to the new Belfast campus. **(AQW 12502/11-15)**

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted the University of Ulster.

The University has stated that it is seeking to reduce its establishment by approximately a further 40 full time equivalent posts. However, this is not connected to the move to the Belfast campus, which is to take place in 2018.

The University also states that, as a result of the merging of the Belfast and Jordanstown campuses, the current duplication of some academic support services (for example, the library) will be eradicated. This will lead to some reduction in posts in these academic support areas. However, it is anticipated that the required reductions will be achieved by upcoming retirements and voluntary resignations.

Ratio of Full-Time Students to Staff at the University of Ulster

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the ratio of full-time students to academic and non-academic staff in each of the last three years at the University of Ulster, broken down by campus. **(AQW 12503/11-15)**

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted the University of Ulster.

In its response, the University has stated that its student population comprises both full-time and part-time students, with the ratio between these two types of student varying between campuses. Also, the number of non-academic staff varies considerably between campuses with, for example, a disproportionate number located at the Coleraine campus, which is the University's administrative headquarters. In addition to the above two factors the number of academic staff engaged in research varies between faculties and schools.

Ratio of Full-Time Students to Staff at the University of Ulster

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what is the proposed ratio of full-time students to academic and non-academic staff at all University of Ulster campuses once the new Belfast campus is opened.

(AQW 12504/11-15)

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted the University of Ulster. Further to the responses to AQW 12502 and 12503, the University has stated that there will be some reduction in academic support posts.

Long-Term Unemployed People

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what initiatives his Department intends to bring forward to help long-term unemployed people to gain employment.

(AQW 12528/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department offers assistance to all unemployed clients, including those who have been unemployed for some time, to help them overcome barriers to work and move into employment. Advisers located in each of the Jobs and Benefits Offices and JobCentres provide advice and guidance on a range of issues including job search activities and this advisory role focuses on tailoring the service to meet individual client's needs.

My officials are currently developing a new programme of adult return to work assistance which will replace the current Steps to Work programme. This new employment programme will continue to focus on helping participants to prepare for and move into sustainable employment. It will build on the success of the current Steps to Work programme with greater emphasis on helping those furthest away from the labour market.

The main objectives of the programme will be to achieve a higher level of sustained job outcomes, ensure that all participants get the support that they need, and target those most in need of intensive support.

Other initiatives currently being developed include Work Connect which will provide a range of pre-employment interventions, tailored towards the needs of individuals with specific health and disability related barriers to help them progress towards employment. All clients on Employment and Support Allowance and other Incapacity related benefits will be referred by the Employment Service Adviser and the assistance offered will be dependent on the particular barriers identified by the Work Connect Provider agreed with the unemployed client.

A youth employment initiative is also being developed to assist young people aged between 18 and 24 to find work by equipping them with the skills required to compete for jobs and move into and progress through sustainable employment

QUANGOs

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans he has to reduce (i) the number of QUANGOs; and (ii) the operational cost of QUANGOs.

(AQW 12543/11-15)

Dr Farry: In terms of reduction, Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal are both due to transfer from my Department to become part of the single unified tribunal service, as part of the final tranche of the Executive's tribunal reform programme. Discussions are ongoing with the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service to bring this into effect. The move will reduce the number of DEL-sponsored tribunal Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) by two.

In addition, I see merit in the proposed merger of Stranmillis and Queen's University Belfast proceeding, which would reduce by one the number of Departmental NDPBs. This will only be possible, however, if there is sufficient support for such a move within the Assembly.

In November 2011, the role of the NI Employment and Skills Adviser was categorised by the Department of Finance and Personnel as an advisory NDPB. Furthermore, as a direct result of a decision made by the Office of National Statistics to re-classify the six further education (FE) colleges and the two university colleges as public sector bodies, these have now been designated as NDPBs with effect from 1 April 2012. The number of FE colleges was reduced from 16 to 6 in August 2007, as a result of a sector-wide merger process to create regional colleges.

With regard to operational costs, under the Further Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, the governing body of each college has a statutory duty "to secure the efficient and effective management of the institution." To assist the governing bodies in the discharge of this responsibility, and as part of its oversight and monitoring responsibilities, my Department compiles a quarterly report of key financial, operational and governance information from a number of sources and conducts a formal review of each college's performance. The information contained in this "healthcheck" is shared with college governors and senior management in order to allow them to compare and benchmark with other colleges, in order to identify areas where efficiencies and improvements can be made.

In addition, I have met recently with the further education sector and have asked them to explore areas of common activities which they can deliver using shared services. This work is being taken forward by Colleges NI, and a strategic business case outlining potential areas of activity is being prepared.

From a broader funding perspective, an integral element of my Department's Budget 2010 settlement was a recurring £4m reduction in the further education baseline. I have required the colleges to continue to deliver the same level of provision each year with the £4m shortfall being funded through efficiencies across all 6 regional colleges.

The baseline for the Labour Relations Agency has likewise been reduced by £200K for each of the four years from 2011/12 to 2014/15 as part of Budget 2010.

QUANGOS

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many QUANGOS, that are attached to his Department, have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

(AQW 12688/11-15)

Dr Farry: No arms length bodies have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Performance Bonus to the Chief Executive of InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, to detail (i) whether she has received or approved any recommendation from the Board of InvestNI in relation to the payment of a performance bonus to the Chief Executive of InvestNI in the (a) 2009/10; (b) 2010/2011; and (c) 2011/12 financial years; (ii) when any such bonuses were paid; and (iii) how much was paid on each occasion.

(AQW 10938/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The arrangements relating to the performance element of the Invest NI Chief Executive's remuneration for 2009/10 are set out in the Invest NI Annual Report and Accounts for 2010/11. No decisions have been taken in relation to the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years.

Quinn Group

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much support her Department and InvestNI have given to the Quinn Group since May 2007.

(AQW 12100/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Quinn Glass was offered support of £750,000 (against eligible costs of £22.8million) from Invest NI in July 2007 for the upgrading of two furnaces to enhance the capacity and improve the capability of downstream production equipment. This offer has been fully drawn down in two tranches in September 2007 and September 2008.

Although no longer part of the Quinn Group, Quinn Insurance was offered support of £300,000 in July 2007 for the implementation of a training and development plan which was fully implemented. Quinn Insurance Limited was acquired by the Liberty Mutual Group in November 2011 and the transferable skills developed through the aforementioned training investment were retained by the new owners or enhanced the local labour pool.

Arm's-Length Bodies: Pension Schemes

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether all pensions across her Department's arm's-length bodies, including InvestNI, are now exclusively Consumer Price Indexed, including benefits earned by contributions before the change from the Retail Price Index; and to detail any exceptions.

(AQW 12177/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI is covered by the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (NI).

As outlined in EPN12/2012, the measure used to uprate public service pensions from April 2011 is the Consumer Prices Index. As this is applicable to the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (NI) it is also applicable to all Invest NI staff within the PCSPS (NI).

There are no exceptions.

Funding Allocated to the North West 200

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding her Department has allocated to the North West 200 in each of the last three years; and for what purpose was the funding used.

(AQW 12441/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In 2011/12 the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) awarded the North West 200 £65,000 towards Marketing and Marquee Costs.

The Events Fund for the previous 2 years 2009/10 and 2010/11 came under the remit of the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL).

QUANGOs

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans she has to reduce (i) the number of QUANGOs; and (ii) the operational cost of QUANGOs.

(AQW 12542/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department sponsors four Executive NDPBs and there are currently no plans in place to reduce the number of these bodies.

The NDPBs are planning to absorb any increased operating costs through the generation of efficiencies.

Natural Gas Network

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether there is a conflict between her duty to promote the natural gas network and the exploitation of deep geothermal resources.

(AQW 12597/11-15)

Mrs Foster: No.

Unfair Contract Terms Legislation

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of consumer rights in Northern Ireland, with specific regard to the suitability of Unfair Contract Terms legislation.

(AQW 12626/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations 1999 implement for the UK European Directive (93/13/EEC). The regulations apply to all contracts between a seller or supplier and a consumer. Terms found to be unfair are not binding on a consumer. The regulations give power for injunctive action to be taken, either by the Office of Fair trading or one of the 'Qualifying Bodies' (of which the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is one) in Schedule 1 to the Regulations, through the civil courts to stop the continuing use of such terms.

The regulations have a significant role to play in ensuring that consumers are protected from unfair trading practices.

Motion Passed by the Assembly Calling for a Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action she has taken in relation the motion passed by the Assembly on 6 December 2011 which called for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and the withdrawal of the licences issued to companies intending to conduct hydraulic fracturing, given that under the ministerial pledge of office she has a duty to support, and to act in accordance with, all decisions of the Executive Committee and the Assembly, and that the First Minister stated on 24 February 2009 that a Minister is compelled by law to act in accordance with the Assembly's decision and if a motion is passed the Minister is compelled by the Assembly's decision to act.

(AQW 12656/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The motion passed on 6 December 2011 stated that 'a moratorium should be placed on the onshore and offshore exploration, development and production of shale gas by withdrawing licences for hydraulic fracturing...'. As I pointed out during the motion debate, my Department has not issued any licences or permits for hydraulic fracturing and thus there are none to withdraw.

Game of Thrones

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the announcement of series three of the Game of Thrones and the continued use of the Glens of Antrim as a film location, whether she will ensure that any publicity in relation to series three will include the Glens of Antrim.

(AQW 12660/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department through the work of Invest NI, NI Screen, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and other relevant agencies seeks to capitalise on the publicity opportunities available from the use of the many key locations across Northern Ireland, used in Game of Thrones, and other recent productions such as Your Highness, Whole Lotta Sole and the Oscar winning production The Shore. Both Invest NI and Northern Ireland Screen are currently utilising Game of Thrones in their international sales promotions. It is clearly understood that the credibility of association with international production projects, of this nature and scale, has significant added value opportunities for the Northern Ireland

economy, not least in terms of tourism growth potential across the many film sites utilised throughout Northern Ireland including the Glens of Antrim.

Internships

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many internships are available in her Department; and if none, what plans she has to introduce an internship scheme.

(AQW 12680/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) has overall responsibility for the promotion of careers and outreach activities, using initiatives such as internships, in the NICS. In 2009-10 Corporate Human Resources (CHR) in DFP worked alongside Queens University Belfast (QUB) to initiate a placement programme for interns from the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy to positions within the NICS. This enables final year students to spend three days per week, for twelve weeks, engaged in workplace based learning. My Department facilitated an Internship opportunity for a QUB student in 2010/11, and although we were unable to identify a suitable internship opportunity this year, future opportunities will be considered in the next academic year.

Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the consultation on the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

(AQW 12697/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department carried out a 12 week statutory consultation on the proposed Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations. The consultation ended in October 2011 and received 16 responses. These were analysed and the draft Regulations amended accordingly. The draft Regulations has now received ETI Committee approval and it is my aim to have the Regulations laid in the Northern Ireland Assembly before the Summer Recess, to come into operation by December 2012.

Answers to AQWs

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 11020/11-15, AQW 11021/11-15, AQW 11022/11-15 and AQW 11023/11-15, why these questions remain unanswered when previous communication stated that the answers would be available before the end of May 2012.

(AQW 12724/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Previous communications stated that 'the information requested was not yet available due to an ongoing data verification exercise by Invest NI following its financial year end'. It was also stated that Invest NI would 'make this information available to the member once this process has been completed, which should not be later than the end of May'.

The verification exercise has now been completed and the information requested has been prepared. I will write to the member separately and place a copy of the letter in the Assembly library.

Cost of Connecting Renewable Energy Generators to the Grid

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an estimate of the cost of connecting renewable energy generators to the grid; and what support is available from her Department.

(AQW 12761/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Connection costs for renewable energy generation vary in scale depending on the size, type and location of the generating station.

NIE operates a cost reflective charging process under a regulatory framework determined by the Utility Regulator and as detailed in their connection charging statement.

There is no support available from my Department towards the cost of grid connection.

In-Year Targets for Differing Types of Renewable Energy Generation

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she would consider setting in-year targets for differing types of renewable energy generation, to include quarterly, half-yearly or annual targets, with a view to encouraging the industry.

(AQW 12763/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I am not minded to consider setting in year targets for differing types of renewable energy generation as the Department's targets of 40% renewable electricity and 10% renewable heat by 2020 are technology and geographically neutral. The Programme for Government has set interim targets of 20% renewable electricity and 4% renewable heat by 2015.

The intermittent nature of renewable technologies, especially wind, and the length of time required to build new installations means that targets need to be monitored over a rolling period. Over the twelve month rolling period to end March 2012, on average, 14 per cent of electricity consumption was from renewable sources.

It will be for the market to bring forward the most cost effective technologies which is consistent with other areas of the UK, none of which have technology specific targets.

Department of the Environment

Guidance to a Pharmaceutical Company Regarding the Operation of Incinerators

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the circumstances which led to his Department issuing misleading guidance to a pharmaceutical company in 2003 regarding the operation of incinerators, and whether an investigation will be carried out into the matter.

(AQW 1804/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): Further to an investigation conducted by officials I wish to advise as follows. Guidance on Directive 2000/76/EC (Waste Incineration Directive) was issued by the Department in November 2003. The Guidance included a policy view (also contained in equivalent guidance for England and Wales) that some small waste burning appliances (notably small waste oil burners or 'SWOBs') would not be considered 'technical units' as defined in the Directive and would therefore not be subject to the controls set out in it. At the time, this view was taken because such appliances were not considered to be of the size and sophistication intended to be covered by the Directive. The large numbers of SWOBs and the fact that they were already subject to control were also taken into consideration. The Department has changed its interpretation, taking account of correspondence from the European Commission and Court judgments in the case of the pharmaceutical company in question. The Department now considers that appliances such as SWOBs are covered by the Directive and is currently consulting on amendments to the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (NI) 2003 and associated Guidance to reflect that change.

The Department advised Norbrook Laboratories Ltd that permits were required for the incinerators installed at its premises and confirmed this in writing on 5th May 2004. That view has been upheld by the Courts. Whilst the Department issued a subsequent letter of 7th June 2004 (which reflected the policy contained in the Guidance of 2003), the Court of Appeal found that this letter did not undermine the clear and unambiguous statement (contained in the Department's letter of 5th May 2004) setting out the Department's position.

(Norbrook Laboratories Ltd -v- Department of the Environment - 6th September (para 18).)

I trust this explains the situation. I would be willing to discuss this matter further with the member, if this would be of assistance.

Consultation on Planning Application V/2011/140

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment why it took the Land and Resource Management Unit more than six months to complete the consultation on planning application V/2011/140.

(AQW 10075/11-15)

Mr Attwood: NIEA's Land and Resource Management Unit received a planning consultation for the above application on the 9 November 2011 and issued its response to Planning on 30 March 2012.

- 1 Planning permission was granted on 7 August 2008 to develop two blocks of apartments at lands at 7-39 Ellis Street, Carrickfergus in which a number of negative conditions were attached to manage the risks to health receptors and support the new use of the site. The recent consultation was seeking advice to vary three of these conditions.
- 2 The Service Level Agreement between NIEA and Planning details a number of performance targets and timelines for the NIEA in providing its advice and responses to planning consultations. These timelines are based on the nature of the consultation and detail of information to be assessed by NIEA in advising Planning.
- 3 In the case of this Ellis Street consultation, a site report and revised remediation strategy were submitted and a target response date allocated by LRM of 21 December 2012. A response was issued on the 30 March 2012, so the target date was clearly missed. This is regretted.
- 4 The LQ team within the LRM Unit deals with consultations of this technical nature for the whole of Northern Ireland and consists currently of four technical staff. The planning workload in itself far exceeds this resource capacity and consequently this team is under pressure in meeting consultation deadlines. Priority in the first instance is being given to social housing developments and strategic development projects. I hope this is understood.
- 5 There are two vacancies at the Senior Scientific Officer level within the LQ team and, through a collaborative arrangement with the Strategic Investment Board, progress is being made in seeking to recruit two hydrogeologists for a three year period. Interviews have been scheduled after Easter with appointments to be made after that. This will help address the issue identified in the AQ.

4x4 Vehicles Fitted with Bumper Bars

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has any plans to introduce measures which would require 4x4 vehicles to be fitted with bumper bars to stop other vehicles from being crushed in road traffic collisions and to bring them into line with the requirements for other large vehicles.

(AQW 10111/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The design and construction of the frontal area of motor vehicles is regulated by European Commission Regulation (EC) No. 78/2009 which is designed to maximise protection for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. No new motor vehicle can be approved to enter service which does not comply with the strict technical requirements of this EC Regulation; the responsibility for certifying vehicles for use on the UK's roads is a matter for the Vehicle Certification Agency, part of the Department for Transport.

I therefore have no plans to introduce additional frontal protection measures for 4x4 vehicles.

Additional Cost of Providing Services in Our Divided Society

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

(AQW 10169/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The cost of division research was commissioned on 29 March 2006 and as such was conducted and finalised during direct rule. The interpretation of and commentary on the datasets contained in the report produced by Deloitte therefore represent the views of Deloitte. The report of itself does not form an agreed basis for future policy development.

The report cites a total figure of £1½ billion pounds as the estimated value of additional, annual expenditure as a result of division in our society. The research provides an upper limit of the cost of the divide by comparing Northern Ireland's public expenditure as a percentage of the GDP with that of other comparable regions.

This comparison indicates a maximum additional spend in the range of £1 ½ billion but a wide range of other factors influence this level of spend, such as deprivation and demographics, not just the impact of the divide or the troubles. The £1½ billion figure is not a summation of the actual costs that were able to be identified but a comparator with other regions.

Therefore, overall due to the number of variables involved it is not possible to calculate the annual additional cost of service delivery that is due to our divided society. However, in relation to the services provided by DOE it is likely that any additional costs would be of a lower level.

Assets Owned by District Councils

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment to list the assets owned by each district council, excluding property, which are worth more than £100,000, including the individual value.

(AQW 11011/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A list of council assets currently worth more than £100,000 Net Book Value (NBV) is included in the table below.

Council	Asset	Amount £
Ballymena	26 Tonne Refuse Collection Vehicle with a NBV	121,833
	A bridge (an infrastructure asset) with a NBV	101,400
Ballymoney	Bin lorry	132,000
	Mechanical Shovel	106,000
Banbridge	Refuse Vehicle (Double Loader)	202,000
	2 Refuse Vehicles (Double Loaders)	448,000
	20,000 Green bins and Glass Caddy inserts	490,000
Belfast	North Foreshore Electric Cable	2,431,622
	Duncrue Gas Extraction System	418,341
	Finance and SRM SAP System	416,705
	IT Network and VOIP – Adelaide Exchange	124,561
	IT Network and VOIP – City Hall	421,233
	Virtualised Servers and Storage	377,603
	Front of House Carpets – Waterfront Hall	101,988
	Adelaide Exchange Fit Out	1,691,630
	Mural by John Luke in City Hall	200,000
	Broadway Roundabout Sculpture	450,680
	Lord Mayor's Chain of Office	383,500
	Belfast City Civic Mace	123,500
Waterfront Hall Grand Piano	110,000	

Council	Asset	Amount £
Castlereagh	Dundonald Ice Rink, refrigeration plant	499,000
	Robinson Ctr ,swimming pool filter / pumps	143,000
	Lough Moss , synthetic pitch	163,000
	Lough Moss, wind turbine	235,000
	EZE fitness equipment (various leisure sites)	198,000
Coleraine	Hugh Thompson Collection	166,700
	Gilted Silver Mace & Case	160,000
	Dennis Olympus Lorry PNZ 9276	124,500
	Dunluce Centre New Attraction	116,099
	Mechanical Landfill Compactor	101,451
Cookstown	Biomass Boiler	112,997
	Excavator	147,670
	RCV	137,395
Derry	Armada Exhibition	1,112,693
	French Drains at COD Airport Runway	106,058
	Railway Line Delethalsation at COD Airport	153,524
	Runway Delethalsation at COD Airport	257,304
	Rural Signage Scheme	129,429
	CODA Railway Control System	1,799,918
	CODA Carpark Redevelopment	244,706
Down	Heritage assets within Down Museum	737,425
	Permanent collections	570,000
Fermanagh	Denis Elite Refuse collection Vehicle	101,261
Larne	Refuse Collecting Vehicle	131,254
	Refuse Collecting Vehicle	131,254
	Refuse Collecting Vehicle	146,705
Lisburn	Dennis Eagle Elite Refuse Collection Vehicle	117,890
	Dennis Eagle Elite Refuse Collection Vehicle	117,890
North Down	Compactors at WTS	437,018
	Air Handling System at WTS	383,413
	Garage Equipment at WTS	193,659
	Electrical switchgear & Transformers at WTS	117,001
	Wind Turbine	1,128,385

Council	Asset	Amount £
Omagh	Iveco Trakker 410 Refuse Vehicle	23,650
	Dennis Elite Refuse Vehicle	68,280
	Dennis Elite 2 Refuse Vehicle	71,220
	Dennis Olymus Refuse Collection	97,160
Total		19,534,505

Consultation on National Parks

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment whether the majority of the responses to the consultation on National Parks last year were in support or opposed to the creation of National Parks. **(AQW 11056/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: The Department received a total of 234 responses to the consultation. Of these, 164 took the form of identical campaign letters from private individuals, largely from the Mourne area, objecting to the establishment of a national park. A number of other respondents (in addition to those who signed campaign letters) were also opposed to national parks. A synopsis of responses is available on the Department's website.

I believe the greater weight of response and the greater weight of argument is firmly in favour of national parks.

Marine Conservation Zones

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact that Marine Conservation Zones will have on shooting rights and shooting leases. **(AQW 11062/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Marine Bill will provide for a new national designation process for the establishment of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in Northern Ireland's territorial waters to enhance protection for nationally important marine wildlife and habitats.

They will be agreed on a site-by-site basis. The development of MCZs will be undertaken in collaboration with key stakeholders and potential MCZs will be subject to full consultation.

It is envisaged that most MCZs will be designated primarily for the protection of seabed features and as such will have little impact on shooting rights and leases.

Cost of High Court Action

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment what consideration he has given to the cost of High Court action as set out in Clause 8 of the Marine Bill. **(AQW 11064/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: Clause 8 of the Marine Bill defines the grounds upon which a person aggrieved by a marine plan may apply to the High Court - that the plan is not within the powers of the Department, or that a procedural requirement has not been complied with.

The Marine Bill clearly sets out the powers of the Department and the procedural requirements for the preparation, adoption and publication of a marine plan. The Department will develop marine plans within these boundaries, and thus legal challenges (and their associated costs) should be minimised. Furthermore, due to the participative process by which marine plans will be developed, it is anticipated that such legal challenges would be unlikely.

The Department has the normal arrangements in place in respect of any High Court challenge. Should a potential risk be identified the Department has procedures in place for the assessment of any identified risk. At that stage, potential costs could be calculated. I trust that there is no suggestion that government should attempt to frustrate proper access to High Court remedy, if legally valid and justified.

Consultation in Relation to the Marine Bill

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment what consultation his Department has carried out with the (i) British Association for Shooting and Conservation; (ii) Countryside Alliance Ireland; and (ii) Northern Ireland Marine Task Force in relation to the Marine Bill.

(AQW 11067/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has consulted with a wide-range of stakeholders on several occasions during the preparation of the Marine Bill. Methods of engagement included; newspaper advertisements, dedicated websites; notification letters and stakeholder events.

Both the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force submitted responses to the consultation on policy proposals for the Marine Bill, which was undertaken in April 2010. The Department has also provided responses to regular requests for information on the Marine Bill from both organisations.

Countryside Alliance Ireland has made no representations to the Department on the Marine Bill but there has been regular correspondence with the organisation in relation to terrestrial conservation and wildlife issues.

Further consultations will be undertaken by the Department in respect of marine plans, designation of Marine Conservation Zones and any byelaws associated with these zones.

Planning Applications for Farm Dwellings Under PPS 21

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last two years, to detail how many planning applications for farm dwellings under PPS 21 have been (i) submitted; and (ii) approved, broken down by divisional planning office.

(AQW 11071/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The number of planning applications (i) submitted in the last two years for farm dwellings under PPS 21 is detailed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR NEW FARM DWELLINGS

Area Office	2010/2011	2011/2012 (Q1-Q3)	Total
Belfast Area Office	28	106	134
Northern Area Office - Coleraine	38	75	113
Northern Area Office - Londonderry	15	32	47
South Antrim Area Office - Ballymena	37	121	158
Southern Area Office - Craigavon	42	170	212
Southern Area Office - Downpatrick	31	60	91
Western Area Office - Enniskillen	10	23	33
Western Area Office - Omagh	60	114	174
Total	261	701	962

The number of planning applications (ii) approved in the last two years for farm dwellings under PPS 21 is detailed in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2: APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR NEW FARM DWELLINGS

Area Office	2010/2011	2011/2012 (Q1-Q3)	Total
Belfast Area Office	6	8	14
Northern Area Office - Coleraine	19	15	34
Northern Area Office - Londonderry	5	8	13
South Antrim Area Office - Ballymena	22	49	71
Southern Area Office - Craigavon	8	26	34
Southern Area Office - Downpatrick	10	3	13
Western Area Office - Enniskillen	3	13	16
Western Area Office - Omagh	31	37	68
Total	104	159	263

Please note, the figures provided for 2011/2012 relate to applications received and decisions made in the first 3 quarters up to 31 December 2011 and are the latest statistics currently available, are provisional and may be subject to change following validation for the publication of the 2011/2012 Annual Statistical Report.

Changing a Private Residential Dwelling to a Care Home Facility

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment what actions an owner of a private residential dwelling must undertake to change it to a care home facility, including meeting the obligations of planning policies and consulting with individuals living in close proximity to the facility.

(AQW 11103/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Part C (Residential Uses) of The Planning (Use Classes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2004 provides a useful starting point for anyone considering changing the use of a property to a care home facility.

The Use Classes Order groups together uses which are sufficiently similar that a change from any use in a class to any other use within the same class does not involve development. By virtue of this Order a change of use from a dwelling house used by a single person or by people living together as a family to a dwelling house used by not more than 6 residents living as a single household where care is provided for residents is not considered to be development and therefore does not require planning permission.

If, however, the proposal does not meet the above limitations or involves a change of use from a dwelling house to a residential institution and care to people in need of care, a planning application would be required. The fact and circumstances of each particular case must therefore be considered.

There are many material considerations that may be relevant in the determination of a planning application for a care home facility and these will vary depending on the specific circumstances of each case. Each application is therefore considered on its own merit.

However, as a starting point, Planning Policy Statement 1 General Principles sets out the key themes that underlie the Department's overall approach to planning across the whole range of land use topics. Development Control Advice Note (DCAN) No 9 sets out the planning considerations to which the Department will have regard when considering applications for residential and nursing homes. As highlighted in DCAN 9, considerations can include issues such as the siting of the proposal, the

location, traffic implications, history of the site, impact on amenity as well as design and layout. This list is not however exhaustive.

Where relevant, the land use zonings and local policies contained within the local area plan will also provide local policies and land use zonings to be taken into account in reaching a balanced decision.

Adjacent neighbours will be notified of the application under the neighbour notification scheme; it will be advertised in the local press and available for viewing on the Planning website. The general public will therefore have an opportunity to make comments to Planning on any planning issues in relation to the proposal.

I would encourage applicants to discuss any proposals with those adjacent to the site and those they consider would likely to be affected by the proposed development. This communication at an early stage in the process may assist in alleviating concerns in relation to the proposal.

Planning will take all planning comments received into account, including comments from relevant consultees to the planning process and the local council before reaching a balanced judgement on the planning application.

Planning Applications

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of planning applications received by each divisional planning office in each of the last five years.

(AQW 11131/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Table 1 overleaf provides the number of planning applications received by each divisional planning office from 1st April 2006 through to the latest published figures as at December 2011.

TABLE 1: ALL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY DIVISIONAL PLANNING OFFICE OVER THE PAST FIVE FINANCIAL YEARS.

Division	Applications received ^[1]					
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 ^[2] Q1-Q3
Belfast Area Office	4,095	4,365	3,094	2,626	4,119	2,712
Strategic Planning	279	296	372	332	432	347
Northern Area Office - Coleraine	1,940	2,185	1,550	1,469	1,511	904
Northern Area Office - Londonderry	1,684	1,659	1,264	1,225	1,108	709
South Antrim Area Office - Ballymena	3,733	3,946	2,718	2,667	2,202	1,294
Southern Area Office - Craigavon	5,119	4,399	3,540	3,672	3,159	1,780
Southern Area Office - Downpatrick	4,626	4,695	3,432	3,502	850	521
Western Area Office - Enniskillen	1,541	1,818	1,223	1,229	871	631
Western Area Office - Omagh	4,060	4,543	3,276	2,835	2,516	1,596
Total	27,077	27,906	20,469	19,557	16,768	10,494

- [1] Applications received also include withdrawn applications.
- [2] Figures relating to the 2011/12 financial year are provisional and are for the period April 2011 to December 2011. The annual Development Management Statistics report will be published in July 2012. This will contain the full year finalised figures.

Proposed Asda Store at Loughside Recreation Centre, North Belfast

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the public meetings between his Department and local residents on the proposed Asda store at Loughside Recreation Centre, North Belfast; (ii) the individual submissions for and against the development; (iii) whether his Department weights individual submissions differently from collective submissions when assessing whether a development ought to proceed; (iv) whether his Department is aware of any proposals/actions taken by Asda to purchase other land in the vicinity of the project; (v) for his assessment of whether the proposals negatively impact on people's access to free, local outdoor spaces; (vi) for his assessment of Belfast City Council's use of a tick box form as a reliable method of gauging the wishes of the local community; (vii) for his assessment of the results of Asda's tick box form, which were submitted to his Department, to back up the case in favour of the new Asda store as a reliable method of gauging the wishes of the local community.

(AQW 11176/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There have been no public meetings between the Department and local residents regarding the current planning application – which includes a proposed Asda store – for Loughside Recreation Centre, North Belfast.

The Department has so far received 1,482 individual letters of objection to the application and two individual letters of support.

When assessing a planning application, the Department does not distinguish between individual and collective submissions in terms of weight attributed to them. The Department will focus on the issues raised as opposed to the method in which they are raised.

The Department is not aware of any proposals/actions by Asda to purchase other land in the vicinity of the application site.

The potential impact of the proposed development on the open/outdoor space will be fully considered by the Department as part of the ongoing assessment of the planning application.

With regard to the use of a tick box form as a reliable method of gauging the wishes of the local community, there is no legal impediment to submitting information in this format. The Department will consider the issues raised as opposed to the format in which they are submitted.

Given that the processing of this application remains ongoing, I am not in a position at the present time to comment on the results of any submissions made by Asda.

Carbon Reduction Targets

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 9512/11-15 (i) what progress has been made in reducing green house gas emissions; and (ii) what are the targets set for each council.

(AQW 11200/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Executive is committed through its Programme for Government to continue to work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 35% on 1990 levels by 2025. The latest data (2009) show that GHG emissions in Northern Ireland fell by 20% compared with 1990 levels.¹

1 Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2009
<http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports.php?list=GHG>

I chair the Cross-Departmental Working Group on Climate Change whose Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan², published in February 2011, sets out the policies and measures which each department would undertake to help meet the Executive's emissions reduction target. The plan also contains a commitment to report to the Executive annually on performance. The first progress report to the Executive is due this month and will be published in the coming weeks on my Department's website.

I intend to bring forward a Climate Change Bill with challenging emission targets on the face of the Bill. I asked for and received positive advice from the Committee for Climate Change in this regard. I would wish to see this robust approach part of Council practice and I will assess how this can be done.

On-Going Pollution at Kinnegar Lagoons, Holywood

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of the Environment why no formal action has been taken by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency against NI Water in relation to the on-going pollution at Kinnegar Lagoons, Holywood.

(AQW 11278/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Following substantiated polluting discharges from the Kinnegar Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) in 2009 and 2010, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) issued Northern Ireland Water (NIW) with a Warning Letter under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 on 20 August 2010.

NIEA has not issued any further warning letters or carried out further enforcement action in relation to the Kinnegar WWTW as poor environmental performance is mainly due to historic under investment in sewerage infrastructure rather than poor operational management. NIW has responded to the warning letter issued in August 2010 and has been working with NIEA towards establishing a resolution to this issue.

Given the pollution history, magnitude of impact and the interconnectivity of the both the pond/reed bed and sewerage systems, NIEA has raised concerns with NIW that there may be other unidentified discharges occurring in the area. With the age of the existing sewerage infrastructure and the fact that some of this infrastructure is beneath the ponds, the possibility of sewage leaks from subsidence cannot be ruled out.

As a consequence of this, NIEA requested that NIW carry out a full survey of the operation of the sewerage infrastructure in the area. A report, detailing the findings of the survey, was requested as a condition in the Warning Letter issued in August 2010.

The draft report which was produced in October 2010 recommended a new gravity sewer along the Belfast Road to collect sewerage from Strathearn Court, Jackson's Road and Palace Barracks and pass forward to a new pumping station located on NIW land adjacent to Kinnegar WWTW. The sewer will close the overflows currently discharging to the reed beds adjacent to Kinnegar WWTW. This recommendation is being developed as a conclusive solution.

The report also identified defects within the existing network which have been addressed. NIW has indicated that consultations with stakeholders are on-going with a view to starting on site early 2013. There is potential for this project to be advanced to the autumn of 2012, subject to funding.

In the interim, NIEA carried out a further investigation on 3 August 2011 in relation to this issue. The Agency's investigation suggested that the three Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), which were the focus of the consultant's investigation initiated by NIW, may not be the sole cause of the current problems. NIEA identified a potential area of concern in the sewer network and requested that NIW investigate the issue further.

This investigation was carried out on 19 August 2011 by NIW with NIEA officials in attendance. The investigation involved a dye test which showed that the flow was entering Kinnegar WWTW inlet but did not highlight any areas of leakage from this section of sewer.

2 http://www.doeni.gov.uk/northern_ireland_action_plan_on_greenhouse_gas_emissions_reductions.pdf

NIW has carried out desilting of the three CSOs and has increased the frequency of their maintenance visits in order to prevent pollution to the area and also to monitor the situation more closely. NIW have also removed a restriction downstream of the Palace Barracks CSO which will also assist towards reducing spills to the local waterway.

Life Saving Equipment at Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn Beaches

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of the Environment what life saving equipment is in place at Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn Beaches to reduce the risk of drowning.

(AQW 11279/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), in November 2011, at the request of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, assessed the risk of drowning at both Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn beaches. The assessments indicated that the risks at both beaches are low. The key control measures suggested by the RNLI to make the beaches safer included signage to provide information to visitors before they arrive at the beaches and Public Rescue Equipment for the river mouth of the Crawford's Burn, which shelves steeply. These measures are being procured and are expected to be in place by the end of May 2012. RNLI has advised that life rings and throw bags have been found to be ineffective for gently-shelving beaches such as Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn.

Goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment what steps he is taking to ensure that in future planning regulations are enforced at the goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh.

(AQW 11305/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have instructed planning officials to provide me an update every six weeks on the implementation of the recent Ombudsman conclusions and how current planning conditions are being complied with. I have also advised the Divisional Planning Office to advise the mine operators that there will be a 2 monthly stocktake with them, meeting to monitor compliance.

Goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment why it took the Planning Service more than a year to issue an enforcement notice informing the company to stop the unauthorised removal of rock at the goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh.

(AQW 11306/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In responding to the complaint raised with the Ombudsman, the Department advised that the delay in taking effective enforcement action was as a result of negotiations with the mine operator along with requests for legal advice. The Ombudsman did not accept this explanation and it was his opinion that the delay demonstrated a complete failure to protect the public interest. The Department accepts this conclusion. I also refer to AQW 11305/11-15.

Goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the goldmine at Cavanacaw, Omagh, for his assessment of the statement by the Northern Ireland Ombudsman that Planners failure to act in relation to the issues at the goldmine and that this represented maladministration and a major system failure at the Planning Service.

(AQW 11308/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have stated previously, and will do so again, be it on planning applications or planning enforcement, the planning system has to act properly, move quickly and give confidence to all. If there is a failure to live up to these standards, it is right and necessary that Planning and the Department are held to account and be seen to be held to account.

The Department accepts the findings of maladministration and major system failure set out in the Ombudsman's report. The Department also accepts the Ombudsman's recommendations and I have asked for an update every six weeks on how the recommendations are being acted on. I refer to AQW 11305/11-15 in this regard.

Private Car Parks at Belfast International Airport

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment how many of the private car parks at Belfast International Airport do not have planning approval, and how many applied for planning approval retrospectively.

(AQW 11374/11-15)

Mr Attwood: South Antrim Area Planning Office is currently investigating 6 alleged unauthorised car parks in the vicinity of Belfast International Airport. Of these, 4 applied retrospectively for planning approval for car parking, 1 applied for a Certificate of Lawful Development for commercial car parking and 1 has applied retrospectively for a car storage compound associated with a car hire business. A summary of the planning applications and application for Certificate of Lawful Development is contained in Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1

Case	Application Ref	Status
1 92 Old Ballyrobin Road, Muckamore	T/2007/0884/F: Temporary Use (for 1 year) as a Park and Ride Facility (Retrospective)	Refused permission 31/03/11 Enforcement action ongoing
2 Lands adjacent to 10 Crooked Stone Road	T/2011/0123/LDE: Retention of commercial car parking use	Current Planning/Enforcement Appeal. Hearing to be re-opened 30th May 2012
3 108 Ballyrobin Road, Muckamore, Antrim	T/2007/0716/F: Carpark (formerly part carpark for adjacent restaurant) for provision of Park & Ride facilities to nearby airport. Consisting of 37 spaces. (Retrospective)	Refused Planning Permission. Appeal Dismissed 20/05/10 Enforcement action ongoing
4 6 Antrim Road Aldergrove	T/2011/0347/F: Proposed car storage compound incorporating existing shed and hardstanding for off site car hire business(Retrospective)	Current application not yet determined. Enforcement investigation ongoing
5 Killead Air Lodge, 26 Killead Road	T/2005/0050/F: Temporary Car Park (Retrospective) T/2011/0182/F: 252no car park to supersede approved 149no carpark incidental to existing guesthouse and associated unimplemented approvals plus cycle shelter and surfaced maintenance and manoeuvring area for culvert(Retrospective)	Appeal dismissed 19/07/07 Appeal dismissed in relation to parking 04/01/12 Enforcement action ongoing

Case	Application Ref	Status
6 5 Seacash rd, Aldergrove	T/2011/0404/F: Retrospective application for a car park	Antrim Borough Council consulted 26/4/2012 with opinion to refuse. Application held pending a meeting with MLA. Enforcement investigation ongoing.

Tax Exemption for Vintage Vehicles

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has any plans to extend tax exemption for vintage vehicles dated after 1971.

(AQW 11393/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The criterion for an historic vehicle to be exempt from vehicle excise duty is that the vehicle must have been built or registered prior to 1 January 1973.

Responsibility for rates or duty and criteria for exemptions are a matter for the Treasury, as part of wider fiscal policy, and the Department for Transport. I understand there are no plans at present to change the criterion for exemption of an historic vehicle, but would be prepared to make representations if there was good argument and good support.

LIFE+ Programme

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment if his Department has any plans to make a bid for funding under the LIFE+ Programme in 2012.

(AQW 11433/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is part of a consortium preparing a bid to LIFE+ for a project called 'Marine Pathways'. This project is to assist manage the growing threat from the spread of invasive alien species in the marine environment. The bid should be submitted to the current LIFE+ call for applications and the consortium includes bodies in Northern Ireland, ROI, England, Scotland and Wales.

The total value of the bid is around £3 million over 5 years.

If the bid is successful the Loughs Agency will lead a cross border project team and part of its work will focus on invasive alien species in Belfast Lough.

NIEA is also in discussion with QUB regarding a possible appointment of a researcher to assist with monitoring and restoration work associated with the horse mussel (*Modiolus*) reefs in Strangford Lough. The post holder will be required to seek opportunities to secure LIFE+ funding for this work.

I consider that the opportunities for funding are not being exploited to the full, including under the €50 billion FP7 research/innovation/development fund. I am looking of how to build greater capacity into DOE sand learning from the Dublin experience and success. I do not consider the current situation satisfactory.

LIFE+ Programme

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment why his Department has not yet made a bid for funding under the LIFE+ Programme since its inception in 2007.

(AQW 11434/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) made an application in 2010 for LIFE+ funding, unfortunately without success.

The Agency is however a partner with the Environment Agency for England and Wales in two LIFE+ projects. The first project is designed to monitor waste from production to collection, transportation, treatment and disposal on a national scale. The other project is designed to demonstrate to businesses and stakeholders new methodology to derive quality waste products without the need for waste controls, in order to raise consumer confidence in such products.

The two projects are worth €7.5 million with 50% funding provided by LIFE+.

LIFE+ Programme

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment whether he is aware that the LIFE+ Programme provides matching funding of €2 billion for environmental projects.

(AQW 11435/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am aware of the LIFE+ funding programme and that the budget allocation for the duration of the programme, 2007 – 2013, is €2.143 billion.

Every year the European Commission launches one call for LIFE+ proposals. This year the call for Proposals was launched on 13 March 2012 with up to €276 million being made available for co-financing of projects under three headings: Nature and biodiversity; Environment policy and governance; and Information and communication.

In keeping with normal practice the Commission has allocated every Member State with an annual allocation and for 2012/13 the United Kingdom's allocation is €21.6 m.

LIFE+ Programme

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment whether he is aware of the funding available through the LIFE+ Programme.

(AQW 11436/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The LIFE programme is the only European Union funding programme dedicated to delivering European environmental policy and legislation. LIFE+ is the current phase of the programme.

The Department, as a Competent Authority, has responsibility for providing the Government view (in consultation with relevant Departments/Agencies) and agreement to the proposal (A8 form) for Northern Ireland based LIFE+ projects.

The European Commission launches one call for LIFE+ projects proposals per year and provides information on these annual calls by issuing press releases to publicise availability. The Department re-enforces this publicity by informing Councils, other environmental agencies and the NGO sector. In addition it also publishes information on LIFE+ calls on its website.

The 2012 Call for Proposals was launched on 13 March with up to €276 million available for co-financing of projects. The United Kingdom's allocation is €21.6 million.

The deadline for the submission of A8 forms to the Department is the 29th June 2012.

National Park

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for an update on the timescale for the introduction of the enabling legislation to designate a National Park; (ii) to outline any problems that his Department is facing in introducing the legislation; and (iii) for his Department's assessment of the financial benefits of a National Park.

(AQW 11440/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am holding a series of meetings with stakeholders to address some key points that emerged during the consultation process. Officials will then take these matters into account in drafting enabling legislation. With the agreement of Executive colleagues, I envisage bringing draft legislation

before the House in the autumn. At this stage I am not aware of any major issues that would hinder this process.

The consultation document on national parks was published last year (www.doeni.gov.uk) and detailed the substantial economic benefits that national park designation can bring to an area and its communities. It cites the example of Northumberland national park, which generates a cost benefit of £9 for the local economy for every £1 the authority spends on promoting tourism.

Rate Payers in Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment how he intends to ensure that the Review of Public Administration does not place an unfair burden on rate payers in Fermanagh, given the significant difference in debt levels and rates bills between the Fermanagh and Omagh District Councils.

(AQW 11444/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am aware of the concerns which have been expressed by representatives of Fermanagh District Council, and others, about rate convergence and debt issues arising from the implementation of local government reform. I will also be meeting members of the council shortly to hear their concerns at first hand.

I do, however, recognise the need to develop plans and procedures to minimise any negative impact of change and ensure that those affected are treated as fairly and equitably as possible. Indeed, this was identified as a key priority at the inaugural meeting, on 25th April 2012, of the Regional Transition Committee (RTC) which I chair. The local and central government officers in the Finance Working Group, which supports RTC, have been commissioned to develop rates convergence proposals and present recommendations for the early consideration of the Committee.

It goes without saying that the concerns that have been raised arise from the decision to go with an 11 council model. Under a 15 council model Fermanagh would have retained its independent status.

Administration Centres for New Councils

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment how the location of the administration centres for new councils will be decided.

(AQW 11445/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Decisions on the location of administrative centres for the new councils will be a matter for local government to settle on, particularly deciding on the most efficient and effective use of their properties. They are best placed to come to a decision and may consider opportunities such as rotating the venue of their meetings between several administrative centres within the new council areas.

Listed Buildings

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number and location of the buildings (i) that have been listed in each of the last two years, broken down by category; and (ii) that are under consideration to be listed.

(AQW 11450/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In regard to part (i) of the question, 104 buildings have been listed in the past two years 62 in 2010/11 and 42 in 2011/12. These are located across Northern Ireland but principally concentrated in the Council areas recently covered by Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Second Survey of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest. I attach Tables 1 and 2 which provides information on the location of these buildings broken down by category (ie listing grade).

In regard to part (ii) I can confirm that the NIEA is presently considering 993 buildings for listing as a result of the ongoing Second Survey and one off requests from the public and others. Please note, that as the Second Survey considers the quality of existing listings it is also reviewing an additional 810 buildings which are already listed. As with (i) all of these buildings are located across Northern Ireland, but are principally concentrated in the Council areas recently covered by the Second Survey. As there is

a potential threat arising from awareness that a building is under consideration but not yet protected, the location information provided in the attached table 3 is given in relation to District Council Areas.

TABLE 1 – NEW LISTINGS 2010/11

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB10/03/013	35 Knockbrack Road Spamount Castledearg Co Tyrone BT81 7LU	B+	House
HB11/07/040	Camowen Green, Camowen Road, Omagh, BT79 0HA	B+	House
HB21/10/001 C	Railway Bridge Glenville Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim BT37	B+	Bridge
HB21/10/001 D	Railway Bridge Glenville Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim BT37	B+	Bridge
HB21/10/001 E	Railway Bridge Glenville Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim BT37	B+	Bridge
HB22/05/005 A	Blackhead Lighthouse McCrea's Brae Whitehead Co Antrim BT38 9NZ	B+	Light House/ Navigation Mark
HB22/05/005 B	Former Lighthouse Keepers Houses at Blackhead Lighthouse McCrea's Brae Whitehead Co Antrim BT38 9NZ	B+	House
HB22/05/005 C	Former Superintendent's House at Blackhead Lighthouse McCrea's Brae Whitehead Co Antrim BT38 9NZ	B+	House

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB10/01/034	9 Lislaird Road Mournebeg Castledearg, Co Tyrone BT81 7XX	B1	House
HB10/03/019	Bridge Hill 111 Drumquin Road Castledearg Co.Tyrone BT81 7RB	B1	House
HB10/04/055	36 Drumlegagh Road North Newtownstewart Co Tyrone BT78 4HE	B1	House
HB10/04/076	The Old Manse 56 Moyle Road Newtownstewart Strabane Co.Tyrone BT78 4JT	B1	House
HB10/04/079	New Bridge Old Bridge Road Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone	B1	Bridge
HB10/06/010	Ardstraw Bridge Ardstraw Co. Tyrone BT82 9LP	B1	Bridge
HB10/11/019	38 Station Road Ballymagorry Strabane Co. Tyrone BT82 0AX	B1	House
HB10/12/008	Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church Derry Road Strabane, Co Tyrone BT82 8DT	B1	Church
HB11/04/027	19 Segully Road Drumquin Co Tyrone BT78 4RD	B1	House
HB11/04/031	91 Tattysallagh Road Drumquin Co Tyrone BT78 4RH	B1	House

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB11/06/007	Raveagh 129 Corkill Road, Eskragh Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 1UP	B1	House
HB11/06/018	House & Outbuildings at 11 Desert Road, Beragh, Sixmilecross, Co Tyrone BT79 0QL	B1	Store
HB11/07/030	Bridge No18, East of Leap Lane Railway Bridge Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 0NQ	B1	Bridge
HB11/08/012	7 Mellon Road Omagh Co. Tyrone BT78 5QU	B1	House
HB11/08/024	Cavanacaw Bridge, Laurel Road Omagh, Co Tyrone BT78 5DH	B1	Bridge
HB11/08/025	Ashfield Laurel Road Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 5DH	B1	House
HB11/15/003 B	Farmyard Crevenagh House 44 Crevenagh Road Omagh Co.Tyrone BT79 0EH	B1	Outbuildings
HB12/17/082	Model School House Education Offices 28 Dublin Road Breandrum TD Enniskillen Co. Fermanagh BT74 6HN	B1	Office
HB15/03/001 B	Castle Dillon Twin Gate Lodges Drummanmore Road Castle Dillon Co. Armagh	B1	Gates/ Screens/ Lodges

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB15/11/024	St. Louis Convent Middletown Co Armagh	B1	Religious House
HB18/13/096	Tea House Tollymore Forest Park Bryansford Newcastle	B1	Shop
HB01/25/027	Ardcaien 10 Ardcaien, Culmore Road, Derry Co Londonderry	B2	House
HB10/02/050	Kilclean Bridge, Barleyhill Road, Castledearg, Co Tyrone	B2	Bridge
HB10/04/078	30 Carnkenny Road Newtownstewart Strabane Co Tyrone BT78 4LN	B2	House
HB10/05/019	141 Glenelly Road Plumbridge Strabane Co Tyrone BT79 8BG	B2	House
HB10/11/016	36 Ballyheather Road Strabane Co Tyrone BT82 0BD	B2	House
HB10/12/028	Royal Mail Strabane Delivery Office 18 Castle Street Strabane Co. Tyrone BT82 8AA	B2	Post Office
HB10/12/036	The Farmers Home, 19-23 Railway Street, Strabane, Co Tyrone, BT82 8EG	B2	Public House
HB11/01/010	Barr Parish Church 173 Moneygar Road, Trillick, Co Tyrone BT78 3PY	B2	Church

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB11/01/037	The Rock 10 Realtons Road Trillick Omagh BT78 3SB	B2	House
HB11/02/008	Barrett Hardware 70-72 Main Street Fintona Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 2AE	B2	Shop - Terrace
HB11/03/001 B	Former Primary School St Dympna's RC Church St Dympna's Road, Dromore, Co Tyrone BT78 3JG	B2	Office
HB11/03/013	55 Corlagh Road, Dromore, Co Tyrone BT78 3NJ	B2	House
HB11/04/024	Church Bridge Sloughan Road Drumquin Omagh Co.Tyrone BT78 4PF	B2	Bridge
HB11/04/025	Lime Kiln Bradán Road Drumquin Co Tyrone BT78 4PE	B2	Rural Industry
HB11/04/026	Belfry in grounds of St Patricks RC Graveyard Dooish Road Drumquin Co Tyrone BT78 4RA	B2	
HB11/04/028	27 Segully Road Drumquin Omagh Co. Tyrone BT78 4RD	B2	House
HB11/05/025	House to west of 42 Tallysallagh Road Omagh Co. Tyrone BT78 5ER	B2	House

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB11/05/030	106 Dromore Road, Fintona, Co Tyrone, BT78 2DN	B2	House
HB11/05/033	102 Tattyreagh Road, Fintona, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT78 2HY	B2	House
HB11/05/034	Battynahatty Bridge, Ballynahatty Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT78 1PW	B2	Bridge
HB11/06/015	112 Newtownsaville Road Gortaclare Sixmilecross Co Tyrone BT79 0YG	B2	House
HB11/06/019	Gate Lodge Greenmount Lodge 38 Greenmount Road Omagh Co. Tyrone BT79 0QU	B2	Gates/ Screens/ Lodges
HB11/08/017	Rash House 49 Beltany Road Omagh BT78 5NF	B2	House
HB11/08/021	Mill at 30 Botera Upper Road, Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 5LH	B2	Store
HB11/08/023	Bridge over Creevan Burn Botera Upper Road, Omagh Co. Tyrone BT78 5LH	B2	Bridge
HB11/09/004 D	Tread-wheel Castle Place Omagh Co Tyrone BT79 5ER	B2	Store

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB11/16/019	Former Beltrim National School Glenpark Road Gortin Omagh Co Tyrone BT79 8TL	B2	Recreational Club
HB12/02/042	Bridge Kilready Newtownbutler Co Fermanagh BT92 6EZ	B2	Bridge
HB14/06/055 A	Liddell's Mill 43 Main Street Donaghacloy	B2	Mill
HB14/06/055 B	Cricket Pavilion Liddel's Mill 43 Main Street Donaghacloy	B2	Pavillion
HB26/08/023 A	First Ballymacarrett Presbyterian Church Paulett Avenue Belfast BT5 4HD	B2	Church
HB26/14/010	White Lodge, 31 Eastleigh Drive, Belfast BT4 3DX	B2	House
HB26/50/157	Former Bradford and Bingley Building 2 Chichester Street Belfast	B2	Bank - Terrace

TABLE 2 – NEW LISTINGS 2011/12

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB03/12/039	Overbridge Railway Station Sea Road Castlerock Coleraine BT51 4TL	B1	Railway Station Structures
HB06/07/015	17 Drumnadonaghy Road Larne Co Antrim	B1	House
HB10/06/023	Mourneview, 26 Liskey Road Strabane Co Tyrone BT82 8NP	B1	House

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB11/15/008	Railway Bridge, Cranny, Omagh, Co.Tyrone	B1	Bridge
HB11/18/016	House nr 22 Coolaharan Road Loughmacrory Omagh Co Tyrone BT79 9LP	B1	House
HB12/19/046	The Steele Hall Portora Royal School Willoughby Place Enniskillen BT74 7HA	B1	School
HB14/17/004	Demesne House Kilmore Road/ Antrim Road Lurgan	B1	House
HB19/01/071	Fruit Hill Scroggy Lane Scroggy Road Glenavy County Antrim BT29 4LD	B1	House
HB26/50/284	J Braddell and Sons Ltd 11 North Street Belfast BT1 1NA	B1	Shop - Terrace
HB04/15/019	Balnamore Mill 8 Drumahisky Road Balnamore Ballymoney Co Antrim BT53 7QL	B2	Store
HB10/03/014	19 Edenreagh Road Castledearg Co. Tyrone BT81 7SH	B2	House
HB10/06/022	Breen bridge over Mourne River, (former railway bridge), Camus & Breen TD, Strabane, Co Tyrone	B2	Bridge
HB10/09/028	6 Balbane Road Donemana Strabane Co. Tyrone BT82 0RW	B2	House

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB10/11/001 K	Saw Mill at Holy Hill House 78 Ballee Road Artigarvan Strabane Co. Tyrone BT82 0AA	B2	Estate Related Structures
HB10/12/030	Former Strabane Technical College, Derry Road, Strabane, Co Tyrone BT82 8DX	B2	School
HB11/04/020	126 Drumlegagh Church Road Drumquin Co Tyrone BT78 4PP	B2	House
HB11/08/004	Blackrock Bridge, Lislip West, Omagh, Co Tyrone	B2	Bridge
HB11/08/005	Broadford Bridge to north of Mellon Road Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 5QU	B2	Bridge
HB11/08/007	Bridge No 6, Road Bridge over Railway, Mountjoy Avenue Tattraconnaghty TL, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT78 5NX	B2	Bridge
HB11/08/009	Clarks Bridge Tully Road Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 5NR	B2	Bridge
HB11/08/015	Dudgeon Bridge Dunwish Road Omagh Co. Tyrone BT78 5PH	B2	Bridge
HB11/15/012	Crevenagh Bridge, Omagh, Co.Tyrone	B2	Bridge
HB11/16/034	26 Carrigans Road Newtownstewart Co Tyrone BT78 4EQ	B2	House

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB11/16/040	Bridge over Cappagh Burn Tirmurty Road Omagh Co. Tyrone BT79 7TZ	B2	Bridge
HB11/17/005	23 Glenmacoffer Road Omagh Co.Tyrone BT79 7RJ	B2	House
HB11/17/012	Campbells Bridge over Glensawisk Burn, Aghnamirigan Road Omagh, Co Tyrone BT79 7SB	B2	Bridge
HB11/18/012	Former Police Station 10 Main Street Mountfield Omagh Co Tyrone BT79 7PP	B2	House
HB11/18/013	21 Fernagh Road Omagh Co Tyrone BT78 1HH	B2	House
HB11/20/002	Sixmilecross Presbyterian Church Meeting House Road, Sixmilecross, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT79 9NQ	B2	Church
HB11/20/019	Altamuskin Post Office, 177 Altamuskin Road, Sixmilecross, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT79 9JA	B2	House
HB12/18/008	Former Enniskillen Workhouse Erne Road Enniskillen County Fernanagh BT74 6NN	B2	Hospital Building
HB14/23/051	Bank of Ireland 13 Market Street Lurgan BT66 6AR	B2	Bank

HB Ref No	Address	Grade	Building Type
HB19/01/009	Glenavy Methodist Church Main Street Glenavy County Antrim BT29 4LP	B2	Church
HB19/05/151	Former St John's Primary School St John's Road Hillsborough County Down	B2	School
HB21/02/011	Ballyhamage House The Burn Road Doagh Co Antrim BT39 ORD	B2	House
HB21/04/008	Orpin's Mill Orpinsmill Road Dunamoy Doagh Ballyclare Co Antrim BT39 OSX	B2	Mill
HB21/06/004 B	Merville House Merville Garden Village Shore Road Whitehouse Co Antrim BT37 9TH	B2	Hall
HB21/07/009	Railway Bridge Whitehouse Park, Shore Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim	B2	Bridge
HB26/27/083	Tropical Ravine Botanic Gardens Belfast	B2	Glass House
HB26/50/281	5-11 Lombard Street Belfast BT1 1RB	B2	Office - Terrace
HB26/50/282	13-17 Lombard Street Belfast BT1 1RB	B2	Office - Terrace
HB26/50/285	Telephone Kiosk at Northern Bank Waring Street Belfast	B2	Telephone Kiosk

TABLE 3 – BUILDINGS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION

Council ID	Council Name	Total number of buildings under consideration
HB01	Londonderry	0
HB02	Limavady	0
HB03	Coleraine	4
HB04	Ballymoney	0
HB05	Moyle	4
HB06	Larne	1
HB07	Ballymena	2
HB08	Magherafelt	2
HB09	Cookstown	0
HB10	Strabane	15
HB11	Omagh	12
HB12	Fermanagh	15
HB13	Dungannon	8
HB14	Craigavon	1
HB15	Armagh	21
HB16	Newry & Mourne	13
HB17	Banbridge	40
HB18	Down	15
HB19	Lisburn	444
HB20	Antrim	4
HB21	Newtownabbey	5
HB22	Carrickfergus	3
HB23	North Down	69
HB24	Ards	71
HB25	Castlereagh	86
HB26	Belfast	158
	Total	993

Current Condition of Beaches

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for his assessment of the current condition of beaches; and (ii) how the criteria used to make such an assessment are decided.

(AQW 11457/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Bathing Water quality results in 2011 were possibly the best ever recorded in Northern Ireland. All 24 bathing waters achieved the mandatory standards of the EC Directive and 20 of these achieved the higher guideline standard and were classified as Excellent.

During the specified bathing season (01 June to 15 September) the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) monitors and reports on bathing water quality, as required by the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. NIEA follow criteria for water quality classification set down in the EC Bathing Waters Directive 1976. This water quality information is published locally on a weekly basis and reported annually to the European Commission. Beach condition is not actually assessed by NIEA.

Other organisations use the NIEA water quality monitoring data as part of their criteria for making beach awards as a means of recommending beaches to the public. Additional factors they use would include beach facilities such as access to toilets which are provided by the beach operators.

NIEA follow criteria for water quality classification set down in the EC Bathing Waters Directive 1976. Tidy NI operates the Blue Flag scheme in Northern Ireland and use criteria set by the Foundation for Environmental Education. Tidy NI also agrees criteria for Seaside and Green Coast awards with partners in GB and in the Republic of Ireland. Marine Conservation Society (MCS) set their own criteria based on, but not identical to, the standards of the Bathing Waters Directive.

All three assessments ie NIEA, Tidy Northern Ireland and MCS indicate that Northern Ireland's bathing beaches are the best they have ever been. In 2012 the MCS Good Beach Guide recommends 16 beaches in Northern Ireland – up from 10 in the previous year. Also in 2012, Tidy Northern Ireland is poised to make more Blue Flag, Seaside and Green Coast awards than ever before. These will be announced on 24 May 2012.

However, there is no room for complacency. Many of our bathing waters are vulnerable to pollution washed out by extreme rainfall events. NIEA is working closely with Northern Ireland Water, the agricultural community and with stakeholder groups to ensure that all pollution risks are minimised or completely eliminated.

The Good Beach Summits have brought all interested parties together and I am determined that they will continue to co-ordinate effectively both for the good of the environment and to the direct benefit of the coastal economy.

Listed Properties

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail listed properties that are owned by his Department.

(AQW 11558/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Six listed properties (listed buildings) are currently owned by the Department of the Environment. These are:

- Dogleap Powerhouse, South Watch Tower, Weaving Shed Museum
- Carrick Footbridge (all of which are in Roe Valley Country Park, Limavady);
- Martello Tower, Magilligan; and
- Scrabo Tower (Londonderry Monument) Scrabo Hill, Newtownards.

Draft PPS 18

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to list all the organisations, or individuals, who advocated the removal of references to community benefits from the draft PPS 18 in the last 12 months.

(AQW 11628/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The public consultation to draft PPS18 ended on 21 March 2008 and attracted 90 responses from a variety of organisations and individuals, with 22 respondents referencing community benefits.

Antrim Borough Council, Larne Borough Council, RSPB, CNCC, Ross Planning, Belfast City Council, NIEL, the National Trust, ARC21 and the Fermanagh Trust advocated the use of community benefits but with qualifications on how they should be used or administered.

TCI Renewables, RES, Renewables UK (formerly BWEA), and Turley Associates while not opposed to the concept of community benefits, all sought the removal of such references within the context of the policy document. The Royal Town Planning Institute sought the delivery of community benefits through Article 40 agreements only.

In addition Lisburn City Council, Carrickfergus Borough Council, SWAMP, NILGA (supported directly by Newry and Mourne and Coleraine District Councils) and the Carvill Group all cited reservations about the citing community benefits within the PPS.

PPS18 was published in final form in August 2009.

Planning Application for Single Turbine and Multiple Turbine Wind Farm

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) how long each current planning application for a (a) single turbine; and (b) multiple turbine wind farm has been in the planning system, broken down by divisional planning office; and (ii) the average length of time it has taken to determine planning applications for (a) single turbine; and (b) multiple turbine wind farms to date, broken down by divisional planning office.

(AQW 11697/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The details in relation to (i) all current planning applications for (a) single wind turbines; and (b) multiple turbine wind farms and the associated length of time in the planning system broken down by divisional planning office is provided in attached Tables 1A and 1B respectively.

Information showing (ii) the average length of time it has taken to determine planning applications for (a) single wind turbines; and (b) multiple turbine wind farms is found in the following Tables 2A and 2B. The figures provided in these tables are from 1 April 2002 to 31 December 2011.

The median has been used as the measure of “average” processing performance, in line with standard planning reporting practice.

**TABLE 1A - CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SINGLE WIND TURBINES
BELFAST**

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
S/2010/0305/F	12/04/2010	429
S/2010/0536/F	22/06/2010	380
S/2010/0932/F	04/11/2010	286
S/2010/1039/F	02/12/2010	266
S/2010/1038/F	03/12/2010	265
Y/2011/0031/F	03/02/2011	225
S/2011/0126/F	07/02/2011	223
W/2011/0089/F	10/02/2011	220
S/2011/0175/F	25/02/2011	209
S/2011/0274/F	25/03/2011	190
S/2011/0289/F	31/03/2011	186
S/2011/0315/F	06/04/2011	182
S/2011/0412/F	28/04/2011	168
S/2011/0461/F	19/05/2011	155

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
W/2011/0268/F	24/05/2011	152
X/2011/0400/F	27/05/2011	149
S/2011/0487/F	02/06/2011	146
Y/2011/0216/F	21/06/2011	133
S/2011/0533/F	22/06/2011	132
S/2011/0535/F	23/06/2011	131
S/2011/0552/F	30/06/2011	126
S/2011/0589/F	11/07/2011	119
S/2011/0585/F	15/07/2011	117
S/2011/0610/F	28/07/2011	108
S/2011/0622/F	01/08/2011	106
Z/2011/0937/F	02/08/2011	105
S/2011/0650/F	08/08/2011	101
S/2011/0667/F	18/08/2011	93
S/2011/0676/F	22/08/2011	91
S/2011/0711/F	09/09/2011	78
S/2011/0712/F	09/09/2011	78
S/2011/0727/F	15/09/2011	74
X/2011/0617/F	27/09/2011	66
Y/2011/0328/F	11/10/2011	56
Z/2011/1265/F	25/10/2011	46
X/2011/0729/F	29/11/2011	21
X/2011/0730/F	01/12/2011	19
Z/2011/1429/F	08/12/2011	14
S/2011/0949/F	13/12/2011	11
Z/2011/1498/F	21/12/2011	5
X/2011/0795/F	23/12/2011	3

NORTHERN AREA

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
C/2010/0281/F	20/05/2010	402
E/2010/0155/F	25/05/2010	399
C/2010/0297/F	28/05/2010	396

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
E/2010/0164/F	03/06/2010	393
C/2010/0336/F	18/06/2010	382
B/2010/0236/F	19/07/2010	363
D/2010/0224/F	20/07/2010	362
D/2010/0238/F	05/08/2010	350
C/2010/0442/F	12/08/2010	345
C/2010/0493/F	27/08/2010	334
C/2010/0489/F	07/09/2010	328
B/2010/0311/F	24/09/2010	315
E/2010/0273/F	01/10/2010	310
D/2010/0306/F	08/10/2010	305
B/2010/0333/F	12/10/2010	303
E/2010/0283/F	20/10/2010	297
E/2010/0293/F	25/10/2010	294
C/2010/0632/F	01/11/2010	289
D/2010/0333/F	04/11/2010	286
E/2010/0322/F	12/11/2010	280
B/2010/0405/F	18/11/2010	276
E/2010/0334/F	29/11/2010	269
D/2010/0358/F	01/12/2010	267
D/2010/0361/F	06/12/2010	264
C/2010/0686/F	09/12/2010	261
C/2011/0025/F	17/01/2011	238
C/2011/0041/F	25/01/2011	232
C/2011/0049/F	02/02/2011	226
B/2011/0042/F	08/02/2011	222
C/2011/0063/F	09/02/2011	221
C/2011/0082/F	21/02/2011	213
B/2011/0063/F	01/03/2011	207
E/2011/0056/F	01/03/2011	207
E/2011/0063/F	09/03/2011	201
B/2011/0083/F	15/03/2011	197
E/2011/0071/F	15/03/2011	197

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
E/2011/0074/F	16/03/2011	196
D/2011/0082/F	25/03/2011	190
E/2011/0079/F	25/03/2011	190
C/2011/0147/F	29/03/2011	188
C/2011/0149/F	30/03/2011	187
E/2011/0083/F	30/03/2011	187
D/2011/0086/F	04/04/2011	184
B/2011/0096/F	05/04/2011	183
D/2011/0087/F	05/04/2011	183
C/2011/0176/F	08/04/2011	180
C/2011/0185/F	08/04/2011	180
E/2011/0099/F	08/04/2011	180
D/2011/0098/F	11/04/2011	179
D/2011/0107/F	20/04/2011	172
B/2011/0123/F	03/05/2011	167
C/2011/0240/F	04/05/2011	166
E/2011/0150/F	14/06/2011	138
C/2011/0310/F	16/06/2011	136
B/2011/0154/F	21/06/2011	133
C/2011/0340/F	30/06/2011	126
B/2011/0159/F	01/07/2011	125
B/2011/0161/F	05/07/2011	123
C/2011/0351/F	07/07/2011	121
D/2011/0162/F	07/07/2011	121
B/2011/0169/F	11/07/2011	119
B/2011/0170/F	11/07/2011	119
C/2011/0378/F	20/07/2011	114
B/2011/0181/F	29/07/2011	107
D/2011/0173/F	01/08/2011	106
D/2011/0177/F	04/08/2011	103
D/2011/0182/F	09/08/2011	100
C/2011/0415/F	18/08/2011	93
D/2011/0192/F	18/08/2011	93

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
C/2011/0441/F	31/08/2011	85
D/2011/0202/F	06/09/2011	81
B/2011/0211/F	07/09/2011	80
C/2011/0466/F	09/09/2011	78
D/2011/0214/F	20/09/2011	71
D/2011/0216/F	20/09/2011	71
D/2011/0224/F	30/09/2011	63
D/2011/0225/F	30/09/2011	63
C/2011/0503/F	04/10/2011	61
C/2011/0525/F	14/10/2011	53
D/2011/0240/F	14/10/2011	53
D/2011/0244/F	17/10/2011	52
C/2011/0537/F	24/10/2011	47
B/2011/0249/F	01/11/2011	41
C/2011/0553/F	10/11/2011	34
E/2011/0235/F	28/11/2011	22
C/2011/0619/F	15/12/2011	9
A/2010/0028/F	12/01/2010	490
A/2010/0151/F	08/03/2010	451
A/2010/0296/F	26/04/2010	419
A/2010/0317/F	04/05/2010	414
A/2010/0320/F	05/05/2010	413
A/2010/0386/F	14/05/2010	406
A/2010/0391/F	28/05/2010	396
A/2010/0442/F	23/06/2010	379
A/2010/0459/F	28/06/2010	376
A/2010/0513/F	23/07/2010	359
A/2010/0530/F	03/08/2010	352
A/2010/0541/F	11/08/2010	346
A/2010/0546/F	13/08/2010	344
A/2010/0544/F	16/08/2010	343
A/2010/0580/F	02/09/2010	331
A/2010/0606/F	17/09/2010	320

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
A/2010/0600/F	20/09/2010	319
A/2010/0630/F	30/09/2010	311
A/2010/0650/F	18/10/2010	299
J/2010/0413/F	21/10/2010	296
A/2010/0757/F	01/12/2010	266
J/2010/0498/F	10/12/2010	260
A/2011/0011/F	12/01/2011	241
A/2011/0053/F	02/02/2011	226
A/2011/0054/F	03/02/2011	225
A/2011/0060/F	07/02/2011	223
A/2011/0075/F	11/02/2011	219
J/2011/0083/F	25/02/2011	209
J/2011/0107/F	09/03/2011	201
A/2011/0217/F	07/04/2011	181
A/2011/0218/F	07/04/2011	181
J/2011/0157/F	07/04/2011	181
A/2011/0229/F	08/04/2011	180
A/2011/0231/F	08/04/2011	180
J/2011/0178/F	08/04/2011	180
J/2011/0180/F	08/04/2011	180
J/2011/0183/F	08/04/2011	180
A/2011/0339/F	20/05/2011	154
A/2011/0404/F	01/07/2011	125
A/2011/0411/F	04/07/2011	124
J/2011/0277/F	11/07/2011	119
J/2011/0283/F	18/07/2011	116
A/2011/0439/F	19/07/2011	115
J/2011/0307/F	09/08/2011	100
A/2011/0492/F	19/08/2011	92
J/2011/0316/F	23/08/2011	90
J/2011/0334/F	31/08/2011	85
A/2011/0513/F	02/09/2011	83
J/2011/0338/F	06/09/2011	81

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
A/2011/0548/F	22/09/2011	69
A/2011/0553/F	27/09/2011	66
J/2011/0373/F	29/09/2011	64
J/2011/0374/F	29/09/2011	64
J/2011/0372/F	29/09/2011	64
J/2011/0395/F	19/10/2011	50
J/2011/0409/F	04/11/2011	38
J/2011/0417/F	07/11/2011	37
J/2011/0425/F	16/11/2011	30
J/2011/0437/F	29/11/2011	21
J/2011/0447/F	07/12/2011	15
A/2011/0679/F	09/12/2011	13
J/2011/0454/F	09/12/2011	13
J/2011/0464/F	14/12/2011	10
J/2011/0472/F	22/12/2011	4
A/2012/0005/F	29/12/2011	2

SOUTH ANTRIM AREA

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
H/2007/0954/F	17/04/2009	673
V/2009/0258/F	16/12/2009	505
H/2010/0101/F	08/03/2010	451
G/2010/0346/F	27/05/2010	397
G/2010/0363/F	04/06/2010	392
F/2010/0208/F	16/06/2010	384
G/2010/0401/F	23/06/2010	379
G/2010/0403/F	25/06/2010	377
G/2010/0428/F	01/07/2010	373
G/2010/0444/F	07/07/2010	369
F/2010/0249/F	14/07/2010	366
G/2010/0475/F	21/07/2010	361
G/2010/0508/F	06/08/2010	349
V/2010/0184/F	06/09/2010	329

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
G/2010/0572/F	07/09/2010	328
G/2010/0593/F	21/09/2010	318
V/2010/0201/F	22/09/2010	317
V/2010/0202/F	22/09/2010	317
V/2010/0205/F	23/09/2010	316
T/2010/0500/F	15/10/2010	300
G/2010/0643/F	18/10/2010	299
G/2010/0645/F	18/10/2010	299
F/2010/0346/F	18/10/2010	299
G/2010/0672/F	25/10/2010	294
G/2010/0703/F	03/11/2010	287
G/2010/0705/F	03/11/2010	287
T/2010/0521/F	03/11/2010	287
G/2010/0744/F	18/11/2010	276
G/2010/0761/F	26/11/2010	270
G/2010/0766/F	29/11/2010	269
G/2010/0772/F	30/11/2010	268
F/2011/0015/F	12/01/2011	241
G/2011/0018/F	18/01/2011	237
G/2011/0028/F	24/01/2011	233
F/2011/0028/F	27/01/2011	230
F/2011/0034/F	03/02/2011	225
F/2011/0042/F	14/02/2011	218
F/2011/0044/F	15/02/2011	217
F/2011/0045/F	15/02/2011	217
G/2011/0076/F	16/02/2011	216
V/2011/0018/F	22/02/2011	212
G/2011/0119/F	07/03/2011	203
V/2011/0022/F	07/03/2011	203
F/2011/0073/F	14/03/2011	198
F/2011/0085/F	30/03/2011	187
G/2011/0158/F	04/04/2011	184
G/2011/0159/F	04/04/2011	184

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
G/2011/0166/F	05/04/2011	183
G/2011/0228/F	04/05/2011	166
G/2011/0243/F	17/05/2011	157
F/2011/0126/F	19/05/2011	155
T/2011/0208/F	26/05/2011	150
V/2011/0080/F	02/06/2011	146
G/2011/0266/F	07/06/2011	143
G/2011/0270/F	10/06/2011	140
V/2011/0092/F	01/07/2011	125
G/2011/0313/F	07/07/2011	121
G/2011/0315/F	07/07/2011	121
F/2011/0159/F	11/07/2011	119
G/2011/0326/F	15/07/2011	117
F/2011/0167/F	20/07/2011	114
G/2011/0332/F	25/07/2011	111
T/2011/0297/F	27/07/2011	109
V/2011/0105/F	01/08/2011	106
U/2011/0278/F	02/08/2011	105
F/2011/0175/F	11/08/2011	98
T/2011/0346/F	30/08/2011	86
U/2011/0329/F	16/09/2011	73
F/2011/0203/F	29/09/2011	64
U/2011/0363/F	17/10/2011	52
T/2011/0416/F	25/10/2011	46
T/2011/0417/F	25/10/2011	46
T/2011/0420/F	27/10/2011	44
G/2011/0480/F	28/10/2011	43
G/2011/0483/F	31/10/2011	42
G/2011/0484/F	31/10/2011	42
F/2011/0224/F	04/11/2011	38
T/2011/0430/F	04/11/2011	38
F/2011/0232/F	16/11/2011	30
G/2011/0509/F	16/11/2011	30

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
F/2011/0245/F	05/12/2011	17
G/2011/0530/F	08/12/2011	14
T/2011/0482/F	08/12/2011	14
V/2011/0157/F	08/12/2011	14
F/2011/0255/F	09/12/2011	13
T/2011/0497/F	09/12/2011	13
G/2011/0550/F	23/12/2011	3
V/2011/0169/F	23/12/2011	3
U/2012/0005/F	30/12/2011	1

SOUTHERN AREA

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
P/2008/0918/F	11/07/2008	863
N/2009/0550/F	11/09/2009	573
P/2010/0150/F	15/02/2010	471
P/2010/0638/F	20/05/2010	402
N/2010/0303/F	01/06/2010	395
N/2010/0345/F	16/06/2010	384
O/2010/0406/F	22/06/2010	380
P/2010/0931/F	27/07/2010	357
O/2010/0507/F	02/08/2010	353
O/2010/0508/F	02/08/2010	353
O/2010/0552/F	19/08/2010	340
N/2010/0489/F	26/08/2010	335
O/2010/0572/F	26/08/2010	335
P/2010/1065/F	31/08/2010	333
P/2010/1067/F	31/08/2010	333
O/2010/0592/F	03/09/2010	330
N/2010/0528/F	15/09/2010	322
O/2010/0633/F	20/09/2010	319
O/2010/0635/F	20/09/2010	319
P/2010/1212/F	01/10/2010	310
Q/2010/0487/F	18/10/2010	299

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
P/2010/1391/F	17/11/2010	277
Q/2010/0599/F	01/12/2010	267
O/2010/0833/F	09/12/2010	261
O/2010/0836/F	09/12/2010	261
O/2010/0832/F	09/12/2010	261
O/2010/0856/F	15/12/2010	257
P/2010/1521/F	17/12/2010	255
O/2010/0871/F	20/12/2010	254
O/2010/0880/F	21/12/2010	253
P/2011/0031/F	07/01/2011	244
P/2011/0016/F	10/01/2011	243
O/2011/0018/F	14/01/2011	239
O/2011/0028/F	24/01/2011	233
O/2011/0043/F	04/02/2011	224
O/2011/0044/F	04/02/2011	224
O/2011/0045/F	04/02/2011	224
Q/2011/0055/F	07/02/2011	223
Q/2011/0062/F	09/02/2011	221
O/2011/0060/F	14/02/2011	218
O/2011/0063/F	14/02/2011	218
O/2011/0066/F	15/02/2011	217
O/2011/0067/F	16/02/2011	216
O/2011/0068/F	16/02/2011	216
Q/2011/0091/F	22/02/2011	212
O/2011/0095/F	02/03/2011	206
O/2011/0103/F	03/03/2011	205
P/2011/0239/F	04/03/2011	204
O/2011/0107/F	07/03/2011	203
Q/2011/0123/F	23/03/2011	192
O/2011/0143/F	28/03/2011	189
O/2011/0145/F	28/03/2011	189
O/2011/0147/F	30/03/2011	187
P/2011/0348/F	05/04/2011	183

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
P/2011/0360/F	07/04/2011	181
Q/2011/0160/F	07/04/2011	181
Q/2011/0162/F	07/04/2011	181
O/2011/0195/F	08/04/2011	180
O/2011/0186/F	08/04/2011	180
Q/2011/0166/F	08/04/2011	180
Q/2011/0176/F	12/04/2011	178
Q/2011/0197/F	27/04/2011	169
P/2011/0500/F	19/05/2011	155
P/2011/0505/F	19/05/2011	155
O/2011/0253/F	20/05/2011	154
O/2011/0252/F	24/05/2011	152
Q/2011/0247/F	09/06/2011	141
Q/2011/0251/F	10/06/2011	140
Q/2011/0254/F	13/06/2011	139
O/2011/0304/F	22/06/2011	132
Q/2011/0265/F	24/06/2011	130
O/2011/0319/F	30/06/2011	126
O/2011/0348/F	19/07/2011	115
P/2011/0698/F	01/08/2011	106
P/2011/0699/F	01/08/2011	106
Q/2011/0308/F	12/08/2011	97
P/2011/0737/F	16/08/2011	95
P/2011/0756/F	23/08/2011	90
Q/2011/0327/F	30/08/2011	86
P/2011/0804/F	05/09/2011	82
Q/2011/0343/F	05/09/2011	82
P/2011/0802/F	06/09/2011	81
Q/2011/0342/F	06/09/2011	81
Q/2011/0357/F	14/09/2011	75
P/2011/0827/F	19/09/2011	72
P/2011/0841/F	26/09/2011	67
P/2011/0859/F	26/09/2011	67

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
N/2011/0415/F	29/09/2011	64
P/2011/0885/F	05/10/2011	60
Q/2011/0388/F	13/10/2011	54
Q/2011/0391/F	17/10/2011	52
O/2011/0507/F	26/10/2011	45
Q/2011/0402/F	26/10/2011	45
O/2011/0512/F	31/10/2011	42
N/2011/0469/F	14/11/2011	32
P/2011/1055/F	05/12/2011	17
Q/2011/0442/F	05/12/2011	17
O/2011/0556/F	07/12/2011	15
O/2011/0558/F	08/12/2011	14
P/2011/1066/F	09/12/2011	13
Q/2011/0467/F	12/12/2011	12
P/2012/0036/F	19/12/2011	7
O/2012/0018/F	29/12/2011	2
R/2010/0232/F	19/03/2010	443
R/2010/0749/F	02/09/2010	331
R/2010/0800/F	22/09/2010	317
R/2010/0843/F	30/09/2010	311
R/2010/0891/F	26/10/2010	293
R/2010/0894/F	02/11/2010	288
R/2010/0927/F	09/11/2010	283
R/2010/0929/F	10/11/2010	282
R/2010/0971/F	17/11/2010	277
R/2011/0071/F	27/01/2011	230
R/2011/0108/F	27/01/2011	230
R/2011/0089/F	01/02/2011	227
R/2011/0105/F	03/02/2011	225
R/2011/0165/F	21/02/2011	213
R/2011/0177/F	21/02/2011	213
R/2011/0189/F	01/03/2011	207
R/2011/0193/F	01/03/2011	207

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
R/2011/0197/F	02/03/2011	206
R/2011/0250/F	21/03/2011	194
R/2011/0270/F	28/03/2011	189
R/2011/0272/F	28/03/2011	189
R/2011/0295/F	05/04/2011	183
R/2011/0300/F	07/04/2011	181
R/2011/0315/F	08/04/2011	180
R/2011/0397/F	06/05/2011	164
R/2011/0417/F	17/05/2011	157
R/2011/0420/F	19/05/2011	155
R/2011/0421/F	19/05/2011	155
R/2011/0446/F	03/06/2011	145
R/2011/0474/F	15/06/2011	137
R/2011/0480/F	16/06/2011	136
R/2011/0517/F	30/06/2011	126
R/2011/0508/F	01/07/2011	125
R/2011/0509/F	04/07/2011	124
R/2011/0545/F	15/07/2011	117
R/2011/0616/F	25/08/2011	88
R/2011/0636/F	08/09/2011	79
R/2011/0638/F	09/09/2011	78
R/2011/0675/F	29/09/2011	64
R/2011/0708/F	14/10/2011	53
R/2011/0726/F	25/10/2011	46
R/2011/0742/F	03/11/2011	39
R/2011/0746/F	07/11/2011	37
R/2011/0756/F	11/11/2011	33
R/2011/0760/F	11/11/2011	33
R/2011/0806/F	02/12/2011	18

HQ STRATEGIC PLANNING DIVISION

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
I/2008/0157/F	19/02/2008	961

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
J/2007/0700/F	20/02/2008	960
D/2010/0060/F	22/02/2010	466
I/2010/0211/F	12/05/2010	408
D/2010/0190/F	17/06/2010	383
F/2010/0228/F	30/06/2010	374
L/2010/0899/F	17/11/2010	277
L/2011/0110/F	10/12/2010	260
L/2011/0003/F	10/12/2010	260
B/2010/0448/F	15/12/2010	257
C/2010/0709/F	23/12/2010	251
C/2011/0021/F	14/01/2011	239
S/2011/0111/F	07/02/2011	223
L/2011/0157/F	15/02/2011	217
J/2011/0070/F	17/02/2011	215
K/2011/0110/F	17/02/2011	215
L/2011/0214/F	07/03/2011	203
R/2011/0264/F	24/03/2011	191
F/2011/0086/F	30/03/2011	187
M/2011/0213/F	31/03/2011	186
K/2011/0270/F	08/04/2011	180
L/2011/0310/F	08/04/2011	180
L/2011/0312/F	08/04/2011	180
M/2011/0260/F	08/04/2011	180
S/2011/0367/F	08/04/2011	180
A/2011/0249/F	11/04/2011	179
O/2011/0206/F	15/04/2011	175
F/2011/0107/F	21/04/2011	171
K/2011/0302/F	28/04/2011	168
J/2011/0205/F	03/05/2011	167
P/2011/0489/F	16/05/2011	158
K/2011/0388/F	14/06/2011	138
K/2011/0397/F	17/06/2011	135
K/2011/0417/F	23/06/2011	131

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
X/2011/0435/F	23/06/2011	131
K/2011/0418/F	28/06/2011	128
M/2011/0441/F	30/06/2011	126
L/2011/0588/F	21/07/2011	113
O/2011/0364/F	29/07/2011	107
Q/2011/0297/F	29/07/2011	107
R/2011/0571/F	29/07/2011	107
C/2011/0396/F	05/08/2011	102
L/2011/0621/F	09/08/2011	100
H/2011/0396/F	10/08/2011	99
H/2011/0397/F	10/08/2011	99
I/2011/0355/F	10/08/2011	99
I/2011/0357/F	11/08/2011	98
I/2011/0358/F	11/08/2011	98
B/2011/0201/F	17/08/2011	94
K/2011/0509/F	19/08/2011	92
J/2011/0348/F	08/09/2011	79
Q/2011/0353/F	12/09/2011	77
Q/2011/0354/F	12/09/2011	77
L/2011/0711/F	13/09/2011	76
J/2011/0358/F	19/09/2011	72
H/2011/0479/F	26/09/2011	67
L/2011/0755/F	27/09/2011	66
R/2011/0669/F	27/09/2011	66
Y/2011/0317/F	27/09/2011	66
P/2011/0854/F	28/09/2011	65
S/2011/0763/F	28/09/2011	65
G/2011/0433/F	29/09/2011	64
G/2011/0434/F	29/09/2011	64
M/2011/0588/F	29/09/2011	64
O/2011/0460/F	29/09/2011	64
C/2011/0501/F	04/10/2011	61
K/2011/0613/F	07/10/2011	58

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
K/2011/0651/F	31/10/2011	42
D/2011/0251/F	03/11/2011	39
E/2011/0211/F	03/11/2011	39
A/2011/0622/F	10/11/2011	34
K/2011/0671/F	10/11/2011	34
H/2011/0539/F	16/11/2011	30
K/2011/0685/F	17/11/2011	29
K/2011/0686/F	17/11/2011	29
I/2011/0473/F	21/11/2011	27
G/2011/0513/F	24/11/2011	24
G/2011/0515/F	28/11/2011	22
O/2011/0577/F	09/12/2011	13
D/2011/0285/F	15/12/2011	9
A/2011/0721/F	29/12/2011	2

WESTERN AREA

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
L/2010/0774/F	12/10/2010	303
L/2010/0785/F	14/10/2010	301
L/2011/0314/F	07/04/2011	181
L/2011/0338/F	08/04/2011	180
L/2011/0381/F	13/04/2011	177
L/2011/0392/F	03/05/2011	167
L/2011/0398/F	12/05/2011	160
L/2011/0449/F	27/05/2011	149
L/2011/0495/F	14/06/2011	138
L/2011/0531/F	27/06/2011	129
L/2011/0550/F	07/07/2011	121
L/2011/0575/F	09/07/2011	119
L/2011/0604/F	01/08/2011	106
L/2011/0643/F	11/08/2011	98
L/2011/0653/F	17/08/2011	94
L/2011/0681/F	26/08/2011	87

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
L/2011/0705/F	08/09/2011	79
L/2011/0743/F	21/09/2011	70
L/2011/0811/F	24/10/2011	47
L/2011/0819/F	25/10/2011	46
L/2011/0832/F	28/10/2011	43
L/2011/0840/F	01/11/2011	41
L/2011/0841/F	01/11/2011	41
L/2011/0853/F	07/11/2011	37
L/2011/0895/F	21/11/2011	27
L/2011/0898/F	23/11/2011	25
L/2011/0913/F	29/11/2011	21
L/2011/0926/F	05/12/2011	17
L/2011/0941/F	08/12/2011	14
L/2011/0971/F	13/12/2011	11
L/2011/0981/F	21/12/2011	5
L/2011/0984/F	21/12/2011	5
L/2011/0993/F	22/12/2011	4
L/2011/0994/F	22/12/2011	4
L/2011/1000/F	23/12/2011	3
J/2010/0065/F	10/03/2010	449
I/2010/0172/F	15/04/2010	426
H/2010/0211/F	05/05/2010	413
I/2010/0266/F	08/06/2010	390
H/2010/0311/F	09/07/2010	367
M/2010/0598/F	28/07/2010	356
I/2010/0476/F	08/10/2010	305
I/2010/0487/F	08/10/2010	305
I/2010/0515/F	02/11/2010	288
I/2010/0514/F	03/11/2010	287
I/2010/0539/F	16/11/2010	278
I/2010/0545/F	17/11/2010	277
K/2010/0731/F	26/11/2010	270
K/2010/0743/F	30/11/2010	268

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
M/2010/0902/F	02/12/2010	266
I/2010/0565/F	03/12/2010	265
I/2010/0568/F	07/12/2010	263
M/2010/0922/F	08/12/2010	262
I/2011/0009/F	16/12/2010	256
I/2011/0010/F	16/12/2010	256
I/2011/0014/F	22/12/2010	252
I/2011/0016/F	23/12/2010	251
K/2011/0040/F	05/01/2011	246
H/2011/0016/F	11/01/2011	242
I/2011/0037/F	11/01/2011	242
K/2011/0053/F	13/01/2011	240
H/2011/0026/F	17/01/2011	238
H/2011/0045/F	21/01/2011	234
H/2011/0046/F	21/01/2011	234
K/2011/0065/F	21/01/2011	234
H/2011/0057/F	27/01/2011	230
M/2011/0093/F	02/02/2011	226
I/2011/0068/F	03/02/2011	225
K/2011/0092/F	04/02/2011	224
I/2011/0086/F	09/02/2011	221
I/2011/0096/F	10/02/2011	220
I/2011/0101/F	14/02/2011	218
K/2011/0104/F	14/02/2011	218
I/2011/0107/F	16/02/2011	216
I/2011/0108/F	16/02/2011	216
K/2011/0108/F	16/02/2011	216
M/2011/0135/F	28/02/2011	208
H/2011/0106/F	28/02/2011	208
I/2011/0127/F	01/03/2011	207
K/2011/0143/F	01/03/2011	207
I/2011/0134/F	04/03/2011	204
I/2011/0136/F	04/03/2011	204

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
H/2011/0122/F	08/03/2011	202
H/2011/0123/F	08/03/2011	202
K/2011/0157/F	09/03/2011	201
I/2011/0148/F	11/03/2011	199
K/2011/0175/F	18/03/2011	195
K/2011/0193/F	25/03/2011	190
H/2011/0166/F	28/03/2011	189
I/2011/0159/F	28/03/2011	189
K/2011/0210/F	29/03/2011	188
M/2011/0206/F	29/03/2011	188
H/2011/0212/F	08/04/2011	180
H/2011/0213/F	08/04/2011	180
I/2011/0193/F	08/04/2011	180
I/2011/0198/F	08/04/2011	180
K/2011/0261/F	08/04/2011	180
K/2011/0269/F	08/04/2011	180
M/2011/0289/F	08/04/2011	180
M/2011/0270/F	08/04/2011	180
H/2011/0255/F	03/05/2011	167
I/2011/0221/F	04/05/2011	166
K/2011/0315/F	04/05/2011	166
I/2011/0243/F	17/05/2011	157
K/2011/0364/F	24/05/2011	152
K/2011/0369/F	25/05/2011	151
K/2011/0359/F	26/05/2011	150
M/2011/0364/F	26/05/2011	150
M/2011/0369/F	31/05/2011	148
K/2011/0378/F	09/06/2011	141
K/2011/0381/F	10/06/2011	140
K/2011/0383/F	14/06/2011	138
H/2011/0329/F	20/06/2011	134
K/2011/0400/F	20/06/2011	134
K/2011/0405/F	23/06/2011	131

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
K/2011/0408/F	23/06/2011	131
K/2011/0410/F	23/06/2011	131
K/2011/0427/F	04/07/2011	124
M/2011/0457/F	08/07/2011	120
K/2011/0450/F	15/07/2011	117
M/2011/0464/F	15/07/2011	117
M/2011/0465/F	15/07/2011	117
K/2011/0451/F	15/07/2011	117
K/2011/0458/F	19/07/2011	115
K/2011/0459/F	19/07/2011	115
K/2011/0463/F	22/07/2011	112
H/2011/0373/F	25/07/2011	111
K/2011/0470/F	28/07/2011	108
I/2011/0338/F	01/08/2011	106
I/2011/0340/F	02/08/2011	105
K/2011/0482/F	04/08/2011	103
K/2011/0490/F	09/08/2011	100
K/2011/0506/F	11/08/2011	98
I/2011/0360/F	11/08/2011	98
K/2011/0498/F	12/08/2011	97
K/2011/0518/F	23/08/2011	90
H/2011/0421/F	24/08/2011	89
I/2011/0386/F	26/08/2011	87
K/2011/0521/F	26/08/2011	87
K/2011/0525/F	31/08/2011	85
K/2011/0526/F	31/08/2011	85
K/2011/0529/F	31/08/2011	85
M/2011/0541/F	31/08/2011	85
K/2011/0532/F	01/09/2011	84
M/2011/0543/F	01/09/2011	84
M/2011/0555/F	13/09/2011	76
M/2011/0556/F	13/09/2011	76
K/2011/0565/F	15/09/2011	74

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
M/2011/0570/F	20/09/2011	71
K/2011/0589/F	26/09/2011	67
H/2011/0484/F	29/09/2011	64
I/2011/0431/F	05/10/2011	60
K/2011/0612/F	07/10/2011	58
K/2011/0614/F	07/10/2011	58
I/2011/0435/F	10/10/2011	57
I/2011/0436/F	10/10/2011	57
K/2011/0618/F	11/10/2011	56
I/2011/0445/F	18/10/2011	51
K/2011/0624/F	18/10/2011	51
K/2011/0626/F	19/10/2011	50
H/2011/0507/F	20/10/2011	49
K/2011/0635/F	21/10/2011	48
H/2011/0518/F	31/10/2011	42
H/2011/0520/F	02/11/2011	40
K/2011/0655/F	02/11/2011	40
K/2011/0660/F	04/11/2011	38
H/2011/0533/F	07/11/2011	37
M/2011/0655/F	07/11/2011	37
I/2011/0460/F	08/11/2011	36
I/2011/0463/F	09/11/2011	35
K/2011/0679/F	15/11/2011	31
H/2011/0542/F	17/11/2011	29
H/2011/0543/F	17/11/2011	29
I/2011/0470/F	18/11/2011	28
M/2011/0693/F	18/11/2011	28
K/2011/0702/F	30/11/2011	20
M/2011/0732/F	07/12/2011	15
M/2011/0734/F	07/12/2011	15
M/2011/0735/F	07/12/2011	15
K/2011/0727/F	09/12/2011	13
I/2011/0497/F	12/12/2011	12

Planning ID	Date Valid	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
M/2011/0744/F	12/12/2011	12
H/2011/0581/F	15/12/2011	9
H/2011/0588/F	23/12/2011	3
K/2011/0750/F	29/12/2011	2

TABLE 1B - CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR MULTIPLE TURBINE WIND FARMS

Planning ID	Date Valid	Area Office	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
A/2005/0223/F	11/02/2005	Strategic Planning Division	1712
U/2005/0281/F	16/05/2005	Strategic Planning Division	1650
J/2006/0840/F	21/08/2006	Strategic Planning Division	1335
M/2006/1754/F	29/08/2006	Strategic Planning Division	1330
T/2006/0832/F	17/10/2006	Strategic Planning Division	1295
K/2007/0547/F	20/08/2007	Strategic Planning Division	1087
J/2007/0667/F	23/10/2007	Strategic Planning Division	1042
C/2007/1186/F	10/01/2008	Strategic Planning Division	989
J/2007/0309/F	15/01/2008	Strategic Planning Division	986
J/2008/0088/F	19/02/2008	Strategic Planning Division	961
M/2007/1407/F	20/02/2008	Strategic Planning Division	960
K/2008/0334/F	27/03/2008	Strategic Planning Division	937
L/2008/0459/F	23/04/2008	Strategic Planning Division	918
J/2008/0278/F	02/06/2008	Strategic Planning Division	892
J/2008/0240/F	03/06/2008	Strategic Planning Division	891
Q/2007/0914/F	15/09/2008	Strategic Planning Division	820
L/2008/1113/F	18/09/2008	Strategic Planning Division	817
K/2008/1153/F	11/12/2008	Strategic Planning Division	757
B/2009/0070/F	04/03/2009	Strategic Planning Division	702
T/2008/0358/F	09/03/2009	Strategic Planning Division	699
K/2009/0243/F	03/04/2009	Strategic Planning Division	681
D/2009/0142/F	02/06/2009	Strategic Planning Division	643
A/2009/0868/F	09/11/2009	Strategic Planning Division	532
H/2010/0009/F	15/01/2010	Strategic Planning Division	487
J/2010/0168/F	17/05/2010	Strategic Planning Division	405
J/2010/0481/F	19/11/2010	Strategic Planning Division	275

Planning ID	Date Valid	Area Office	Working Days from date valid to 31/12/2011
D/2010/0356/F	30/11/2010	Strategic Planning Division	268
I/2010/0569/F	15/12/2010	Strategic Planning Division	257
K/2010/0758/F	20/12/2010	Strategic Planning Division	254
G/2011/0041/F	01/02/2011	Strategic Planning Division	227
G/2011/0052/F	07/02/2011	Strategic Planning Division	223
C/2011/0061/F	08/02/2011	Strategic Planning Division	222
C/2011/0091/F	22/02/2011	Strategic Planning Division	212
J/2011/0082/F	25/02/2011	Strategic Planning Division	209
B/2011/0080/F	16/03/2011	Strategic Planning Division	196
G/2011/0136/F	23/03/2011	Strategic Planning Division	192
J/2011/0128/F	25/03/2011	Strategic Planning Division	190
G/2011/0155/F	01/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	185
G/2011/0162/F	04/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	184
C/2011/0158/F	05/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	183
A/2011/0202/F	06/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	182
J/2011/0148/F	08/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	180
K/2011/0239/F	08/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	180
G/2011/0182/F	08/04/2011	Strategic Planning Division	180
D/2011/0195/F	26/08/2011	Strategic Planning Division	87
R/2011/0632/F	05/09/2011	Strategic Planning Division	82
C/2011/0459/F	07/09/2011	Strategic Planning Division	80
R/2011/0306/F	04/04/2011	Southern Area - Downpatrick	184
R/2010/0050/F	02/02/2010	Southern Area - Downpatrick	475
C/2010/0189/F	01/04/2010	Northern Area - Coleraine	434
E/2010/0244/F	03/09/2010	Northern Area - Coleraine	330
K/2010/0474/F	27/07/2010	Western Area - Omagh	357
I/2011/0182/F	06/04/2011	Western Area - Omagh	182

TABLE 2A - MEDIAN PROCESSING TIMES (WORKING DAYS) FOR SINGLE WIND TURBINE APPLICATIONS

Local Area Office	No. of Applications	Average (Median)
Belfast	68	92.5
Northern Area	266	131
South Antrim Area	223	127

Local Area Office	No. of Applications	Average (Median)
Southern Area	398	97
Strategic Planning Division	18	154
Western Area	339	110
Total	1312	113

TABLE 2B - MEDIAN PROCESSING TIMES (WORKING DAYS) FOR WIND FARM APPLICATIONS

	No. of Applications	Average (Median)
Belfast	2	261
Northern Area	4	88
South Antrim Area	9	79
Southern Area	7	88
Strategic Planning Division	61	684
Western Area	11	145
Total	94	454

Capital and Revenue Savings

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the capital and revenue savings his Department has made in each of the last three years.

(AQW 11714/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As part of the Budget 2007 process, which covered the period 2008/09 to 2010/11, all departments had to identify 3% cumulative cash efficiency savings on their total budgets (revenue and capital). For DOE these 3% cumulative savings amounted to £3.32 million (2008/09), £7.73 million (2009/10) and £11.42 million (2010/11) and the Department's budgets for the three years were reduced accordingly. To help deliver the savings, DFP requested all departments to develop an Efficiency Delivery Plan to set out how the savings were to be delivered. For DOE, in the main the overall savings were delivered by reductions in:

- Administration costs (mainly a 15% reduction in the Department's non-salary running costs, suppression of certain vacancies and a reduction in the number of casual employees);
- Consultancy costs;
- Environmental protection and heritage conservation grants (revenue and capital); and
- Resources element of the General Grant.

For 2011/12 the Department produced a Savings Delivery Plan which set out the necessary savings which were required to ensure that the Department operated within the Budget allocation determined by the Executive. The overall savings to be delivered, which included a 2% reduction in the Department's current expenditure allocation from the Executive, amounted to £15.7 million.

The following savings measures were identified to address the pressure:

- Review of Corporate Services functions across the Department (£2m);
- Reduction in resources element of the general grant to district councils (£1.2m), although this was eventually reinstated from slippage in other departmental programmes;
- Reduction in capital investment (£1m); and

- Reductions across all the Department's business areas covering administrative costs (such as vacancy control) and grant programmes:
 - Planning and Local Government (£1.9m);
 - Road Safety programmes (£1.5m); and
 - Environmental programmes covering natural and built heritage and environmental protection (£8.1m).

The table below outlines the overall savings split between revenue and capital.

£ MILLION

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Revenue	4.73	8.42	14.7
Capital	3.0	3.0	1.0

Full details of all the reductions and savings measures are detailed in the Department's Efficiency Delivery Plan and Savings Delivery Plan documents which have been published on the DOE website.

Lough Neagh

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) why Lough Neagh is not designated as a Special Area of Conservation, together with Strangford Lough, given its global significance as a critical wetland environment and its designation as a Ramsar site, and its critical strategic economic importance in terms of tourism and as a source of drinking water for over fifty percent of the population; and (ii) whether he has any plans to reassess the designations in place to protect Lough Neagh in light of the renewed focus on it as a critical economic and environmental asset. **(AQW 11719/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: Lough Neagh in its entirety does not qualify for designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) according to the Habitats Directive selection criteria, although a small part of the shoreline near Antrim has been designated as SAC for its wet woodland habitat. This is why it is not designated.

However, Lough Neagh is already a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its bird assemblage under the related Birds Directive. Article 7 of the Habitats Directive applies the same protection to SPAs as afforded to SACs. Therefore SAC designation would not materially add to the protection currently afforded to Lough Neagh.

SACs and SPAs together form a network of protected sites throughout the European Union. Collectively they are known as European or Natura 2000 sites.

A small part of the shore of the Lough has been designated as SAC for its wet woodland habitat, i.e. Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay which is one of the best examples of Annex I alluvial forests in Northern Ireland.

I am very aware of the strategic economic importance of Lough Neagh and believe that this is best sustained by a high quality natural environment.

Dangers of Driving Whilst Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment what steps his Department intends to take, over the next 12 months, to tackle the dangers of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs. **(AQW 11757/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: Subject to Executive Committee agreement, I plan to have a Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Amendment) Bill issued for consultation over the next month. The Bill will provide the powers

necessary to introduce a comprehensive package of measures to tackle drink driving, including the introduction of new, lower drink drive limits and new graduated fixed penalties together with additional enforcement powers. I will finalise the provisions of the draft Bill on foot of the outcome of that consultation and I plan to seek introduction of the draft Bill to the Assembly in December.

It is currently an offence to drive while impaired through drugs. Unlike with alcohol, however, there is no specific legislation prescribing driving with a certain level of drugs in the body. As you know, with alcohol, the police simply have to prove that a driver was above a certain limit of alcohol in the blood, breath or urine. There is no requirement to prove that the person's driving was impaired. If a drug driver is detected, however, the police must prove that driving was impaired.

The timing of new drug driving laws to align them more closely with drink driving provisions is largely dependent on the Department for Transport delivering on commitments it has given to deliver the essential scientific underpinning for new primary legislation, as well as progressing the testing and approval of new drug testing equipment. My Department is currently liaising with DfT on this work and, on completion, I will consider how best to move forward the drafting of appropriate new legislation. I would, however, hope that this would allow for relevant anti-drug drive provisions to be included in a Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill that I would plan to bring forward in 2014.

I plan to run an anti-drink driving and anti-drug driving media campaign during the summer and again during the Christmas/New Year period. The anti drink drive campaign will continue to reinforce the 'Never Ever Drink and Drive' message. The anti drug drive message encourages road users to take responsibility for their safety by challenging 'What steps would you take to stop a drug driver from wrecking your life?'

Fines Imposed on People in Breach of Environmental Requirements

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the amount of fines that have been imposed by his Department on people who are in breach of environmental requirements in (i) each of the last four years; and (ii) the last 12 months.

(AQW 11758/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), an executive agency within the Department of the Environment, aims to protect, conserve and promote the natural environment and built heritage of Northern Ireland for the benefit of present and future generations.

In carrying out its statutory functions, NIEA has obligations to regulate and monitor potentially damaging activities, respond to breaches of environmental legislation and investigate suspected environmental crime.

Once a case goes to court it is up to the magistrate to determine if NIEA has proved the case beyond all reasonable doubt and if so to set a fine appropriate to the offence. The scale and imposition of penalties and sentences is therefore a matter for the courts and not a matter for my Department.

Table A below details the total value of fines levied by the Courts for breaches of environmental requirements or pollution cases in each of the past 5 years.

TABLE A

Year	Total value of fines
2007	£53,400
2008	£259,460
2009	£303,900
2010	£114,650
2011	£151,273

Year	Total value of fines
2012 (To date)	£99,950
Total	£982,633

It should also be noted that prosecutions often take a considerable time to work their way through the court process. Therefore, while the convictions in the tables above are listed against the year in which the case was heard in court, the offences to which each case refers will almost invariably have occurred some time before (typically 12-18 months previously).

Fines Imposed on People in Breach of Environmental Requirements

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) how his Department has used the revenue collected through fines imposed on people in breach of environmental requirements in (a) each of the last four years; and (b) the last 12 months; and (ii) how his Department intends to spend the revenue in the next 12 months.

(AQW 11759/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), an executive agency within the Department of the Environment, has obligations to regulate and monitor potentially damaging activities, respond to breaches of environmental legislation and investigate suspected environmental crime. While the Agency expects full voluntary compliance, we will not hesitate to use our enforcement powers, including prosecution where deemed necessary. There is a growing body of evidence that enforcement in this mandate is escalating.

Once a case goes to court it is up to the magistrate to determine if NIEA has proved the case beyond all reasonable doubt and if so to set a fine appropriate to the offence. The scale and imposition of penalties and sentences is therefore a matter for the courts and not a matter for my Department.

Currently, fines imposed by Courts are credited by the Northern Ireland Court Service to the Treasury Consolidated Fund and paid to the Treasury. I believe this is an area where funds generated in NI should remain in NI. I will look to take this approach forward.

The Magistrate however, can also impose a payment of court costs on the polluter. Any claim for payment for investigation and clean up costs from the polluter by the Agency is always pursued independently by the Agency.

Pumping of Raw Sewage into the Sea at Ballyhornan Beach, Co Down

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment how many European directives his Department is breaching as a result of the on-going pumping of raw sewage into the sea at Ballyhornan beach, Co Down.

(AQW 11760/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Urban Waste Water Directive aims to ensure that all significant discharges of sewage are treated before they are discharged to the water environment. In particular it requires discharges of treated sewage to coastal waters from settlements of less than 10,000 population equivalent (PE) to have appropriate treatment.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has determined the appropriate treatment requirements for Ballyhornan to consist of a long sea outfall and fine screening.

Fine screening is not currently in place at Ballyhornan, which is a breach of the conditions of the Water Order Discharge Consent issued to Northern Ireland Water (NIW) for the Waste Water Treatment Works at Ballyhornan.

As a consequence of this, NIEA issued two warning letters in 2009 to NIW, followed by a postal caution in June 2011, highlighting the breach of consent. NIW has indicated that it has purchased the screens

but there are ongoing issues associated with securing the necessary land, and associated right of way agreement, which are preventing their installation.

As Ballyhornan WWTW continues to be non-compliant with its Water Order Consent, NIEA is currently in the process of preparing an Article 12 Enforcement Notice. The Notice will require that all conditions of the Department's consent are complied with by March 2013. It is an offence for any person to fail to comply with the requirements imposed by an Enforcement Notice.

I would confirm that it is not my Department, but the Department of Regional Development and NIW, that have the statutory responsibility to comply with the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. I trust that the member will acknowledge this, confirm in any comments that this is the case and further acknowledge that the assertion in AQ 11760 / 11-15 that DOE is breaching EU directives is false and a misunderstanding by the member of EU directives in this instance.

Planning Applications in the Larne West Suburbs of Larne

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 4746/08, to detail the planning applications in the Larne West suburbs of Larne, as defined in the area study published in 1992 (i) that have been approved, including the date approval was given; and (ii) that have been under consideration since April 2008.

(AQW 11767/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I attach a table updating the list, previously provided in AQW 4746/08, of approved planning applications in Larne West other than those applications in respect of individual households. There is one application for two detached dwellings currently under consideration in the defined area.

Application Reference	Date Valid	Date Decision	Application status	Proposal
F/2006/0336/F	20/10/2006	13/11/2008	Approval	Proposed development for 108 Dwellings consisting of detached, semi-detached, terrace dwellings, apartments and other associated site works.
F/2007/0329/F	31/08/2007	19/05/2009	Approval	Proposed residential development to provide 71 No. semi-detached dwellings, 94 No. terraced dwellings, 93 No. apartments and 45 No. maisonettes (303 units in total) with associated car parking and landscaping with connecting roads infrastructure. To include demolition of No. 91 Ballyboley Road, Larne and existing farm buildings.
F/2007/0360/F	05/09/2007	20/01/2009	Approval	Proposed residential development to provide 48 dwellings, 64 apartments, retail units, fast food/restaurant, public house, doctors surgery with associated car parking and landscaping with associated infrastructure

Application Reference	Date Valid	Date Decision	Application status	Proposal
F/2007/0382/F	24/09/2007	29/04/2008	Approval	Proposed amendment of previously approved residential units (F/2005/0357) to substitute 17 town houses (units 36 - 52) with 9 townhouses & 20 apartments.
F/2007/0436/O	05/11/2007	12/08/2009	Approval	Erection of district centre comprising food store, 3No. service retail units, 2No. hot food outlets, bank/society, ATM, 'wellness centre', cafe/restaurant, taxi booking office, petrol station, car and jet wash, associated access arrangements, car-parking, recycling point, servicing and landscaping works (Transport Assessment Received)
F/2007/0510/F	21/12/2007	29/06/2009	Approval	Proposed housing development for 121 units comprising of 46 apartments, 59 terrace, 10 semi-detached and 6 detached townhouses with associated car parking and amenity space (amended description).
F/2008/0105/F	26/03/2008	21/09/2009	Approval	Demolition of single storey dwelling construction of 102 residential units (38 detached, 24 semi detached, 26 townhouses & 14 apts, associated landscaping & new access onto Ballyboley Road and road improvements (Amended description and amended road alignment drawings submitted)

Application Reference	Date Valid	Date Decision	Application status	Proposal
F/2008/0349/F	03/12/2008	14/12/2010	Approval	Proposed private housing development of 19 units consisting of 2 pairs semi detached, 2 Nos block of 3 townhouses, 1 block of 4 townhouses, 1 detached and 1 block of 4 apartments, including removal of existing embankment. (AMENDED HOUSE TYPES REC'D FOR SITES 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12)

Application Reference	Date Valid	Date Decision	Application status	Proposal
F/2009/0315/F	28/10/2009	22/12/2009	Approval	Change of house type to sites 337,340 & 255 of previous approval F/2006/0336/F comprising of detached houses with garages,carports,landscaping and associated site works
F/2009/0371/F	14/12/2009	26/01/2010	Approval	Change of house types to 19 dwellings site nos 247,256,259,260,261A,262 ,263,272,275,280,281,284, 296,301A,303A,304,307,30 9A &314 of previous approval F/2006/0336/F
F/2009/0380/F	23/12/2009	18/02/2010	Approval	Change of house type to site 326 of previous approval F/2003/0376/F (double garage in lieu of single garage)
F/2010/0240/F	07/07/2010	10/01/2011	Approval	Residential development of 2 No. dwellings comprising detached houses with garages, landscaping and associated site works (change of house type to previous approval F/2009/0079/F including 1No. new detached dwelling).
F/2010/0246/F	14/07/2010	14/10/2010	Approval	Alteration of site layout from 6 No. units to 7 No. units comprised of 6 No. semi detached and 1 No. detached using an existing House type.
F/2011/0254/F	09/12/2011	22/02/2012	Approval	Proposed Change of House Type to sites 244a - 251, with a reduction in density from 17 to 11 units (previously approved under F/2006/0336/F and F/2009/0371/F) to include garages, all associated site works and the addition of a new raised table
F/2012/0020/O	27/01/2012		Pending	Proposed site for 2 no. detached dwellings and garages

Off-Site Car Parks Operating around the Belfast International Airport

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to ensure that the appropriate enforcement action is being taken to close off-site car parks operating around the Belfast International Airport without the appropriate planning permission.

(AQW 11768/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department is aware of 13 car parks that have been or currently are operating outside the lands zoned for such uses around Belfast International Airport.

As a result of effective enforcement action, 6 of the sites of unauthorised car parks in this area have ceased to operate and 1 is operating lawfully as established by the Planning Appeals Commission.

The Department continues to investigate the operation of 6 alleged unauthorised car parks, one of which has had an enforcement notice served, two are subject to planning (enforcement) appeals, one is subject to a current planning application, one has a court hearing pending and one continues to be investigated.

The Department will continue to deal with such breaches of planning control robustly and use those enforcement powers available as appropriate. To date, the Department has brought prosecutions against the operators of 2 of the remaining unauthorised car parks; both operators have been fined with 1 amassed fines totalling £40,000 from 3 successful prosecutions.

I keep this matter under close scrutiny in an attempt to ensure breaches are addressed.

Illegal Car Parks around Belfast International Airport

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment what action the Driver and Vehicle Agency is taking against the owners of vehicles that do not meet road traffic regulations, but are operating from illegal car parks around Belfast International Airport.

(AQW 11769/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has primary responsibility for the enforcement of regulations that pertain to the use of buses and coaches on Northern Ireland's roads.

A series of enforcement spot checks have been carried out in recent months on passenger carrying vehicles used for the conveyance of passengers travelling from car parks located close to the Belfast International Airport. During these operations 4 car park operators were detected operating courtesy vehicles without proper PSV licenses or insurance. These detections have resulted in prosecution files being prepared for the Public Prosecution Service covering a variety of offences including: using a public service vehicle without a road service licence in force; using a public service vehicle without a public service licence in force; using a public service vehicle without a certificate of motor insurance in force; and driving a public service vehicle without being the holder of an appropriate licence.

The Department will continue to monitor this situation in conjunction with the Belfast International Airport Constabulary and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and where vehicles are detected that do not meet road traffic regulations appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

I believe that DOE planning and DOE DVA have critical responsibilities to ensure full and proper compliance with the law. I intend to ensure both live up to these duties.

Payment of Invoices

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what percentage of invoices received by each of his Department's arm's-length bodies, in the last twelve months, were paid within 30 days of receipt.

(AQW 11829/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I would refer Mr Weir to my previous combined answer to AQW 11230-11233, which was raised by David McClarty. That answer addresses this question.

Pumping of Raw Sewage into the Sea at Ballyhornan Beach, Co Down

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the extent to which marine life is affected by the on-going pumping of raw sewage into the sea at Ballyhornan, Co Down.

(AQW 11844/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Experience of monitoring the impact of coastal outfall sites by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), suggests that such impacts are minimal and localised.

The closest sampling point undertaken by NIEA under Water Framework Directive (WFD) or Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), is approximately 2km North-East of the outfall at Craiglewey Rocks. This site is classified under the WFD as being at High status. WFD classification covers five status classes; Bad, Poor, Moderate, Good and High status.

NIEA intend to conduct a survey of the Killard Point ASSI to

8 June 2012 as the next available low spring tide suitable for a full assessment. This intertidal assessment of flora and fauna will include consideration of the possible effects of the sewage outfall at Ballyhornan.

Personal Occupancy Conditions

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment, for each of the last three years, to detail the cases where banks or building societies have been successful in their applications to have Personal Occupancy Conditions discharged from approved planning applications, due to lenders having to repossess properties following a mortgagee defaulting on a loan.

(AQW 11875/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Policy CTY6 (Personal and Domestic Circumstances) of Planning Policy Statement 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside allows for a dwelling to be permitted in the countryside for the long term needs of an applicant, where there are compelling and site specific reasons for this related to the applicant's personal or domestic circumstances.

All permissions granted under Policy CTY 6 will be subject to a condition restricting the occupation of the dwelling to a named individual and their dependents.

Article 28 of the 1991 Order provides for an application to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached to a planning permission.

Table 1 shows the number of planning applications approved for the removal of a planning condition under Article 28 in each of the last three years. These totals include applications for the removal of personal occupancy conditions.

TABLE 1: ARTICLE 28 APPROVALS IN EACH OF THE LAST 3 YEARS

Year	No. of Article 28 Applications Approved
2009/2010	251
2010/2011	222
2011/2012*	132

* The year 2011/2012 provides data up until 31 December 2011

The Department does not have any records of a bank or building society having submitted a planning application under Article 28 in each of the last three years to have a condition removed from a previous planning approval.

I recognise that there may be a small number of cases where the occupancy condition has given rise to difficulties. I am looking further at the issue.

Planning Applications for Wind Turbines

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of (i) wind turbines; and (ii) planning applications for wind turbines that have been approved, in the (a) Ballymoney; (b) Moyle; and (c) Ballymena district council areas.

(AQW 11926/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The table below shows the number of single wind turbines and wind farms submitted and approved in the Ballymoney, Moyle, and Ballymena district council areas during the period of 2002/2003 to 2011/2012.

TABLE: NUMBER OF SINGLE WIND TURBINES AND WIND FARMS RECEIVED AND APPROVED PER COUNCIL AREA

Council Areas	Single Wind Turbines		Wind Farms	
	Apps Received 2002/2003 to 2011/2012	Approvals 2002/2003 to 2011/2012	Apps Received 2002/2003 to 2011/2012	Approvals 2002/2003 to 2011/2012
Ballymoney	83	46	10	7
Moyle	145	14	2	1
Ballymena	113	49	12	4
Total	341	109	24	12

All Statistics provided relate to applications received and decisions issued on planning applications for Single Wind Turbines for the period 2002/2003 to 2011/2012

All Statistics provided for 2011/2012 relate to applications received and decisions made in first 3 quarters of 2012 up to 31 December 2011. They are the latest statistics currently available and may be subject to change following the publication of the 2011/2012 Annual Statistical Report.

Board Members of Public Bodies

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of the Environment 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 11950/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As Minister of the Environment I have responsibility for appointing individuals to the following public bodies:

- The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC);
- The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (LGSC);
- The Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC);
- The Historic Buildings Council (HBC) and
- The Historic Monuments Council (HMC).

Members of these bodies are not employed by the public body but are appointed by the Minister of the Environment through a public appointments process based on the principles of openness, transparency and merit. All of these posts, apart from Chairmanship of NILGOSC, LGSC and CNCC, are unpaid and members sit on these bodies on a voluntary capacity. Some of these members are former, and indeed current, civil and public servants and this is detailed in the table below.

Public Body	Number of Members*	Paid Civil and Public Servants		Unpaid Civil and Public Servants		% of membership
		Former	Current	Former	Current	
NILGOSC	12	1	-	2	6	75%
LGSC	7	1	-	1	2	57%
CNCC	14	-	-	-	2	14%
HBC	18	-	-	3	2	28%
HMC	15	-	-	3	4	47%

* Including the Chair

Civil and public servants comprise a larger majority of the membership of NILGOSC and LGSC due to the specialised remit of these bodies. NILGOSC administers the Local Government Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland and membership of the scheme is open to employees working in local government and to employees in the public sector who are not eligible to join another scheme. Legislation requires that five members of the Board are to be appointed after consultation with organisations recognised as representative of employer bodies and five members are to be appointed after consultation with organisations recognised as being representative of employees, the remaining two members are independent. These legislative requirements result in a higher proportion of civil and public servants appointed as members to the Committee.

LGSC provides professional services and advice on human resource issues to district councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Membership is representative of the Commission's client base and therefore includes a higher percentage of civil and public servants.

Salt Caverns for Gas Storage in the East Antrim Area

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the salt caverns for gas storage in the East Antrim area; and the impact that the hypersaline discharge might have on the environment.

(AQW 11984/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am aware that a company, Islandmagee Storage Limited, is seeking planning approval to build an underground natural gas storage facility which will have its above ground facilities near Ballylumford power Station, in Islandmagee, County Antrim.

A planning decision has not yet been made on this proposal, however should planning approval be granted a number of statutory environmental permissions will be required from NIEA prior to construction or operation of this proposal, namely:

- a marine licence is required to control the deposition of materials below the Mean High Water Spring tide mark, under Part 4 (Marine Licensing) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This licence, if granted, will include conditions to protect the aquatic environment during construction of the proposed caverns. A separate licence will also be required for the proposed sea outfall pipe;
- a discharge consent, issued under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, will be required for the proposed hypersaline discharge from this proposed development;
- An abstraction/impoundment licence, issued under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, will be required for the proposed water abstraction aspect of this proposal.

As part of the application process for each of these statutory environmental permissions my Department will ensure that the impacts of the proposal are fully considered and assessed in order to protect and conserve the aquatic environment.

I am also aware of another gas storage proposal being put forward by two companies, Bord Gais Eireann and Storengy. This project is not as advanced as the Islandmagee Storage Limited proposal however all relevant planning and environmental requirements will be applied to this project also, should it proceed to a more advanced stage.

Regulation of Deep Geothermal Projects

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of whether current planning policies are sufficient for the regulation of deep geothermal projects, or whether new policies would be required.

(AQW 12596/11-15)

Mr Attwood: PPS18 'Renewable Energy' sets out the main considerations that my Department will take into account in assessing proposals for renewable energy and heat generating facilities. PPS18 aims to facilitate the siting of deep geothermal facilities where such proposals will not result in an unacceptable adverse impact upon for example, local natural resources such as water quality.

Given geothermal and other energy possibilities, I will ensure that all appropriate planning and environmental standards are upheld at all stages of any proposal. If I believe, further assessment of regulatory requirements is needed, I will consider the issue.

Water Rates for the Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin sites at Marlbank, Co Fermanagh

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the cost to his Department of water rates for the Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin sites at Marlbank, Co Fermanagh in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 12607/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The total cost to NIEA for water rates for Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin sites at Marlbank, Co Fermanagh for the financial years 2007-08 through to 2011-12 is £163.64. This includes water rates from November 2006 to May 2007.

Our records indicate that there was no payment for water rates at any NIEA properties including Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin prior to 2007.

The Companies Act 2006 states that the Accounting Records of a company must be kept 'for six years from the date on which they are made'. It is the policy of the Department to keep financial records for 7 years. Consequently NIEA does not have any financial transaction reports dating before 2005.

Fencing Repairs for the Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin Sites at Marlbank, Co Fermanagh

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the cost to his Department of fencing repairs for the Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin sites at Marlbank, Co Fermanagh in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 12609/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The cost to NIEA of fencing repairs for the Killykeeghan and Crossmurrin sites at Marlbank, Co Fermanagh, is not available as a unit cost in individual years. This is because fencing materials were purchased in bulk and used on several different locations for subsequent years.

In previous correspondence (Our reference DO2-10-615) dated 15 November 2010 my Department, in a reply to a direct question on fencing costs, indicated: "The total amount the NIEA has spent on repair and replacement of boundary structures from 2006 to 2010 is approximately eight thousand pounds. This figure includes contractor costs, NIEA labour, costed at current rates, and all costs for materials, though some of these material costs may be attributable to compartments other than the grazed lands."

Our records for 2005-06 do not show any expenditure against this item. NIEA does not have any transaction reports dating before 2005. This would be in accordance with the PRONI requirement to retain financial information (7 years).

There has been no expenditure on boundary structures at Crossmurrin and Killykeeghan since 2010.

Bye Laws for Minerstown Beach

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment when he will confirm the bye laws for Minerstown Beach.

(AQW 12641/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Since receiving the bye-laws for Minerstown Beach, officials have worked closely with Down District Council to reach a version of the bye-laws which is suitable for confirmation and which is agreeable to all parties.

Bye-laws suitable for confirmation are:

- consistent and not in conflict with any legislation;
- clear and certain, so that members of the public will be able to understand what is covered by the bye-laws, and their responsibility to comply with the bye-laws;
- reasonable and not unduly restrictive;
- intra vires; and
- enforceable.

The Department is awaiting further information from the Council, requested in March 2012, to enable the bye-laws to be finalised.

Bye Laws for Minerstown Beach

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment why it has taken his Department four years to process the bye laws for Minerstown Beach.

(AQW 12643/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The bye-laws for Minerstown Beach were received by the Department in February 2009.

When the bye-laws were received, Down District Council did not have the necessary power to make them. The enabling powers are in section 82 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, which does not extend to Northern Ireland automatically. In August 2007, on a separate issue, the Council was informed that in order to make bye-laws for its seashores, it would have to apply to the Department for an Order to extend section 82 of the 1907 Act to its district. The Council made the necessary application in October 2009.

It was over forty years since such an Order had been made and as such, officials worked closely with Departmental Solicitor's Office to make the Order. This process was completed in January 2011 and an Order was made, enabling the Council to proceed with the bye-laws for Minerstown Beach.

By making bye-laws, a council is creating offences which are punishable on summary conviction. Since the bye-laws were received, the Department has worked closely with the Council and Departmental Solicitor's Office to reach a draft which is agreeable to all parties and which is within the council's powers to make.

The Department is currently awaiting further information from the Council, requested in March 2012.

The Department will continue to work closely with the Council towards producing a final draft of the bye-laws that are suitable for confirmation. The time period has been considerable and a shorter timeframe should have been achievable.

Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Mr Agnew asked Minister of the Environment (i) which of the 249 clauses of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 have already been commenced and why these have been prioritised over other parts of

the Act (ii) to provide the proposed schedule of commencement orders for the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, and (iii) to outline when Part 1, section 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 will be commenced and the measures he intends to take to ensure that the promotion of well-being is integrated into the decisions and policies of the Department.

(AQW 12675/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

(i) The following sections of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 have been commenced:

Section of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	Date of Commencement
Section 250 (Interpretation)	Commenced on Royal Assent (4 May 2011)
Section 251(Further Provision)	
Section 254 (Commencement)	
Section 255 (Short Title)	
Section 249(Increase Penalties for certain offences under the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991)	Commenced on Royal Assent (4 May 2011).
Section 247 (Regulations and Orders)	Commenced on 1 December 2011.
Section 248 (Amendment of certain time periods in relation to enforcement.	Commenced on 1 December 2011.

The reason these measures have been commenced is because I believe it is important to fast track those elements of planning reform that are not dependent or contingent on the transfer of planning powers to councils. In addition, the Environment Committee requested that the Department ensure that elements of the Planning Act which can be implemented in advance of Local Government Reform are not delayed.

- (ii) Commencement of other reforms and provisions within the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 is dependent on the transfer of planning powers to councils and the development of associated subordinate legislation and guidance. When subordinate legislation and guidance is drafted a schedule of commencement orders will be put in place.
- (iii) Part 1, section 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 will be commenced upon transfer of planning powers to councils. I intend, however, in advance of the transfer of powers to councils to bring forward a Bill that will accelerate the implementation of a number of reforms to be administered by the Department. This will introduce the requirement for the Department to produce a statement of its policy for involving the community in its development plan and planning control functions within one year of the section coming into operation.

The Planning Bill will also introduce a requirement on the Department to carry out its plan making and policy functions with the objective of “furthering sustainable development and promoting or improving well-being”. The proposed single, strategic planning policy document will, inter alia, address how well-being considerations will be taken into account in the planning system.

Cleaning of Crawfordsburn Beach and Country Park

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment why there has been no cleaning of Crawfordsburn beach and Country Park in recent weeks.

(AQW 12677/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Prior to 31 March 2012 a contractor has been employed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to clean the Crawfordsburn Beach and Park. Since the expiry of the contract for this, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has continuously been using its staff to clean the

Crawfordsburn Beach and Park. Indeed around 8 tonnes of litter was lifted by them during the last week of May.

NIEA has been using contractors to lift litter and dog foul and to cut grass and effect repairs at its properties over several years. The contract for this expired on 31 March 2012 and a replacement contract was tendered but not awarded as a result of the threat of legal challenges to the procurement processes.

NIEA has employed interim measures to have its properties cleaned and the grass cut while seeking to resolve the threat of legal challenges and to retender for site maintenance services.

The NIEA Site Maintenance Contract which was awarded in 2007 expired on 31 March 2012. The contract for cleaning Crawfordsburn Beach and Country Park was awarded to Bryan Hynds Services Ltd (Portadown). This company was subsequently acquired by The Landscaping Centre Ltd (Ballyclare) which took responsibility for the obligations under the contract.

NIEA sought to tender for site maintenance services so that a new contract would commence at the expiry of the previous one. The services were tendered but following the evaluation and DFP's Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) publishing the intention to award the contract, several legal challenges were made to the processes employed by CPD in procuring the contract on behalf of NIEA. This resulted in CPD advising NIEA against awarding the contract to avoid facing subsequent legal writs and court cases.

Since the expiry of the previous contract, Park staff at Crawfordsburn have been performing all the litter collection since 1 April 2012, at times starting as early as 6:00am to get to grips with the problem before the public started arriving later in the morning. They start with emptying bins and lifting obvious litter in the areas of high public use and then move to deal with more remote locations during the day as resources and time permit.

Aside from using its own staff, NIEA has now been included in the scope of an existing CPD Property Maintenance contract to lift litter and dog foul and cut grass.

Contract to Clean Crawfordsburn Beach and Country Park

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail when, and to which company, the last contract was awarded to clean Crawfordsburn Beach and Country Park.

(AQW 12681/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The last contract to clean Crawfordsburn Beach and Country Park was awarded to Bryan Hynds Services Limited in April 2007. Bryan Hynds Services Limited was acquired in 2011 by The Landscaping Centre Limited which also took responsibility for the obligations under the contract.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether Planning NI is required to publish details of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO); (ii) where the details are published; and (iii) what is the status of a TPO if details are not published.

(AQW 12765/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has a statutory duty under Article 64 (duty of Department in relation to trees) of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 to secure the preservation of trees.

Before a tree preservation order (TPO) is confirmed by the Department, notice of the making of the order shall be given to the owners and occupiers of land affected by the order.

Notice is served on the owner of the property and copy of the order will be attached to a protected tree in an obvious location and neighbours will also be notified by letter. There is not a publication in a newspaper.

A statutory charge will be attached to the land affected by the TPO and details can be found by an official search of the local land charges register.

The Department holds details of all TPOs and these can be made available for inspection by contacting the Tree Officer in the Area Planning Office. Work is ongoing on placing TPO maps and an Orders Register on the DOE Planning website.

Any person who contravenes a TPO by cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree, or wilfully damaging, topping or lopping a tree is guilty of an offence under Article 66 of the Order. Any person found guilty of an offence under Article 66(1) will be liable on summary conviction to a fine.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether a Tree Preservation Order could be imposed on a laurel, given that it is considered an invasive species.

(AQW 12815/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is a statutory protection afforded to trees under the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

All types of tree can be protected. The TPO can cover anything from a single tree to woodlands. Normally, unless a Woodland TPO is proposed, only trees over 3.5m in height are considered for a TPO. Hedges, bushes and shrubs will not be protected.

Laurel is generally considered to be a shrub and therefore will not normally be subject to a TPO.

Breaching a Tree Preservation Order

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether a person who is accused of breaching a Tree Preservation Order, has the right to know who made the complaint.

(AQW 12901/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Regardless of the nature of the breach of planning control, the Department's policy has been not to release either verbally or on request any personal details which would identify a complainant in an enforcement case. As such, complainants have a reasonable expectation that their identity will not be disclosed.

As you may be aware, requests for information about enforcement investigations are exempt under Section 39 of the FOI Act 2000, Environmental Information. As such, these requests would be considered under the Environmental Impact Regulations (EIR) 2004.

Regulation 13 of the EIR prohibits the Department from disclosing information which would breach any of the principles contained in the Data Protection Act 1998. As complainants have a reasonable expectation that their identity will not be disclosed, the Department would be breaching the first principle which requires the Department to process personal data "fairly and lawfully".

Listed Buildings: Belfast

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to protect listed buildings and buildings of architectural merit in the city of Belfast.

(AQO 2179/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department protects buildings of 'special architectural and historic interest' by listing. There are currently 1077 listed buildings in the Belfast City Council area (1974 boundaries) i.e., almost 13% of the total of 8,500 in listed buildings throughout Northern Ireland.

The Department also protects buildings which contribute to the architectural and historic character of an area, through the designation of: Conservation Areas (CAs); Areas of Townscape Character (ATCs); and Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs). There are currently 13 CAs in the Belfast City Council Area,

and a total of 52 ATCs, and 67 LLPAs are proposed within the Area, in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP). This will be a significant increase in protection.

I have provided support to NIEA's Second Survey of historic buildings (which was due to be suspended last year) to allow it to review the buildings of Belfast. A third of the city was surveyed last year with a further third programmed for survey this year. This will help ensure that all, appropriate, buildings in the city are protected as 'listed buildings' and that the protection of already listed buildings is improved by: increased knowledge for decision making; and increased records to help with enforcement.

The Department also offers grant aid for the repair of the historic fabric of listed buildings and this funding is programmed to continue. Last year I was able to increase the funds available to this scheme by 40%, which allowed the capping of individual schemes to be raised to £150K. 23 listed buildings in the city have current letters of offer for assistance, totalling an investment of £3.1million with a balance to pay of £1.1m. The Department is also currently processing applications for a further 13 schemes.

Grant aid has also been made available to charities to help them to purchase buildings at risk, with the aim of restoring them. 11 such buildings have been purchased in the Belfast City Council Area since 2008.

Last year, I was also able to provide £400k of support to the Belfast Building Preservation Trust to enable them to carry out urgent stabilisation works to Carlisle Memorial Church. This support went beyond the repair provisions of the normal grant scheme because of the urgent condition and setting of the building. I have asked that similar funding for other buildings is considered, as part of a current review of the scheme.

In the last year I have also held three Heritage Crime Summits. These have highlighted 12 key action points which are being taken forward. These range from much better coordination with the Police, Fire Brigade and District Councils to a determination to take action where negotiations with owners have not led to progress.

Five Urgent Works Notices have been issued as a result of the summits. In addition, two more prepared within Belfast did not issue as owners responded to a final warning. This is seven in nine months in contrast to two in the preceding 38 years.

Meanwhile Uses have also emerged as vital component of ensuring that risk is reduced and the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society has been commissioned to provide advice which will be published this year. I have also engaged with DCAL's Ministerial Advisory Group, on Architecture and the Built Environment, on the issue.

Finally, it is important that Government leads by example and I am launching revised guidance in this area tomorrow (Tuesday 19th June) at Hillsborough Courthouse ie the Protocol on the Care of the Government Historic Estate. Government Departments and agencies are required to look after not only listed buildings but all heritage assets in their care, in an exemplary way. Each Department will have to report on the management of their assets to NIEA by June 2013. They will then compile a summary report which will be submitted to the Environment Committee of this Assembly by September 2013. It is estimated that there are 121 listed buildings owned by the public sector – including local Councils etc – in Belfast and I am keen that all of these buildings should be seen to be well protected and looked after.

Grange Lane Bridge, Mallusk

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of the Environment what contact he has had with other Departments in relation to the bridge at Grange Lane, Mallusk.

(AQO 2184/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am very much aware of the problems facing the residents affect and the concerns they have about the state of their bridge. The matter has been raised with me and I will work with others to assess how to resolve the issue, if possible.

Against that background, I tasked a senior departmental official to meet with Danny Kinahan MLA and a number of residents on 5 April 2012 to explain the Department's position and to see if there might be a solution to the difficulty.

My Department can provide emergency funding in relation to expenditure incurred by a council in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property, or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience once an emergency or disaster has taken place. Such funding is not available where there has been an ongoing issue such as the gradual deterioration. My Department can only provide funding to local councils and has no powers to provide funding to private owners.

I had previously raised with DFP a similar issue and was advised by DFP that "damage caused to private bridges and indeed private access roads is beyond the remit of the current Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme" and that "inconvenience suffered as the result of loss and damage to second homes, caravans, motor vehicles, access roads, and indeed bridges is beyond the remit of the Scheme".

However, I am prepared to continue working with others on this issue and see if a solution can be developed.

Planning Policy Statement 21

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of the Environment when the review of PPS 21 will be completed.
(AQO 2185/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The review of the operation of PPS21 is approaching conclusion. I am currently considering the matter.

Marine Bill: Recreational Activities

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment how he will ensure that Clause 24 of the Marine Bill, if implemented, will not excessively limit country sports and other recreational activities in marine areas.

(AQO 2188/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Clause 24 gives the Department the power to make byelaws for the protection of Marine Conservation Zone's features. Byelaws will manage unregulated activities, be specific to the site and made when such activities are deemed detrimental to the feature(s).

Draft byelaws will be subject to full public consultation and inclusive stakeholder engagement.

It is envisaged that most MCZs will be designated primarily for the protection of seabed features and, as such, any related byelaws will have little impact on country sports and other recreational activities.

The Department already has similar byelaw making powers provided by Article 21 of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 for the protection of marine nature reserves.

The only byelaws developed under this legislation are currently being finalised and will come into operation shortly. These byelaws will regulate anchoring, mooring and diving in certain areas of Strangford Lough which was designated as a Marine Nature Reserve on 4 July 1995.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015.

(AQO 2189/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) delivered all outstanding reports to my Department relating to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) Public Inquiry at the end of January 2012.

It is the normal practice for the PAC Reports to be published at the same time that a development plan is finalised, and after my Department has considered the recommendations made by the Commission. However, in the case of BMAP, and the Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan, I decided to depart from normal practice and publish the PAC Reports, in order to provide greater certainty in the current economic situation. Consequently, the reports were published on 6 June 2012, and they are now available on the planning website <http://www.planningni.gov.uk/> I must stress that the reports should be read in conjunction with my Ministerial Statement which sets out the reasons for my decision, and explains the status of the reports.

It is important to recognise that my Department is ultimately responsible for making the final decision on the recommendations made by the PAC, and that a dedicated Team will continue to focus on the adoption of BMAP and complete the process that will result in the finalisation of the Plan next year.

Public Buildings: Family Car Parking

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment how he proposes to use the planning system to ensure that family car parking spaces are provided, in new public sector buildings, where car parks are accessible to the general public.

(AQO 2190/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The provision of parent and child parking spaces is a material consideration in the assessment of individual planning proposals where public car parking is required.

When determining planning applications in relation to parking issues, DOE Planning will pay particular regard to current planning policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 3, Access Movement and Parking. PPS 3 states that for retail, leisure and community uses consideration should be given by developers to the provision of 'parent and child' parking spaces.

It has recently been brought to my attention that there has been a low number of such parent and child parking spaces being provided for within approved health care facilities. I have, therefore, instructed officials to highlight this issue to staff to ensure that existing planning policy and guidance is being fully implemented.

To facilitate this new guidance will be issued to all staff to reinforce the need to increase the level of 'parent and child' parking spaces in line with existing policy and guidance.

That said, I have instructed officials to look further at this matter and at the dimensions of car parking spaces generally.

Mineral Resources

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has identified, through the recently published mineral resources map, any potential commercial opportunities.

(AQO 2191/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Minerals Resources Map of Northern Ireland was launched on 24 May 2012. Separate maps have been prepared for each county. The maps will provide the Department, the minerals industry and local communities with a powerful tool to visualise the distribution of mineral resources across Northern Ireland and to assist future decision making.

The purpose of the maps is not to enable the Department to identify potential commercial opportunities; that is a matter for the minerals industry itself. But I would envisage that the maps will certainly assist the industry in formulating its strategies for future utilisation of Northern Ireland's mineral reserves.

MOT Test: Vintage Cars

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of the Environment whether he would consider exempting pre -1960 vintage cars from the MOT test, as is planned in England.

(AQO 2192/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has consulted on possible exemption of certain categories of historic vehicles from MOT testing; and the Environment Committee at its meeting on 22 March 2012 considered the synopsis of responses to the Department's consultation. The responses indicated that there is broad support for exemption of pre-1960 vehicles from periodic testing.

The Committee was content with the Department's proposed way forward, which is to develop policy on the basis of the consultation responses that would make use of the exemption in Roadworthiness Directive 2009/40/EC concerning the periodic testing of pre-1960 vehicles. The Department is progressing its detailed consideration of the appropriate way forward, to ensure that the requirements of the Directive are met in the detail of the policy.

Small Businesses: Advertising Signage

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will urge Planning Service to reduce enforcement action against small businesses which advertise using modest signage.

(AQO 2193/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The statutory requirement for advertisements is set out in the Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992.

The regulations allow for a level of advertisement to be "deemed" as granted if it complies with certain conditions such as size, height, illumination and number of advertisements relating to the profession, business or trade at the premises where it is displayed. The full details of the Regulations are available to view on the Planning website www.planningni.gov.uk. Individuals and companies have a responsibility to ensure that they adhere to and comply with the legislation.

I take the breach of planning control seriously. Staff will continue to assess whether to initiate court action in relation to such breaches, guided by the impact of the unauthorised advertisement on amenity and public safety and where the unauthorised advertisement is considered unacceptable, the Department will normally pursue court action.

Where it is considered that an unauthorised advertisement would be acceptable, subject to conditions, the approach of the Department will be to advise the owners or occupiers of the land to submit, without undue delay, a retrospective application for consent to display an advertisement, together with the appropriate fee.

It is not acceptable for individuals and companies to deliberately flout planning regulations and where it is considered expedient, my Department will continue to take action to secure the removal of signs which cause concerns in terms of amenity and public safety. There is also a wider responsibility on the Department to ensure that we respect our natural and built environment.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Rates Rebate for Ballylumford Power Station

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how he intends to ensure that Larne Borough Council and its ratepayers will not suffer financially as a result of the claim for a rates rebate for Ballylumford Power Station.

(AQW 12457/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): As Minister, I cannot interfere in the valuation process of individual properties, or any associated appeal. The impact of any changes on the rates base, positive or negative, must legally be borne by both the district council and the Executive.

I recognise, however, the sudden, substantial and exceptional impact the revision in the Valuation List to Ballylumford Power Station may have on the district revenue rate base and the genuine concerns of the Borough Council about their ability to deliver essential local services.

In this regard we need to be mindful that we are in the early stages of the rate year and as rate revenues ebb and flow it is difficult to predict with any degree of certainty what the end of year position will be for the Council in terms of revenue finalisation. However, my Officials in Land and Property Services (LPS) have assured me that they will look sympathetically at any problems that might arise for the Council in the event that a clawback situation arises at the end of the 2012-2013 rate year.

Clearly we would all want to avoid a situation that may lead to unplanned cuts in front line services particularly if the loss was not something the Council could have predicted when district rates were being struck for this rate year.

Should the Ballylumford loss lead to an exceptional clawback situation then LPS will seek to cushion that impact by staggering the clawback over more than one year. LPS officials will arrange to meet with the Council to discuss the position and potential resolution of any clawback situation. That meeting could also be used to discuss a range of issues and possible options to increase the Council's revenue income between now and 31 March 2013 and thereby reduce to a minimum the potential for clawback in the 2013 finalisation process.

QUANGOs

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what plans he has to reduce (i) the number of QUANGOs; and (ii) the operational cost of QUANGOs.

(AQW 12540/11-15)

Mr Wilson: DFP has 5 small Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) and the Department has provided information to the Budget Review Group to inform their recommendations as part of its review of ALBs across all Departments.

Details of the Department's ALBs, the functions they perform and the associated costs are included in the table overleaf.

Although the cost of ALBs does not represent a significant proportion of the DFP's budget, the department continually examines the potential for efficiencies in all areas of its business and will continue to consider the position following further advice in relation to the wider review of ALBs.

Arm's Length Body	Function	Approx Annual cost
Public Service Commission (PSC)	To make recommendations to government on the guiding principles and steps necessary to safeguard the interests of staff and to ensure their smooth transfer to new organisations as a consequence of decisions on the Review of Public Administration.	£100,000
Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee (NIBRAC)	Statutory body provided for under Article 4 of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 to advise the Department on the amendment of building regulations and other associated matters.	£3,000 - £5,000

Arm's Length Body	Function	Approx Annual cost
Statistics Advisory Committee (SAC)	Advisory body established under the Statistics of Trade and Employment (NI) Order 1988 to advise NI Departments on all matters relating to the collection and disclosure of statistical information from businesses.	£500
Lay Observer for Northern Ireland	Established under the Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 and Solicitors (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 to comment on the process used by the Law Society and on the quality of service provided.	£25,000
Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) Governance Group	To monitor the service delivery of the PCSPS(NI), including involvement in actuarial reviews of the scheme, to consider and report to DFP on options for dealing with possible future cost increases.	£1,000

Departmental Internships

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many internships are available in his Department; and if none, what plans he has to introduce an internship scheme.

(AQW 12552/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There are no interns in DFP at present. Applications for the Queens University Internship 2012/13 are currently being dealt with by Corporate HR, which coordinates applications for internships within the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Government Procurement Cards

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) whether any civil servants have the use of Government procurement cards; (ii) how much has been spent in each of the last three years through the use of cards; (iii) what systems are in place to monitor the use of cards; and (iv) what limits are set for the use of cards.

(AQW 12560/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Department of Finance and Personnel currently holds 3 Government procurement cards (prior to 2011-12 the Department held 6 Government procurement cards; 3 of which were cancelled in 2011). One card is utilised to purchase urgent construction supplies to negate potential health and safety issues, and the other cards are used to book official travel.

Spend through the use of cards in each of the last three years is as follows:

2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
287,174.30	205,462.57	203,722.98

Use of the cards is monitored by the maintenance of transaction logs which are reconciled monthly upon receipt of bank statements by the line manager.

The limits for the cards currently used to book official travel are set to £15,000 and £45,000 respectively.

The limit for the card used for construction supplies is set at £500 and is restricted to relevant categories of expenditure.

This response is provided for the Department of Finance and Personnel only, as information on the procurement cards held across the wider Civil Service and arm's-length bodies is not held centrally and individual departments should be contacted directly for their information.

Special EU Programmes Body

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the groups which are currently, or have been, in breach of letters of offer from the Special EU Programmes Body; (ii) what action is being taken to recover grant aid paid under letters of offer; and (iii) the amount of grant aid paid to each group.

(AQW 12561/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The term 'irregularity' i.e. a breach of letter of offer condition covers actions ranging from the loss of original documentation (invoices, receipts, quotations etc) to fraudulent activity.

The term 'reportable irregularity' refers to an irregularity that either involves suspected fraudulent activity or whose value is greater than £8,695 (€10,000)¹

Within the PEACE III Programme there are currently two projects with open reportable irregularities. The value of the irregularities currently being investigated is around £45,000 from total project values of some £325,000. As these investigations are ongoing it would not be appropriate to name the projects in question.

SEUPB has withdrawn PEACE III funding from four organisations in respect of seven separate projects. In each case, the full value of each Letter of Offer has been disallowed, and all of the funding that had been paid to the project is therefore eligible for recovery. No funds have been recovered to date. This information has been reported in full detail in AWQ 10363/11-15.

There has been one closed reportable irregularity relating to incorrect apportionment methodology and this has seen approximately £24,000 recovered from the project. The project Letter of Offer was not withdrawn as the errors made were not viewed as a 'serious breach.'

Within the INTERREG IVA Programme there are no projects with open or closed reportable irregularities.

1 A planning rate of £1=€1.15 has been used

Cycle to Work Scheme

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the extension of the Cycle to Work Scheme to the Civil Service.

(AQW 12588/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Cycle to Work Scheme will be launched on 22 June 2012 which is 'Bike to Work Day'. Civil Servants: Dismissed or Sacked

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many Civil Servants have been (i) dismissed; and (ii) sacked, in each of the last three years; and for what reason.

(AQW 12638/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested is provided in the following table broken down by reason for dismissal and financial year. The overall figures presented include both industrial and non-industrial staff for the period.

Year	Disciplinary	Inefficiency - Performance	Inefficiency - Sickness Absence	Total
2009/10	5	0	13	18
2010/11	25	2	22	49

Year	Disciplinary	Inefficiency - Performance	Inefficiency - Sickness Absence	Total
2011/12	23	5	41	69
Total	53	7	76	136

QUANGOS

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many QUANGOS, that are attached to his Department, have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

(AQW 12654/11-15)

Mr Wilson: My department has one arm's length body which was created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

HMO and Non-HMO Properties

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why a distinction was not made between HMO and non-HMO properties in the determination of Land and Property Services' evaluations in 2005 and 2007, which resulted in questionable levels of rates for Stranmillis Properties, particularly in the Sandymount area.

(AQW 12684/11-15)

Mr Wilson: No distinction was made between what is referred to as HMO and non HMO properties, as the property transaction information gathered in 2004/2005 for the 2007 domestic revaluation did not suggest such a differentiation. At the time of this exercise the planning policy was evolving and its impact on values (if any) during this period was inconclusive.

Civil Servants in the Rates Office in Londonderry

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) how many civil servants work in the Rates Office in Londonderry; (ii) how many are in domestic rates arrears for (a) 6 months; (b) 12 months; (c) 18 months; (d) 24 months; and (e) 30 months or more; and (iii) the total cost of these arrears.

(AQW 12729/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Twenty one (21) civil servants work in Londonderry - on rate related duties for Land & Property Services (LPS).

In relation to your request for (ii) and (iii), LPS are unable to provide the number of LPS personnel, based in Londonderry, who are in rating arrears. To enable LPS to collate and provide these figures, each individual staff member's personal rating account would have to be viewed and interrogated. In this instance, therefore, LPS would determine that it would be discriminatory to release this specific information.

The Data Protection Act 1998 clearly states - For data to be processed legally, it must not lead to any kind of discrimination and should not go against any other laws such as the Human Rights Act 1998.

Civil Servants: Long-Term Sick

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the average percentage of civil servants who have been on long-term sick leave, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12772/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The percentage of civil servants who have been on long-term sickness absence in each of the last 5 available years is provided in the table below. Long-term sickness absence is defined as lasting more than 20 consecutive working days. The figure for 2011/12 will not be available until the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) issue their annual publication on sickness absence in the NICS.

PERCENTAGE OF STAFF IN THE NICS WITH 1 OR MORE SPELLS OF LONG-TERM ABSENCE

Year	Percentage of staff	Notes
2010/11	10.8%	Non-Industrial and Industrial staff
2009/10	10.4%	Non-Industrial and Industrial staff
2008/09	10.2%	Non-Industrial only
2007/08	11.4%	Non-Industrial only
2006/07	12.3%	Non-Industrial only

The increase in 2009/10 was in part due to the inclusion of Industrial staff. The main reason for the increase in 2010/11 was the inclusion of staff from the Department of Justice and the Public Prosecution Service.

Northern Ireland Annual Business Survey

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the publication threshold for the Northern Ireland Annual Business Survey in (i) 2009; (ii) 2010; (iii) 2011; and (iv) 2012.

(AQW 12784/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The publication threshold for Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry is determined by the requirements of the Statistics of Trade and Employment (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. Article 5(a) of the 1988 Order prohibits the disclosure of “the number of returns received with respect to the production of any article if that number is less than 5.”

Additional disclosure control methods are employed to protect the confidentiality of individual business data in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and associated guidance on the confidentiality of official statistics. These take into account the relative share which individual businesses contribute to a published total. Precise details of the disclosure control method are not released in line with the guidance, to minimise the risk of unauthorised disclosure.

If any of these primary suppression thresholds are met, the data is not released. A secondary suppression is performed to ensure that primary suppressed data cannot be calculated from other published values.

Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry Return

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether companies which have local branches and head offices in Britain, form part of the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry return.

(AQW 12785/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Those companies with local branches in Northern Ireland and head offices in Great Britain are included as part of the Northern Ireland business population, from which businesses are selected by NISRA to participate in the Annual Business Inquiry.

Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses were contracted as part of the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry; and (ii) what proportion of businesses this accounted for in (i) 2009; (ii) 2010; (iii) 2011; and (iv) 2012.

(AQW 12786/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The eligible population for the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) includes those businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE on the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The survey coverage includes the Production, Construction, Distribution and Service industries in Northern Ireland and some elements of the Agriculture and Financial sectors. Those establishments whose principal activity is in the public sector are excluded. Table 1 shows the number and proportion of eligible Northern Ireland businesses contacted as part of the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry during the period 2009-2012.

TABLE 1: NIABI SAMPLE SIZE AND BUSINESS CONTACT RATE

Year conducted	Survey Reference Year	No. of IDBR businesses sampled	Total no. of IDBR eligible businesses	Percentage contacted
2009	2008	5,075	56,005	9%
2010	2009	4,770	54,940	9%
2011	2010	5,099	53,198	10%
2012	2011	8,708	52,095	17%

Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the cost of conducting the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry in (i) 2009; (ii) 2010; (iii) 2011; and (iv) 2012.

(AQW 12787/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The requested information is provided in Table 1 and includes the costs to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) which is responsible for the conduct of the survey. Please note that the 2012 Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry, which collects information relating to business activity in 2011, is currently underway and therefore total figures are not yet available.

TABLE 1: COST OF CONDUCTING THE NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL BUSINESS INQUIRY

Year conducted	Survey Reference Year	Survey design and processing costs (£)
2009	2008	138,584
2010	2009	141,561
2011	2010	144,320

Economic and Labour Market Statistics User Group

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the procedures used to identify the membership, and potential membership, of the Economic and Labour Market Statistics User Group.

(AQW 12789/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Economic and Labour Market Statistics (ELMS) User Group is a forum whereby statisticians from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) can engage effectively

with users of such statistics to promote trust and maximise public value in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Attendance at the ELMS user group meetings is open to any user of economic and labour market statistics. NISRA issues an invitation prior to each meeting to those individuals, academic institutions, organisations, consultants and economic commentators who regularly use or request economic or labour market information from NISRA.

The agenda and minutes of user group meetings are placed on the DETI Statistics Research website together with contact details to enable any user to contact NISRA should they wish to take part in any future meetings.

Economic and Labour Market Statistics User Group

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the membership of the Economic and Labour Market Statistics User Group in (i) 2009/10; (ii) 2010/11; and (iii) 2011 to date.

(AQW 12794/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Attendance at the Economic and Labour Market Statistics User Group meetings is open to any user of economic and labour market statistics. NISRA issues an invitation prior to each meeting to those individuals, government users, academic institutions, organisations, consultants and economic commentators who regularly use or request economic or labour market information from NISRA.

The agenda and minutes of user group meetings are placed on the DETI Statistics Research website together with contact details to enable any user to contact NISRA should they wish to take part in any future meetings.

The table overleaf is a list of organisations that have been represented at the user group meetings in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011 to date.

External Users/Attendees:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ ERINI | ■ Economic Research and Evaluation |
| ■ Economics & Research at Bank of Ireland | ■ Institute of Directors |
| ■ Economics & Research at Northern Bank | ■ Intertrade Ireland |
| ■ Economics & Research at Ulster Bank | ■ Construction Employers Federation |
| ■ Regional Forecasts | ■ QUB - Dept of Politics, Philosophy and Economics |
| ■ Oxford Economics | ■ CARDI |
| ■ Bank of England | ■ Intertrade Ireland |
| ■ School of Economics - University of Ulster | ■ Strategic Policy Division, DFP |

Government Users/Attendees:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Tertiary Education Analytical Services Branch, DEL | ■ Development |
| ■ Regional Reporting and EU Programmes Branch, NISRA | ■ Invest NI |
| ■ Equality Rights & Social Need, OFMdFM | ■ Central Procurement Directorate, DFP |
| ■ Central Survey Unit, NISRA | ■ Equality, Good Relations & Economic Policy, OFMdFM |
| ■ Department of Agriculture and Rural | ■ Analytical Services Unit, DETI |

Gay Marriage

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what contact his Department has had with HM Government on the implications, for Northern Ireland if, gay marriage is introduced in England and Wales.

(AQW 12967/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I am not aware of any contact between my Department and HM Government on the implications, for Northern Ireland if, gay marriage is introduced in England and Wales.

Rates: Empty Homes

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much revenue was raised between 1 October 2011 and 31 March 2012 as a result of rating of empty homes.

(AQO 2207/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Details of the amount of revenue raised in respect of Rating of Empty Homes during 2011-12 is currently subject to audit review and certification, and is expected to be available in early July when the LPS Trust Statement 2011-12 is scheduled to be laid before the Assembly recess. However, the provisional figures for the amount of revenue raised is £14.7 million.

Government Contracts: Social Enterprise

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the current situation on the issue of procurement guidance for integrating sustainable development, particularly social enterprise, into public contracts.

(AQO 2199/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Procurement Board for NI published guidance in 2008 on integrating equality of opportunity and sustainable development into public procurement. This guidance was produced jointly by Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and was endorsed by the Executive.

Further guidance aimed at promoting and supporting delivery of the 2008 guidance will be published shortly. This includes a toolkit being produced by the Strategic Investment Board and a suite of model contract performance clauses developed by CPD to assist procurement practitioners integrate social clauses into contract specifications and performance requirements. The draft model clause guidance has issued to the Procurement Board for consideration and comments received, including those from the Ministers representing DCAL, DARD and DE, are being considered. A revised draft will issue shortly.

Procurement law does not allow any sector or type of firm tendering for public contracts to be treated differently from others. However CPD has produced guidance aimed at helping social economy enterprises develop their capability to compete successfully for contracts and a companion guide to help procurement practitioners provide SMEs and SEEs with greater access to public procurement contracts.

Rates

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the level of domestic and non-domestic rate charges in the future, given the downward trend in property values in recent years.

(AQO 2200/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Levels of future rate charges will be determined by regional and district rate increases. The latter, which are the responsibility of district councils, are outside this Assembly's control.

In 2011 the Executive's agreed budget included a commitment to restrict regional rates increases to the level of inflation over the four year budget period.

As for declining property values, it is important to understand that rates are unlike other systems of taxation. Rate bills are worked out after the total amount that is needed to be raised is decided. This

is translated into individually assessed rate bills, by sharing the overall burden out in proportion to the estimated value of the property at a fixed point in time.

This is the general approach taken for both households and businesses, so the downward trend in values will not affect rate charges until there is a revaluation and even then it merely redistributes the burden, it won't decrease 'the overall take'. Lower values at a revaluation would simply result in higher rates in the pound.

The Executive has no plans to undertake a capital value revaluation of domestic property during the life of this Assembly. A non-domestic revaluation, based on rental values, is scheduled for 2015.

DOJ: Equal Pay Claims

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether the £26m included in the Department of Justice budget for equal pay claims is at risk of being returned to Her Majesty's Treasury if the claims are not met in the current year.

(AQO 2201/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The £26m set aside for DoJ equal pay claims is available in 2012-13 should a liability be established and payments made to staff. It is ring-fenced by HMT and can only be used for this purpose.

If a liability is established after 2012-13 then there is a possibility that this £26m may no longer be made available from HMT for this specific purpose.

Energy Saving

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what level of energy savings was realised over the last three years under his Department's implementation of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and the energy assessment and certification process.

(AQO 2202/11-15)

Mr Wilson: It is not possible to calculate the level of energy savings which have been realised in Northern Ireland since the introduction of the first requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations in 2008.

The scope of these regulations extends to all buildings on construction, for sale or for rent, to large public buildings visited by the public and to buildings with air-conditioning systems. All certificates and inspection reports are accompanied by details of cost-effective recommendations to improve the energy efficiency of the building or system, but there is no

statutory requirement to carry out these recommendations nor to have the building or system re-inspected for the purposes of measuring the level of any such improvement.

Empty Premises Relief Scheme: South Antrim

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what uptake there has been within the South Antrim constituency on the Empty Premises Relief Scheme.

(AQO 2203/11-15)

Mr Wilson: At 8th June 2012, three applications for Empty Premises Relief have been received by Land & Property Services from the South Antrim Constituency Area. Unfortunately none of the applications have been successful.

Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the uptake of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

(AQO 2204/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Small Business Rate Relief scheme was introduced in April 2010 to support the growth and sustainability of small businesses across Northern Ireland. With this in mind, my Department devised the scheme whereby it would be applied automatically to all qualifying businesses. Uptake, therefore, is 100% based on the data held by Land & Property Services.

As at 10th June 2012 the scheme has benefited 26,285 small businesses across Northern Ireland to the tune of £26.6 million.

Rates: Debt

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the total amount of unpaid rates over the last three years.

(AQO 2205/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The total amount of unpaid rates as at 31st March 2012 is provisionally (subject to audit) estimated to be £160.8 million including debt related to Rating of Empty Homes. This figure breaks down over the last three years as follows:

- £92.2 million related to assessments raised in 2011/12 including assessments related to the Rating of Empty Homes from 1st October 2011;
- £33.4 million related to assessments raised in 2010/11; and
- £16.8 million related to assessments raised in 2009/10.

The remaining debt of £18.4 million is associated with the assessment years prior to 2009/10.

Empty Premises Relief Scheme

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many people have availed of the Empty Premises Relief Scheme to date.

(AQO 2206/11-15)

Mr Wilson: At 8th June 2012, Land & Property Services had received a total of 49 applications for Empty Premises Relief. All applications have been assessed, with 13 successfully meeting the criteria of the scheme.

Civil Service: Equal Pay

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the outstanding cases in the Equal Pay Settlement.

(AQO 2208/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Approximately 4,500 equal pay cases were lodged by NIPSA with the Industrial Tribunal and 64 of these have yet to be withdrawn. A further 6 equal pay cases related to the same issue are also currently listed before the Industrial Tribunal. All but 1 of the 70 cases has been stayed pending the outcome of 13 breach of contract civil bills. These are likely to be heard by the County Court in September.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Social Care Provision

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in determining future health and social care provision, whether any assessment has been made of other acute hospitals, anywhere in the UK, where the withdrawal of emergency surgery has resulted in 80 percent of hospital work continuing as before such a withdrawal.

(AQW 12417/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): My Department is not aware of any published research which indicated that the withdrawal of emergency surgery from a specific acute hospital resulted in 80% of the hospital's work continuing as before. Transforming Your Care sets out a vision for the future of health and social care services but does not detail the future service profile of individual acute hospitals.

Local Commissioning Groups in partnership with Health and Social Care Trusts are currently undertaking initial work on developing Population Plans. The purpose of Population Plans is to identify the projected needs for an area and how best to meet those needs, consistent with the principles in Transforming Your Care. The development of any new policy or strategy will include consideration of evidence of best practice.

Causeway Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what risk assessment has been carried out on the potential risk to the population within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area if the Causeway Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department is closed or its opening hours are limited.

(AQW 12474/11-15)

Mr Poots: Transforming Your Care recognises that significant change will be required to ensure that our health system is resilient and safe and delivers the best possible outcomes well into the future. Population plans are currently being developed for each Trust area and any proposals for change will be based on an assessment of need and investigation of the most appropriate way to achieve the safe, sustainable and resilient delivery of those services.

As this process has not yet been completed no decisions have yet been made in relation to the future configuration of services in the Northern Trust area, including the Causeway Hospital. Where there are proposed major changes to service configuration in local areas, these will be subject to full consultation.

Construction of the Desertcreat Training College

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what opportunities will be available for local contractors to sub-contract work in the construction of the Desertcreat Training College.

(AQW 12495/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- Desertcreat Training College, with a capital value of approximately £140 m, will be procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations (2006), Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy and best practice guidance.
- The competition to select a main contractor was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union on 16 February 2012.
- Local contractors will have every opportunity to compete for sub-contract work packages.
- In line with other major projects, it is envisaged that a significant number of sub-contract firms will come from the local area.
- Additionally, the construction contract will provide opportunities for the unemployed, apprenticeships and students in accordance with Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy.

QUANGOs

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to reduce (i) the number of QUANGOs; and (ii) the operational cost of QUANGOs.

(AQW 12539/11-15)

Mr Poots: In February 2011, the preceding Executive announced a review of Arms Length Bodies (ALBs), led by the Ministerial Budget Review Group. This review of ALBs considered the scope for each ALB's abolition, integration with parent Department or merger with another body. The review is currently under consideration by the Budget Review Group and recommendations will be made to the Executive in due course.

My Department is currently facing significant financial and service challenges. All Arms length Bodies within DHSSPS's responsibility will be expected to contribute to meeting these pressures and closing the funding gap, including focussing on administrative costs.

Community Hospice Nurses

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he intends to take to address the cut in the number of community hospice nurses.

(AQW 12555/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department is not responsible for the number of community hospice nurses as they are not employed by the HSC. Although nurses such as hospice or McMillan nurses are invaluable and involved in a very appropriate way in palliative and end of life care, it is District Nurses who are the key workers developing co-ordinating and delivering the care plan. The number of district nurses in training has increased by 2/3 since 2010-11. In addition District Nursing is now made up of skill mix teams which include not only district nurses, but also staff nurses working in the community and community healthcare assistants.

Specific Bronchial Challenge Test

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which hospitals employ qualified personnel to carry out a specific bronchial challenge test.

(AQW 12556/11-15)

Mr Poots: A bronchial challenge test is a medical test used to assist in the diagnosis of asthma.

I can advise that the following hospitals employ qualified personnel able to carry out a bronchial challenge test:

- Royal Victoria
- Mater
- Altnagelvin
- Belfast City
- Craigavon Area

Viability Study for an Air Ambulance

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the viability study for an air ambulance.

(AQW 12559/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board has now presented the final version of its feasibility study on the provision of a helicopter emergency medical service/air ambulance in Northern Ireland to my Department.

This is an important matter and I will, therefore, wish to consider carefully the implications of report's findings and recommendations for my Department's policy on the provision of this service.

Oasis Healthcare

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) the value of the contract awarded to Oasis Healthcare; (ii) the number of patients registered with Oasis Healthcare; and (iii) the average cost, per patient, of dental treatment provided by Oasis Healthcare to date.

(AQW 12576/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The value of the contract awarded to Oasis Healthcare is £5.7m per annum.
- (ii) As at March 2012, there were 47,361 patients registered with Oasis Healthcare.
- (iii) The contractual arrangement between the HSCB and Oasis Healthcare is not on an item of service basis. However, based on activity information supplied by Oasis to the BSO during 2011/12 it has been assessed that the cost of dental treatments in 2011/12 was £1.5m (including patient contributions) and the number of patients that received these treatments during 2011/12 was approximately 39,400. Therefore an estimate of the cost per patient, of dental treatment in 2011/121 has been calculated at £38.

Notes:

- 1 Average cost has been based on the financial year 2011/12 as this was the first full financial year in which all 14 Oasis practices operated. Oasis practices were opened on a phased basis with the final practice opening in August 2010.

Source: Family Practitioner Services, Information and Registration Unit - HSC Business Services Organisation.

High Street Dentists

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for the 2011/12 financial year, to detail (i) the total amount of money paid to high street dentists; (ii) the number of patients treated by dentists; and (iii) the average cost, per patient, of the treatment provided by dentists.

(AQW 12578/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The total amount of money paid to high street dentists¹ in 2011/12 was £105.7m (including approximately £18m of patient contributions).
- (ii) The total number of patients treated by high street dentists in 2011/12 was 885,024.
- (iii) The average cost², per patient, of treatment provided by high street dentists in 2011/12 was £65.89.

Notes:

- 1 High street dentists are defined as all health service dentists excluding Oasis practitioners and salaried practitioners. The total amount of money paid out includes all payments for treatment, patient registration payments, fees and other allowances covered in the Statement of Dental Remuneration.
- 2 Average cost is based on all patients who received treatment from a high street dentist during 2011/12. Treatment includes specialist and orthodontic treatment.

Source: Family Practitioner Services, Information and Registration Unit - HSC Business Services Organisation.

Acute Brain Injury Unit of the Belfast Health and Social CareTrust

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients, who are being treated in the Acute Brain Injury Unit of the Belfast Health and Social CareTrust, have completed their treatment and are awaiting transfer to an appropriate level of community care.

(AQW 12583/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that this question refers to the Regional Acquired Brain Injury Unit.

With this in mind, at 8th June 2012, no patients who had completed their treatment in the Regional Acquired Brain Injury Unit, Belfast were awaiting transfer to an appropriate level of community care.

Extra-Contractual Referral Arrangement

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the cost of treatment for each patient with brain injuries who has been sent to Great Britain under the extra-contractual referral arrangement.

(AQW 12585/11-15)

Mr Poots: In 2011/12, ten patients with brain injuries received treatment in Great Britain under the Extra Contractual Referral process at an average cost of £141k. It is not possible to provide a cost per actual case, as each patient's treatment spans a number of years - the total cost per case is not known until the period of treatment is complete.

Extra-Contractual Referral Arrangement

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which Health and Social Care Trusts have sent patients with brain injuries to Great Britain for treatment under the extra-contractual referral arrangement in each of the last three years.

(AQW 12587/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been informed by the Health and Social Care Board that the Northern Health and Social Care Trust were the only Trust in Northern Ireland to transfer a patient with a brain injury to Great Britain for treatment under the extra-contractual referral arrangement during 2009/10. The Western Health and Social Trust was the only Trust to do so during 2010/11 and no patients were transferred by any Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland during 2011/12.

Extra-Contractual Referral Arrangement

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been transferred to Great Britain under the extra-contractual referral arrangement for treatment for brain injuries in each of the last three years

(AQW 12589/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been informed by the Health and Social Care Board that during 2009/10, there was one patient transferred to Great Britain under the extra-contractual referral arrangements for treatment for brain injury. This patient was from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. A further two patients were transferred from the Western Health and Social Care Trust during 2010/11 and no patients were transferred by any Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland during 2011/12.

Funding to Assist Patients in Purchasing Nebuliser Equipment

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what funding is available in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area to assist patients in purchasing nebuliser equipment.

(AQW 12610/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern HSC Trust does not provide financial assistance to patients to purchase nebuliser equipment. The Trust will, however, provide a nebuliser to children with complex healthcare needs, with associated chronic respiratory conditions.

The medication that is delivered through a nebuliser is available on prescription, however the nebulisers themselves are not.

Financial Assistance for the Purchasing of Nebuliser Equipment

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any arm's-length body can provide financial assistance for the purchasing of nebuliser equipment.

(AQW 12611/11-15)

Mr Poots: None of the arm's length bodies within the health and social care sector provide financial assistance for the purchase of nebuliser equipment. The Belfast, South Eastern, Southern and Northern Health and Social Care Trusts provide nebulisers to children with complex healthcare needs with associated chronic respiratory conditions.

The medication that is delivered through a nebuliser is available on prescription, however the nebulisers themselves are not.

Prank Calls Received by the Fire and Rescue Service

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total number of prank calls received by the Fire and Rescue Service, in each of the last three years; and the estimated cost of these calls.

(AQW 12628/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below details the total number of Hoax Calls received by NIFRS in each of the last 3 years and the estimated cost of mobilisations to Hoax Calls.

Year	No of Hoax Calls	No of Hoax Call Mobilisations	Average Cost per Mobilised Call	Estimated Cost of Mobilisation to Hoax Calls
2009/10	3,179	989	£2,693	£2,663,377
2010/11	3,036	819	£2,521	£2,064,699
2011/12	2,778	770	£2,795	£2,152,150

Prank Calls Received by the Ambulance Service

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total number of prank calls received by the Ambulance Service, in each of the last three years; and the estimated cost of these calls.

(AQW 12629/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) has advised me that it received 6,133 calls during 2009/10 which were classified as possible hoax or 'prank' calls. The figures for 2010/11 and 2011/12 were 5,884 and 5,382 respectively.

NIAS estimates the total cost of these calls for the period 2009/12 is £2,609,850.

Community Placement for a Patient with Brain Injuries

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average cost of a community placement for a patient with brain injuries.

(AQW 12645/11-15)

Mr Poots: Given the range of complexities and needs associated with patients with brain injuries and the diversity of such costs, it is not possible to provide an average cost of a community placement for a patient with brain injuries.

Patients in the Long Stay Facility of the Brain Injury Unit

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients in the long stay facility of the Brain Injury Unit, which was formerly housed in the Maine Villa of Knockbracken Healthcare Park, have completed their treatment and are waiting for a community care package.

(AQW 12646/11-15)

Mr Poots: At 12th June 2012, 6 patients who had completed their treatment in the long stay facility of the Brain Injury Unit at Knockbracken Healthcare Park, were waiting for a community care package longer than the agreed maximum waiting time of 7 days.

Teenagers Leaving Foster Care

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what support is available for teenagers leaving foster care who are considered fit to reside independently from care for the first time, particularly children with learning difficulties.

(AQW 12647/11-15)

Mr Poots: Support for all young people leaving care, including those with learning difficulties, is a requirement of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2002 and regulations made under the Act.

Each young person's range and level of support is determined by a comprehensive needs assessment, pathway planning and review. For young people who may be leaving care with additional needs more specialist support may be required where it is deemed appropriate.

In terms of practical support, young people leaving foster care will have an allocated social worker and personal advisor who will help with the practical and emotional support needs of the young person making the transition to independent living. Supports provided includes assisting young people to move to suitable supported accommodation, remain with their former foster carers, if they wish, up to the age of 21 years, acquire practical and financial skills, and enhance access to full time and part time employment, training and volunteering opportunities.

QUANGOS

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many QUANGOS, that are attached to his Department, have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

(AQW 12653/11-15)

Mr Poots: Since 2007, four arms length bodies have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly. All four bodies were established under the terms of the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009.

The four bodies are:

- the Regional Health and Social Care Board, established under section 7;
- the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being, established under section 12;
- the Regional Business Services Organisation, established under section 14; and,
- the Patient and Client Council, established under section 16.

Transferring People with Special Needs from Children's Services to Adult Services

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action is being taken to speed up the process of transferring people with special needs from Children's Services to Adult Services.

(AQW 12657/11-15)

Mr Poots: I recognise that transition from childhood to adulthood is particularly difficult for young people with special needs and requires planning which recognises individual need. That transition requires the cooperation and support of a number of departments and agencies and the Health and Social Care Board has established a Children and Young Person's Strategic Planning Partnership (CYPSPP) to bring those departments and agencies together. This is a regional group and is a cross sector, strategic partnership, consisting of the leadership of all key agencies who have responsibility

for improving outcomes for all children and young people in including health, social services, education, policing and housing as well as representatives from the voluntary and community sectors.

The CYPSP is taking forward work to ensure that appropriate transitions protocols are in place in each Trust and that all relevant agencies are appropriately engaged. In addition, I am advised that the Children's Services Framework Standards note transitions as a key area and it is intended that the Framework will include specific standards for transition which will provide the benchmark for health and social care services for this group of people.

Antrim Area Hospital: Bank and Agency Staff

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of hours that bank and agency staff have worked at the Antrim Area Hospital in each month of the last three years.

(AQW 12658/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health & Social Care Trust advised that it was not possible to provide information on the number of hours that bank and agency staff have worked at the Antrim Area Hospital in each month of the last three years due to disproportionate costs.

Antrim Area Hospital: Staffing

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether all wards at the Antrim Area Hospital are staffed to the legally required levels; and (ii) how often the levels of staff are evaluated.

(AQW 12659/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are no legally imposed staffing levels in Northern Ireland. The staff required to deliver safe and effective care is determined through a range of measures that include consideration of the number of patients in a ward area, the complexity of their conditions and the level of care required. Staffing levels are assessed on an ongoing basis by senior nurses in clinical areas and are within a safe normative range at Antrim Area Hospital. A full review of nurse staffing across the wards at Antrim Area Hospital was carried out during the last quarter of 2011.

Child Neglect

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how data on child neglect is being used to plan and integrate family support services and to tackle child neglect.

(AQW 12669/11-15)

Mr Poots: An Information Support Group from the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) is currently carrying out an exercise to map children on the Child Protection Register by their home postcode which will be compared with the levels of deprivation in each of these areas. This group will report back to the HSCB-led Regional Child Protection Committee and the information will be used to help inform decisions taken by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Family support services delivered at locality level are key to providing families with services that best meet their assessed needs, especially in relation to neglect. Work has taken place to develop family support hubs that provide accessible needs-based services to families at locality level through partnership working. As with Sure Start, the lead Hub body may be a voluntary/community or statutory body. Hubs are currently developing on an ad hoc basis and it is intended to provide a more strategic and uniform approach to this.

My Department and the Health and Social Care Board have developed and implemented a range of strategies which will help address the impact of neglect on children and their families involving a range of agencies from the voluntary and statutory sectors. These strategies include: 'Hidden Harm', which deals with alcohol and drug misusing parents, 'Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family' which responds to issues linked to the mental health of parents and the impact on children and families. My

Department and the Department of Justice are also jointly leading on the 'Tackling Violence at Home (October 2005)' and 'Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse (June 2008)' Strategies, which employ a multiagency approach to domestic and sexual violence.

Branch Surgery Service in Waringstown

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the future of the branch surgery service in Waringstown.

(AQW 12678/11-15)

Mr Poots: No decision or change of service in the Waringstown area is expected in the immediate future.

The Donaghcloney GP Practice provides a part time GP appointment service from a branch surgery in Waringstown which is located in the local Orange Hall.

Donaghcloney Surgery has advised the HSC Board of its concerns about the condition of the branch surgery premises in Waringstown. The Board and the GPs are in ongoing discussion about the provision of safe, modern, accessible and quality services to all its patients in the context of the strategic direction set out in Transforming Your Care. The future of Waringstown branch surgery will be considered as part of this process, with appropriate consultation with patients as required.

Health Service Dental Treatment

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 12394/11-15, to provide details, in any format available, on waiting times for patients, who have special needs, to receive Health Service dental treatment.

(AQW 12682/11-15)

Mr Poots: Patients with special needs receive dental treatment in a variety of settings. Patients with less complex needs may be treated by the family dentist while those with moderate or complex needs will be treated by the Community Dental Service or the hospital dental service.

In most cases these patients will not be recorded on any waiting list as is normal practice in a primary care setting. However, some patients with special needs, for example those with a learning disability, may require their dental treatment to be carried out under a general anaesthetic or sedation, in which case they will be recorded on an inpatient waiting list for admission to hospital as either a day case or an ordinary admission. While these patients represent only a portion of all special needs patients that require Health Service dental treatment, the table below outlines the numbers currently waiting to be admitted to hospital for dental treatment under either a general anaesthetic or sedation, by Health and Social Care Trust and the length of time they have been waiting for admission.

HSC Trust	Waiting time (in weeks)						Total waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26 - 36	>36	
Belfast	15	5	77	1	0	0	98
Northern	28	4	0	0	0	0	32
South Eastern	12	16	4	0	1	1	34
Southern	9	1	0	0	0	0	10
Western	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Total Northern Ireland	71	26	81	1	1	1	181

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

Doctor and Nursing Posts Transferred from the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many doctor and nursing posts have been transferred from the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine, to the Antrim Area Hospital, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12704/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health & Social Care Trust advised that no doctor or nursing posts have been transferred from the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine to the Antrim Area Hospital in the last five years.

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service: Scrap Cars for Training

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 12121/11-15, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) how much each Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) Area Command has paid to each supplier of scrap cars; (ii) whether there are any agreements or contracts between each Area Command and suppliers; (iii) how much, on average, each Area Command has paid for a scrap car; and (iv) the number of scrap cars purchased by each Area Command.

(AQW 12705/11-15)

Mr Poots: The tables below outline the responses to questions (i), (iii) and (iv) above. In relation to point (ii), the NIFRS has confirmed that there are no agreements or contracts between Area Commands and suppliers.

NORTHERN AREA COMMAND

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Agnew Recovery Services				3,600	7,650
Beatties Recycling				2,340	900
B&C McKeown					
C Russell					
Gavin's Recovery		2,400			
Hilltop				3,360	720
John Beers					
J Tinnelly					
PPE Group					
RR Recovery					
Temple Auto Salvage					3,220
T-Met					5,950
Two Trees Recovery		18,600	28,450	10,140	4,095
Total		21,000	28,450	19,440	22,535
Average Cost		97	177	173	163
Number of cars purchased		217	161	115	138

SOUTHERN AREA COMMAND

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Agnew Recovery					
B&C McKeown				750	1,350
Beatties Recycling				1,160	2,485
C Russell			180		
D&A Garages				170	
Gavin's Recovery				4,210	4,130
John Beers		14,500	32,700	-860	3,750
J Tinnelly					
PPE Group					
RR Recovery					
Ruddell Metals				5265	3,195
Temple Auto Salvage				2,100	
T-Met					
Two Trees Recovery		1,400			
Watson 24 Hour Breakdown			280	4,900	8,330
Total		15,900	33,160	17,695	23,240
Average Cost		110	149	131	132
Number of cars purchased		144	223	135	176

EASTERN AREA COMMAND

NAME	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Agnew Recovery Services				11,250	
Beatties Recovery					
B&C McKeown				4,050	8,550
C Russell	9,360	2,610	270		
Gregg Hyndman	900				
I Ross	590				
John Beers	600	7,700	21,260		
PPE Group					
Roy Nixon	420				
Ruddell Metals					
T-Met					
Temple Auto Salvage					2,240
Two Trees	500				

NAME	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Ultra Building Products	280				
Total	12,650	10,310	21,530	15,300	10,790
Average Cost		89	192	150	148
Number of cars purchased		116	112	102	73

WESTERN AREA COMMAND

NAME	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Alcorn Recovery				7,800	5,010
Beatties Recycling					
C Russell		990			
Darcy Bros					
Hilltop					
John Beers Recovery			585		
Lakeland Recovery				2,235	2,315
Morrow Recovery					3,990
PPE Group					
Robert McDaid Carbreakers				3,050	6,200
Temple Auto Salvage					
T-Met					350
Two Trees Recovery		23,345	35,095	8,935	1,365
Total		24,335	35,680	22,020	19,230
Average Cost		114	198	155	130
Number of cars purchased		214	180	142	148

TRAINING CENTRE

NAME	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Abbey Car Breakers			3,300		
Agnew Recovery				8,250	8,850
B&C McKeown					1,650
Beatties Recycling				360	
C Russell		12,330	5,400		
John Beers Recovery		500	990		1,300
PPE Group					
Gavin's Recovery					
RR Recovery					

NAME	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Temple Auto Salvage					1,260
T-Met					
Two Trees				8,580	
Total		12,830	9,690	17,190	13,060
Average Cost		92	65	170	147
Number of cars purchased		139	150	101	89

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NAME	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Agnew Recovery				1,800	1,350
Alcorn Recovery				750	
B&C McKeown					450
C Russell		990	1,890		
Lakeland Recovery				125	
Ruddell Metals					375
Temple Auto Salvage				-300	
Two Trees				585	
Total		990	1,890	2,960	2,175
Average Cost		90	90	156	145
Number of cars purchased		11	21	19	15

Beechcroft Inpatient Centre, Belfast

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the age profile of patients who attended the Beechcroft Inpatient Centre, Belfast, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12718/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not currently available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Standard PAS888 for Outdoor Gym and Exercise Equipment

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether departmental officials are aware of the new standard PAS888 for outdoor gym and exercise equipment; and whether they will ensure that only equipment meeting this standard is funded directly or indirectly by his Department.

(AQW 12719/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are existing European standards for play equipment but as yet there are no agreed standards for adult outdoor gym equipment. The PAS888 standard is currently out for consultation following work from the British Standards Institute and the Great Outdoor Gym Company. This has not yet been agreed as an industry standard.

When purchasing any outdoor gym and exercise equipment, providers will be asked to demonstrate adherence to agreed standards, the safety of the equipment, and the ability to take all necessary steps to improve safety.

Extra Contractual Referral Arrangement

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many patients with Acquired Brain Injuries, who have been sent to Great Britain under the Extra Contractual Referral arrangement, have completed their treatment and are awaiting transfer back to Northern Ireland to start or complete their rehabilitation; and (ii) to detail why their return is being delayed.

(AQW 12741/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been informed by the Health and Social Care Board that there are currently nine people with complex Brain Injury needs funded as 'Extra Contractual Referral placements' in Great Britain receiving specialist assessment and treatment. None of these have completed their treatment and are awaiting transfer back to Northern Ireland to start or complete their rehabilitation.

Board Members of Public Bodies

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 11912/11-15, in relation to the appointment of Chairpersons or board members of public bodies sponsored by his Department, whether details of their full-time employment history is requested; and if not, to outline why.

(AQW 12747/11-15)

Mr Poots: Applicants for appointment of Chairpersons or board members of public bodies sponsored by my Department are invited to provide their 'current' employment. This information is used solely to identify any potential disqualifications or conflicts of interest. The Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland paragraph 3.21 states, 'application forms must be clear and straightforward and should ask only what is truly required'. Therefore, in order to comply with the Code of Practice full employment history is not requested as it is not part of the criterion based selection process used to appoint Chairpersons and board members.

Board Members of Public Bodies

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 11912/11-15, whether application forms for appointment to public bodies, arm's-length bodies and QUANGOs that are sponsored by his Department, have an employment history section; and if not, to outline why.

(AQW 12748/11-15)

Mr Poots: Applicants for appointment of Chairpersons or board members of public bodies sponsored by my Department are invited to provide their 'current' employment only. This information is used solely to identify any potential disqualifications or conflicts of interest. The Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland paragraph 3.21 states 'application forms must be clear and straightforward and should ask only what is truly required'. Therefore, in order to comply with the Code of Practice full employment history is not requested as it is not part of the criterion based selection process used to appoint Chairpersons and board members.

Ratio of Administrative Staff to Front-Line Medical Staff

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 11894/11-15, to detail (i) the ratio of administrative staff to front-line medical staff and nursing staff in each Health and Social Care Trust area; and (ii) the number of staff employed in each Health and Social Care Trust area, excluding front-line medical staff and administrative staff, broken down by post.

(AQW 12749/11-15)

Mr Poots: I would refer you back to my answer to AQW 11894/11-15 in that it is still not appropriate to calculate and compare the ratio of administrative staff to front-line medical staff (i.e. doctors) or qualified nursing staff due to differences in the focus of services provided by individual Health and Social Care Trusts. It is also not possible to accurately determine the number of front-line staff from information held on the Human Resources Management System. Obtaining front-line staffing numbers would require a large-scale exercise; therefore all staff within the requested staff groups are included in the following calculations.

- (i) The ratios of administrative staff to medical staff and qualified nursing staff, alongside the proportions of total staff who are employed as administrative, medical and qualified nursing staff, are provided in the table below:

Ratio of Administration Staff to Medical and Nursing Staff by Health and Social Care Trust as at 31st March 2012 (including proportions of total staff employed as Administrative, Medical and Qualified Nursing staff within each Trust)

HSC Trust	Ratio of Administrative staff to Medical & Qualified Nursing staff	Proportion of Total Staff employed as Administrative staff	Proportion of Total Staff employed as Medical staff	Proportion of Total Staff employed as Qualified Nursing staff
Belfast	0.49	18.0%	8.9%	27.7%
Northern	0.58	17.3%	5.3%	24.6%
South Eastern	0.53	17.7%	6.3%	26.7%
Southern	0.51	17.6%	6.7%	28.0%
Western	0.52	17.8%	5.7%	28.8%

Source: Human Resource Management System

Notes:

- Figures exclude bank staff, staff with a whole-time equivalent less than or equal to 0.03 and staff on career breaks.
 - These figures will include individuals who are not employees of the Trust but who are on the system for payment purposes only.
 - Ratios and percentages are based on whole-time equivalent staff.
 - Administrative staff provide a variety of support to central functions such as human resources and finance, but they also provide support to social services, allied health professions, medical & dental, nursing and scientific staff. Not all of these staff will carry out a front-line role.
 - Medical staff includes all grades of medical doctor e.g. consultants, associate specialists, staff grade, specialty doctors, hospital practitioners, specialty registrars and foundation doctors. Not all of these staff will carry out a front-line role.
 - Qualified nursing staff includes all nurses employed at Pay band 5 and above. These staff provide services in a variety of hospital, community and social services settings. Not all of these staff will carry out a front-line role.
- (ii) Summary staffing information by Occupational Group and HSC organisation is published in the quarterly Key Facts Workforce Bulletin and the latest available as at 31st March 2012 can be found at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/key_facts_bulletin_march_2012.pdf.

Analysis of staffing by post or job title is not centrally available. Information on staffing by grade can be found in the annual NI HSC Workforce Census which provides staffing information as at 31 March. The latest available report provides information as at 31 March 2011 and can be found on the DHSSPS website. A link to the latest publication is given below:
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/workforce_census_march_2011.pdf

The NI HSC Workforce Census as at 31st March 2012 will be published in September 2012.

Pharmacists who Dispense Medication for Drug Addicts

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether pharmacists, who dispense medication on a regular basis for drug addicts, are responsible for ensuring that the medication is taken correctly by the patient; and whether they are able to report any concerns they have regarding patient non-compliance.

(AQW 12750/11-15)

Mr Poots: Across Northern Ireland, there is a specific regional substitute prescribing service for addicts (predominantly those addicted to heroin) where a safer substitute drug (usually methadone or buprenorphine) is provided to them on prescription in a controlled and managed way. Pharmacists who dispense medication on a regular basis for drug addicts do so as part of this regional service. In the service, patients are managed under a shared care arrangement, initially being prescribed for by Trust secondary care community addiction teams (CATs) and when their drug treatment is stabilised, they can then be managed jointly by GPs and CATs.

All drugs prescribed by either GPs or CATs are dispensed by Community Pharmacists and a signed agreement between the patient, CAT, community pharmacist and GP, where appropriate, is put in place so that the responsibilities of each party is clear. As part of the agreement there is an expectation that any concerns that the community pharmacist may have about the patient will be brought to the attention of the prescriber.

A copy of the Northern Ireland Guidelines on Substitution Treatment for Opiate Dependence can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niguide_substitute_treatment.pdf

Genito-Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide, for the last two years, the numbers of patients who attended the Genito-urinary Medicine clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

(AQW 12759/11-15)

Mr Poots: The total number of attendances¹ at consultant led outpatient clinics within the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) specialty, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, for each of the last two years is outlined in the table below.

Financial Year	Attendances at consultant led outpatient services		
	New	Review	Total
2010/11	11,330	5,885	17,215
2011/12 ^P	9,851	6,317	16,168

Source: Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return

P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change

1 Data do not equate exactly to the number of patients attending GUM outpatient services as a patient may attend on more than one occasion in a single year.

Genito-Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide the numbers of new patients attending the Genito-urinary Medicine clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

(AQW 12760/11-15)

Mr Poots: Provisional data for 2011/12 report a total of 9,851 new outpatient attendances at consultant led Genito-Urinary Medicine outpatient clinics at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast during 2011/12.

Occupational Therapy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that the Bamford Report states that occupational therapists are the only health care professionals with the core skills and expertise in the analysis, assessment, treatment and evaluation of the occupational dysfunction that is contributing, or consequent to, psychological problems, and that this gap in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Service needs to be addressed urgently with occupational therapy representatives, to detail (i) when he plans to put measures in place to address the gap in service provision; and (ii) why, in the most recent assessment of the CAMH Service, there is no mention of the need for increased provision of occupational therapy, despite there being no improvements to the provision of occupational therapy in the last six years.[R]

(AQW 12767/11-15)

Mr Poots: RQIA recommended in their report 'Independent Review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services' (February 2011) that my Department should confirm through policy guidance a model for service provision in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, the draft document 'Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – A Service Model' was issued for public consultation in February this year, and is currently being reviewed to take account of consultation responses. The final document is expected to be published this summer.

The policy document outlines what mental health services and interventions should be available through a stepped care model, to meet the needs of children and their families. It recognises that delivery of effective services will require multi-disciplinary working involving a wide range of professionals.

Following publication of the document, it will be for the HSCB and Trusts to translate it into service provision through an implementation plan, taking into account the need for multi-disciplinary working across a wide range of professionals.

Occupational Therapists

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of occupational therapists, per head of population, in the North Down area; and how this compares with other areas.

(AQW 12768/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of Occupational Therapists employed per head of population within Northern Ireland Health and Social Care is not available at County level. Therefore, information on the number of Occupational Therapists per head of population is provided at Trust level in the table below.

Occupational Therapists employed within Northern Ireland Health and Social Care per 100,000 population by Trust as at March 2012

Trust Area	Staff in post WTE	WTE Per 100,000 Population
Belfast	210.97	62.8
Northern	186.99	40.8
South Eastern	115.78	33.4
Southern	152.78	42.6
Western	107.82	36.0
Overall	774.34	43.0

Source: Occupational Therapists – Human Resource Management System

Population – Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Notes:

- 1 WTE = Whole-time equivalent
- 2 Figures exclude bank staff, staff on career break and staff with a whole-time equivalent of 0.03 or less.
- 3 The latest population figures relate to the mid-year population estimate for 2010.

Waiting Times for Orthopaedic Surgery

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the current (i) average and (ii) longest (a) inpatient and (b) outpatient waiting times for orthopaedic surgery in the Southern Local Commissioning Group area.

(AQW 12783/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department collects waiting times for inpatient admission on a patient level basis each quarter. This allows the average and longest waiting times to be calculated. The average waiting time for inpatient admission in the Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery specialty at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at 31st March 2012, the most recent quarter for which official statistics are available was 11.7 weeks. The longest waiting time in the Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery specialty at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at 31st March 2012 was 42.3 weeks.

Waiting times for a first outpatient appointment are collected by my Department on a quarterly basis by aggregate time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate average waiting time, but the median waiting time band, a similar statistical measure, can be provided. Similarly, it is not possible to calculate the longest waiting time, but the number of patients waiting longest, by time band, can be provided. The table below outlines the number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment in the Trauma and Orthopaedic specialty at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at 31st March 2012, by length of time waiting in time bands.

Specialty	Waiting time (in weeks)						Total Waiting
	0 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 13	13 - 21	21 - 26	26+	
Trauma and Orthopaedics	426	158	131	43	0	1	759

Source: Departmental Return CH3

These data show that the median waiting time for a first outpatient appointment in the Trauma and Orthopaedic specialty at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at 31st March 2012 was '0 – 6' weeks and the patient waiting the longest period of time for a first outpatient appointment was waiting over 26 weeks.

Independent Sector Providers

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients each Health and Social Care Trust referred to an independent sector provider in the 2011/12 financial year.

(AQW 12788/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of inpatient admissions and outpatient attendances undertaken by patients transferred by HSC Trusts to the Independent Sector during 2011/12, by transferring HSC Trust is outlined in the table below.

HSC Trust	Inpatient Admissions	Outpatient Attendances	
		New	Review
Belfast	8,129	13,648	14,148
Northern	970	4,643	319
South Eastern	1,436	3,635	1,095
Southern	2,796	3,039	1,943
Western	2,574	3,765	2,527

Source: Departmental Return IS1 (Parts 1 and 2)

Need for an Air Ambulance

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 9554/11-15, for an update on the feasibility study on the potential for an air ambulance.
(AQW 12797/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board has now presented the final version of its feasibility study on the provision of a helicopter emergency medical service/air ambulance in Northern Ireland to my Department.

This is an important matter and I will, therefore, wish to consider carefully the implications of the report's findings and recommendations for my Department's policy on the provision of this service.

Average Pension Paid to Retired GPs

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average pension paid to retired GPs who have worked full-time for more than 30 years.
(AQW 12802/11-15)

Mr Poots: As pensions paid to retired GPs are based on a percentage of their revalued actual career earnings, details of their working patterns are not held on their HSC Pension Scheme records. It is not possible, therefore, to identify retired GPs who have worked full time for over 30 years.

It is possible to identify retired GPs who have contributed to the HSC Pension Scheme for 30 years or more.

The average pension paid to retired GPs who have contributed to the HSC Pension Scheme for 30 years or more is £46 600 per annum.

Tendering Process for Domiciliary Care Providers

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the tendering process for domiciliary care providers is the same for each Health and Social Care Trust; and (ii) to detail the contracted domiciliary care package providers in each Trust.
(AQW 12810/11-15)

Mr Poots: Health and Social Care Trusts currently commission and contract their own domiciliary care services, with procurement guidance available to them as necessary. In May 2011, the Business Services Organisation and Procurement and Logistics Service set up the Social Care Procurement Unit to provide more focused advice and support to Trusts in their social care procurement activities.

Please find attached at Appendix A the contracted domiciliary care package providers in each Trust.

Appendix A

List of contracted domiciliary care providers in each Trust

Trust	Providers
Belfast HSC Trust	Advanced Community Care Age Concern All Seasons Bluebird Bryson House Care Circle Mears Care Cedars Colin Care Crossroads Domestic Care Extracare Homecare Independent Services M Care Nursing and Caring Direct Prime Care Provincial Care Quality Care Rodgers Community Care Shalom St John of God North West Care
Southern HSC Trust	Ann's Homecare Care Force CMS (Mears) Care Plus Darkley & District Community Association (CarePoint NI) Derg Valley Care Enable Care Services Everyday Care (DDA) Extra Care Fermanagh Home Care Firs Homecare Sevices Forever Care Glencaring Services Homecare Independent Living (Homecare N.I.) Leonard Chesire Disability Lydian Care Miriams CVDC Moneydarragh Flexicare Mount Zion Community Care (Shankhill Community Care) PCP - Personalised Care Partnership Peacehaven Phoenix Nursing Agency Provincial Care Services Quality Care Services (previously Guardian) Rathmourne

Trust	Providers
Western HSC Trust	Fermanagh Home Care Extra Care Care Plus Clogher Care Dromore Community Care Lakeland Community Care Homecare Independent Living Tilery Homecare Services Derg Valley Care Mears Care trabane & District Caring Alzheimer's Society British Red Cross Faughanvale Care At Home Glen Caring Bryson Care West North West Care
Northern HSC Trust	Age NI Crossroads Caring for Carers Domestic Care Extra Care Homecare Independent Living Service
South Eastern HSC Trust	Unable to provide details within the allocated timescale.

Use of 0844 Numbers by GP Surgeries

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on phasing out the use of 0844 numbers by GP surgeries, including when 0844 numbers will no longer be in use.
(AQW 12819/11-15)

Mr Poots: Neither my Department or the Health and Social Care Board have the legal authority to require GP Practices to stop using 0844 numbers.

I instructed the HSC Board to issue policy guidance directing that GP Practices should not enter into new, renew or extend contracts for telephone services unless they are satisfied that patients will not pay more than they would to call a local geographical number. The HSC Board issued guidance to all GPs in September 2011 and again in February 2012.

My Department will explore with the Practices that use a 0844 number the option of installing a geographical line which patients could use as an alternative to the 0844 number along with the option of introducing the call back facility which the Service Provider can set up, until such times as their 0844 contact expires.

Four of the 23 0844 telephony contracts are due to expire by October 2013, 9 by November 2014, 6 by December 2015 and the remaining 4 by April 2016.

Fractured Femur Operations Carried out at the Craigavon Area Hospital

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) orthopaedic operations; and (ii) repairs to fractured femur operations have been carried out at the Craigavon Area Hospital, during each quarter since the new Orthopaedic Unit opened.

(AQW 12825/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of (i) orthopaedic operations; and (ii) repairs to fractured femur operations carried out at the Craigavon Area Hospital, during each quarter since the new Orthopaedic Unit opened are shown in the table below.

Quarter	Number of orthopaedic operations	Number of repairs to fractured femur operations
1st April - 30th June 2010*	214	19
1st July - 30th September 2010	187	21
1st October - 31st December 2010	167	46
1st January - 31st March 2011	252	31
1st April - 30th June 2011P	248	17
1st July - 30th September 2011P	199	26
1st October - 31st December 2011P	222	32
1st January - 31st March 2012P	288	34

Source: Southern HSCT

* The new orthopaedic unit opened to inpatients on 3rd May 2010.

P Data relating to 2011/12 is provisional and may be subject to change.

Outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the recent outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Edinburgh, what precautionary measures are in place to deal with any outbreak in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 12828/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Public Health Agency wrote to HSC organisations on 6 June 2012 advising clinicians to be alert to the possibility of Legionnaires' disease in those with a recent history of travel to Edinburgh to advise of this outbreak and to ask that Legionnaire's disease was considered as a possible diagnosis in appropriate patients, in particular those with a recent history of travel to Edinburgh.

A Chief Medical Officer's letter to complement the Public Health Agency letter followed on 8 June 2012.

Legionnaires' disease is a notifiable disease and all cases must be notified to the Public Health Agency who has a well established protocol for recording and monitoring any potential outbreak.

To date there are no reports of cases of Legionnaires' disease in Northern Ireland associated with the Edinburgh outbreak.

Waiting Time for a Referral to an Occupational Therapist

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average waiting time in the North Down area for a referral to an occupational therapist.

(AQW 12829/11-15)

Mr Poots: Table 1 below details the number of people waiting from referral to treatment by an occupational therapist, by aggregate time band, in the South Eastern HSC Trust at 1st June 2012.

TABLE 1

	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Occupational Therapy (by weeks waiting)¹					Total
	0 to 3	>3 to 6	>6 to 9	>9 to 13	>13	
Number of people waiting	399	310	180	169	74	1,132

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 the South Eastern HSC Trust was “>3 to 6” weeks.

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

Mental Health Problems

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people who are recorded as currently having a mental health problem; and what is this figure as a percentage of the population.

(AQW 12833/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not available in the form requested; however, under the Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF) of the General Medical Services contract, the total number of GP registered patients with certain mental health conditions is recorded.

The QOF mental health register includes all people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses.

Other QOF registers relating to mental health problems are the dementia register and the depression register. The dementia register includes all patients diagnosed with dementia. The depression register only includes patients aged 18 and over, and does not include women with postnatal depression.

The number of patients on each register and the associated prevalence are shown in table 1 below.

TABLE 1: QOF REGISTER SIZES AND PERCENTAGES PREVALENCE.

QOF Register	Number of patients on register	Prevalence
Mental Health	15,709	0.83%
Dementia	11,882	0.63%
Depression	182,525	9.62%

Data Source: Register sizes are taken from the Payment Calculation and Analysis System (PCAS) as at 31 March 2012. Denominator populations are taken from the combined registered lists of all Northern Ireland practices as at January 2012.

For comparability, the prevalence has been calculated based on the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the full GP registered list for Northern Ireland. If the depression prevalence is calculated as a percentage of the appropriate subset of the population i.e. the GP registered list for Northern Ireland aged 18 and over, the prevalence is 12.5%

Please note it is possible for an individual patient to be included on more than one register, therefore it is not appropriate to sum the register totals as this may lead to double counting due to co-morbidities.

Case of Mr Adrian Allen from Claudy

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will review the case of Mr Adrian Allen from Claudy, who is currently suffering from pancreatic cancer, to establish if he can be given drug treatment which is available in England, Scotland and Wales but not currently available in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 12841/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am unable to comment on individual cases. However, the Health and Social Care Board has made a decision to commission Sunitinib for treatment of a specific form of pancreatic cancer and consequently this medicine is available for patients in Northern Ireland with immediate effect.

Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment Equipment

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 11876/11-15, whether patients, who are suitable for Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment, are being referred to Great Britain for treatment; and how many patients each Health and Social Care Trust has referred in each of the last three years.

(AQW 12842/11-15)

Mr Poots: The referral of patients for stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment is a clinical matter for consultants and Trusts. I am advised by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that patients who are clinically suitable for this treatment are routinely referred to other parts of the UK.

Information on the number of patients referred is detailed in the table below:

Year	Belfast Trust
2009-10	21
2010-11	30
2011-12	56

Domiciliary Care Packages

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of domiciliary care packages provided by the Health and Social Care Trusts, compared with the number of packages provided by the private sector.

(AQW 12864/11-15)

Mr Poots: Table 1 below presents information on the number of clients receiving domiciliary care services from the statutory and independent sectors during a survey week in 2011.

TABLE 1

HSC Trust	Statutory	Independent*	Clients Receiving Domiciliary Care from both Sectors	Total Clients Receiving Domiciliary Care (excludes double counting)
Belfast	4,598	3,229	1,373	6,454
Northern	3,259	1,519	547	4,231
South Eastern	1,531	2,970	332	4,169
Southern	2,844	1,615	240	4,219
Western	2,288	2,551	390	4,449

HSC Trust	Statutory	Independent*	Clients Receiving Domiciliary Care from both Sectors	Total Clients Receiving Domiciliary Care (excludes double counting)
Northern Ireland	14,520	11,884	2,882	23,522

Source: CC7b Community Information Return

Information relates to the survey week 18th–24th September 2011 inclusive.

* Independent refers to both private and voluntary providers.

During the survey week in 2011, HSC Trusts provided domiciliary care services for 23,522 clients. 14,520 clients received domiciliary care services from the statutory sector, 11,884 clients received domiciliary care services from the independent sector (this information cannot be split by private and voluntary providers) and 2,882 clients received domiciliary care services from both sectors.

MRSA Virus

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people who contracted the MRSA virus during a period in hospital, in each Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 12866/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people who contracted the MRSA virus during a period in hospital is not available. However, information is available on the number of MRSA patient episodes in hospitals, in each Health and Social Care Trust, during each of the last three years. This is detailed in the table below:

HSC Trust	Number of MRSA patient episodes		
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12*
Belfast	62	48	46
Northern	22	27	19
South Eastern	28	15	14
Southern	15	11	10
Western	11	15	7
Northern Ireland	138	116	96

Source: Public Health Agency (PHA)

* Information for 2011/12 is provisional.

People Being Treated for Depression

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are currently being treated for depression, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 12867/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not available in the form requested; however, under the Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF) of the General Medical Services contract, the total number of GP registered patients with a current diagnosis of depression is recorded. The depression register only includes patients aged 18 and over, and does not include women with postnatal depression.

The number of patients on the QOF depression register broken down by parliamentary constituency is shown in table 1 below. The QOF data is collected at GP practice level, and patient details such as postcode of residence are not recorded; therefore the figures shown below are allocated to parliamentary constituency based on the location of the GP practice. It should be noted that patients may not reside in the constituency in which their GP practice is located.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PATIENTS ON THE QOF DEPRESSION REGISTER, BY PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY.

Parliamentary Constituency	Number of patients on depression register
Belfast East	9,865
Belfast North	12,074
Belfast South	10,376
Belfast West	13,123
East Antrim	6,937
East Londonderry	8,945
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	11,027
Foyle	11,918
Lagan Valley	9,334
Mid Ulster	8,568
Newry And Armagh	12,561
North Antrim	9,836
North Down	6,564
South Antrim	8,354
South Down	11,271
Strangford	11,089
Upper Bann	12,033
West Tyrone	8,650
Northern Ireland	182,525

Source: Register sizes are taken from the Payment Calculation and Analysis System (PCAS) as at 31 March 2012.

Sunitinib for Cancer Patients

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to introduce the use of Sunitinib, so that cancer patients can benefit from the same treatment as patients in England.

(AQW 12868/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board has made a decision to commission Sunitinib for the treatment of a specific form of pancreatic cancer and consequently the medicine is available for patients in Northern Ireland with immediate effect.

Bangor Diabetic Clinic

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 12299/11-15, to detail the timescale for the reinstatement of the Bangor Diabetic Clinic.

(AQW 12927/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that it is not yet in a position to determine a date for recommencing Bangor Diabetes Clinic.

Living in Close Proximity to a Wind Turbine Farm

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there are any health implications associated with living in close proximity to a wind turbine farm.

(AQW 12943/11-15)

Mr Poots: Scientific research to date has generally not indicated a causal link between living in the vicinity of wind turbines and adverse health effects.

Any public health concerns that may be raised in respect of proposals for wind farm developments should be considered as part of the planning permission process.

Health and Social Care Trust and Board Staff

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the total number of Health and Social Care Trust and Board staff, who are under formal time limited pay protection arrangements; and (ii) where pay protection does not apply, whether healthcare staff are receiving salaries above the published salary for their post.

(AQW 12980/11-15)

Mr Poots: This information is not held centrally and could only be obtained by individual Health and Social Care employers at a disproportionate cost.

Tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012 were allocated to (i) the Minister; (ii) his Department; and (iii) its arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 13088/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Office allocated 150 tickets to each Department for distribution to departmental staff and its Arms Length Bodies. There was no separate allocation of tickets made to Departmental Ministers. Additionally, the Northern Ireland Office allocated tickets directly to the 6 Health and Social Care Trusts and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

Suicide: Ministerial Subgroup

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Ministerial Sub-Group on Suicide will meet.

(AQO 2213/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have invited Ministerial colleagues to attend a meeting of the Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention. The meeting will take on Thursday 28 June 2012. The purpose of the meeting will be to agree how best to drive forward cross departmental action within the revised Protect Life Strategy Action Plan.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Residential Care

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's proposal to withdraw from provision of residential care home accommodation.

(AQO 2216/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern HSC Trust is in the process of finalising their population plans which will address the future of statutory residential care, in response to recommendations within the Transforming Your Care report.

Once the Trust population plan is completed this will be presented to me for consideration. It would be inappropriate for me to make any assessments before I have had sight of the proposals.

Fertility Treatment: NICE Guidelines

Ms Gildernew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the proposed National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on fertility treatment which will be published in June 2012.

(AQO 2217/11-15)

Mr Poots: I understand that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently consulting on revised guidance, which contains draft proposals to make changes to the qualifying period for treatment, raising the age limit for women in certain circumstances and clarifying the number of treatments women should be offered.

It is expected that the final guidance will be issued in October 2012 and, as I have already indicated in the Assembly, the final guidance will be considered for its applicability to the HSC at that time.

DHSSPS Budget: Ageing Population

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the effect that the ageing population will have on his Department's annual expenditure up to 2015.

(AQO 2218/11-15)

Mr Poots: Our ageing population presents a range of challenges to the Health and Social Care system in Northern Ireland. The latest assessment of the financial pressures associated with the ageing population indicates that an additional £40m each year will be required to meet this demand.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the provision of services for people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

(AQO 2219/11-15)

Mr Poots: Within the UK, it is believed NI has the second highest prevalence rate of MS after Scotland. So it is important that we have a health service that is appropriately skilled and understands how best to support people with MS.

Following diagnosis, patients with multiple sclerosis have access to the full range of core community health and social care services across Northern Ireland, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, community nursing, speech and language therapy, dietetics, social work/social care, domiciliary care, day care and day time opportunities and respite care, including specialist respite care.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Self-Harm

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline, on the management of self-harm, is implemented in Accident and Emergency departments.

(AQO 2220/11-15)

Mr Poots: NICE clinical guidance on self harm was endorsed for Northern Ireland by my Department in January this year. The HSC Board has developed arrangements for implementation and these are currently under consideration by the Department. The Board will be responsible for monitoring implementation and reporting on progress to the Department.

An enhanced focus on self harm prevention and response services is an objective of the refreshed Protect Life strategy. The implementation of NICE guidance on self harm is one of the indicators by which achievement of this objective will be measured. Specific action within Protect Life includes making self harm awareness training a priority for all frontline staff, including accident and emergency staff, dealing with people in distress.

The Health and Social Care Board is also considering how “places of safety” for people who have self harmed can be provided as part of a wider model of integrated care.

Residential Care: Costs

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the cost of staying in a statutory residential home compared to a private residential home.

(AQO 2221/11-15)

Mr Poots: While direct comparison between private and statutory homes is not straightforward, the information available would indicate that the cost of providing care in a private sector home would be less than the cost of care in a statutory sector home. However, value for money is about more than simply unit cost comparisons. It includes a host of other considerations like the quality of interaction that clients get from staff and whether their specific care needs are being met.

Health and Social Care: Compton Review

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the public are not being consulted on the Compton Report in its entirety.

(AQO 2222/11-15)

Mr Poots: A key objective of the Health and Social Care Review was to undertake appropriate consultation and engagement in order to ensure informed debate with a wide range of stakeholders during the review process.

The Review was supported by an extensive engagement process which included an on-line survey, a series of workshops with clinicians, and representatives from the voluntary and community and business sectors; also six public meetings.

The report on the Review, Transforming Your Care, sets out a strategic road map for health and social care into the future. Given the nature of the report, it was not considered necessary or appropriate to undertake a full consultation on the Report itself. It was always the intention that the proposals in Transforming Your Care would be subject to further assessment and development, and the Report sets out a proposed process for Population Plans that would help inform the implementation of the new model of care.

Population Plans are currently being developed by the five Local Commissioning Groups and HSC Trusts for their local areas, and engagement is taking place at local level as part of this process. Population Plans, together with an overarching Strategic Implementation Plan, are due to be developed by the end of June. It will be more meaningful to consult and engage on the more detailed work contained in the

Plans and there will be a consultation process on the Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plans, once they have been agreed.

Where there are proposals for policy changes, or major service changes coming out of the population planning process, these will also be subject to appropriate consultation.

Water Supply: Fluoridation

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the discussions he was to have with his Executive colleagues on the possible fluoridation of water.

(AQO 2223/11-15)

Mr Poets: I recently announced that I would give consideration to fluoridation of the water supplies. In the first instance I want to seek the views of my Executive colleagues and that process is ongoing at present. I have still to come to a final position on this matter and given that there are strongly held views in relation to water fluoridation, I wish to take further time to give this issue wider consideration.

Department of Justice

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

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

(AQW 12412/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): The total cost of remuneration for board members in the Department's 18 arm's length bodies is £670,650; a detailed breakdown is set out in the attached table.

REMUNERATION FOR ARM'S LENGTH BODIES BOARDS MEMBERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Name of ALB	Board Member's Remuneration £	Total Cost of Board Members' Remuneration £ ¹
NI Law Commission	Chair - 25,794 ² 4 x Commissioners = 104,346	130,140
NI Legal Services Commission	9 Commissioners	141,065 ³
NI Police Fund	Chair	6,000
NI Policing Board	Chair - 58,606 Vice Chair - 43,954 Seven Independent Board Members x £19,437 = 136,059	238,619
Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust	Ten Directors (including the Chairman)	61,216
Probation Board for Northern Ireland	Chairman - 33,010 12 Board Members x £5,050 = 60,600	93,610
Total Cost		£670,650

1 The total cost does not include travel and subsistence or other incidental expenses incurred.

- 2 The Chairman's salary is reimbursed to the NICTS for his time allocated to Commission duties each month.
- 3 The 2011/12 figures are taken from the draft un-audited Annual Report & Accounts of the Commission which may be subject to change.

Judicial Decisions

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many times he has intervened in, or over-ruled, a judicial decision; and (ii) to provide details of each case.

(AQW 12466/11-15)

Mr Ford: None. As Minister of Justice, I have no power to intervene in judicial decisions.

Individuals who were a Victim of Crime Prior to their Death

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether the Public Prosecution Service or the PSNI liaise with a family member, or the state executor, of an individual who was a victim of crime prior to their death.

(AQW 12472/11-15)

Mr Ford: Where a victim is unable to act for themselves, through injury or incapacity, the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will often work with the victim's next of kin or nominated representative to ensure the interests of the victim are appropriately represented. In doing this, they will take all steps to ensure that the person they are working with is the most appropriate representative.

The PPS and PSNI are jointly working on a project to introduce witness care units in Northern Ireland. In establishing a single point of contact for victims and witnesses, the units will provide information for those attending court and updates on how the case is progressing. The witness care units will also aid referrals to other organisations if a victim or witness requires specialist help.

In addition, I will be bringing forward a new five-year strategy for victims and witnesses of crime, one of the key themes for which will be ensuring better communication with victims and their families to make sure they get the information they need.

Martin Joseph Corey

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) on what date Martin Joseph Corey applied for compassionate bail at the High Court; and (ii) on what grounds this was refused.

(AQW 12473/11-15)

Mr Ford: Mr Corey made an application to NIPS for a period of Compassionate Temporary Release (CTR) to attend his brother's funeral on 22 May 2012.

His application was initially refused following risk assessment on a number of grounds which included his status as a Category A prisoner and that he had been deemed unsuitable for accompanied release as no appropriate person was available to accompany him.

However, after considering the particular individual circumstances of Mr Corey's case, including the humanitarian aspects, I took the decision to grant him compassionate temporary release; subject to the assurances set out in my answer to AQW/12407/11.

Stuart Townsend

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what sentence Stuart Townsend received for his first sexual offence conviction; and what sentences he has received subsequently.

(AQW 12536/11-15)

Mr Ford: Mr Townsend's first conviction was at a Youth Court. It is not possible to publish any details of that case as Youth Courts are not public hearings.

The table below sets out the sentences imposed on Mr Townsend in respect of his convictions in the Adult Magistrates' Court.

Court Venue	Offence	Sentence
Belfast Magistrates' Court Date of Conviction: 14 March 2011	Disorderly Behaviour Resisting Police Assault on Police (x2) Criminal Damage	Community Service Order 100 Hours Probation Order 1 year Compensation £100.00
Magherafelt Magistrates' Court Date of Conviction: 16 November 2011	Breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order (x6) Assault on Police Resisting Police	1 Imprisonment for 4 months Suspended for 1 year and 6 months on all charges. All sentences to run concurrently. 2 Imprisonment for 3 months Suspended for 1 year and 6 months. Sentence to run concurrently with 1. above. 3 Imprisonment for 2 months Suspended for 1 year and 6 months. Sentence to run concurrently with 1. above.
Belfast Magistrates' Court Date of Conviction: 22 December 2011	Breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order Failing to Comply with Notification Requirements Aggravated Assault Breach of Combination Order (x5)	1 Imprisonment for 3 months Suspended for 2 years. 2 Imprisonment for 3 months Suspended for 2 years. Sentence to run consecutively with 1. above. 3 Imprisonment for 2 months Suspended for 2 years. Sentence to run consecutively with 1. above. Fined £250.00. 4 Imprisonment for 4 months Suspended for 2 years on all charges. All sentences to run concurrently with sentences at 1 – 3 above.

Note: All information as at 11 June 2012.

Ackah and Deane Report

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given that other pressures prevented the delivery of the training recommended in the Ackah and Deane Report, whether the Northern Ireland Prison Service is in breach of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievances at Work, which states that those responsible for using and operating the discipline rules and procedures, including Managers at all levels, should be trained for the task and that ignoring or circumventing the procedures, when dismissing an employee, is likely to have a bearing on the outcome of any subsequent Employment Tribunal claim.

(AQW 12538/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) Code of Practice does not apply to Northern Ireland.

Cost of New Furniture and Decor for Departmental Offices

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to detail the cost of (i) new furniture; and (ii) the decor, including clocks, carpets and art, for offices under the control of his Department since April 2010.
(AQW 12577/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total spend on new furniture and decor for the last two financial years for the Department and its Agencies is as follows:

- 2010/11 - £319,138
- 2011/12 - £273,858

Please note that:

- some expenditure on furniture and decor may be recorded as, for example, maintenance or refurbishment costs and is not, therefore, separately identifiable. Any such expenditure is not included in the above totals.
- due to the way it is recorded, the expenditure identified above may include furniture and decor costs for accommodation other than offices.

Costs for Hospitality Events

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to detail the costs incurred for hospitality events which have been organised by his Department, including (i) food and drinks; (ii) travel costs; and (iii) professional fees, since April 2010.
(AQW 12579/11-15)

Mr Ford: The cost to my Department, including Agencies, of hospitality events is as follows:

- 2010/11 - £17,181
- 2011/12 - £13,886

Due to the way this expenditure is recorded, it cannot be broken down into the categories requested.

Figures exclude hospitality provided in the course of day to day business, for example hospitality provided at training courses.

Recommendation 13.5 in the Ackah and Deane Report

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 11517/11-15, (i) to detail the number of Northern Ireland Prison Service staff that have been dismissed from service since the Ackah and Deane report, broken down by (a) grade; and (b) gender; (ii) how many of these staff lodged an appeal to the Northern Ireland Civil Service Appeals Board, broken down by date; (iii) how many of these appeals alleged that the Prison Service had breached the provisions of the Code of Conduct and Discipline and statutory procedures; (iv) what were the outcomes of these appeals; and (v) how many members of staff who have been dismissed and subsequently appealed to the Civil Service Appeals Board have also lodged a complaint with the Office of the Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal alleging a breach of the provisions of the Code of Conduct and Discipline and statutory procedures.
(AQW 12614/11-15)

Mr Ford: Four Male and four Female members of staff have been dismissed; three of whom were Prison Officers and five Prison Support Grades.

The Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB) notified the NI Prison Service that four of those dismissed appealed and lodged their cases in November 2011, March and April 2012. To date two of these appeals have been upheld; two hearings remain pending.

Three of the staff dismissed and who submitted cases to the CSAB, have also lodged a complaint with The Office of the Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal NI alleging breaches of the provision of the Code and Conduct and Discipline.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many current and former members of staff of the Northern Ireland Prison Service were interviewed in relation to the Prisoner Assessment Unit; and whether this number constitutes all the staff who had worked in the unit prior to its closure.

(AQW 12616/11-15)

Mr Ford: During the course of the Prisoner Assessment Unit investigation a total of 22 staff were interviewed.

Of these staff five are serving members of NIPS who had previously worked in the Prisoner Assessment Unit but not at the time of its closure.

One member of existing Prisoner Assessment Unit staff was not interviewed due to being on sick leave.

Fixed Penalties for Minor Offences

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice in relation to the new Fixed Penalties for minor offences, what is the procedure if a person refuses to accept a penalty that has been issued.

(AQW 12617/11-15)

Mr Ford: Acceptance of the new police issued penalty notice is voluntary. If an individual declines the offer of a penalty notice, the offence will be addressed as appropriate in line with current practice.

Marian Price

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Prisoner Ombudsman has made any representations in relation to Marian Price.

(AQW 12642/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prisoner Ombudsman has not made any representation in relation to Marian Price.

NIPS: Code of Conduct and Discipline

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 11188/11-15, to provide a copy of the signed minute.

(AQW 12644/11-15)

Mr Ford: Confirmation has been received from the Northern Ireland Office that the Member can be provided with a redacted version of the document he has requested. Arrangements will be made to make this available to him.

Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (NI) 1995

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why the Code of Conduct referred to in Rules 6 and 118 (3) of the Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (NI) 1995 (SR&O No.8) was not included in the Statutory Rule (SR) when it came into operation on 1 March 1995; and whether he intends to amend the SR.

(AQW 12648/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline is enacted under Rule 6 of the Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (NI) 1995 and there is no requirement for it to be included in the Statutory Rule (SR). As such I do not intend to amend the SR.

Martin Joseph Corey

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether Martin Joseph Corey is a separated prisoner; and whether he has signed the required compact.

(AQW 12649/11-15)

Mr Ford: I can confirm Martin Joseph Corey is a separated prisoner. Mr Corey has refused to sign the required compact. However, he has been made aware of its content and that he is expected to adhere to the conditions.

Report into the Prisoner Assessment Unit Closure

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Prisoner Ombudsman has received the report by the Northern Ireland Prison Service into the Prisoner Assessment Unit closure and the details of the issues that have arisen following the closure and the report.

(AQW 12700/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prisoner Ombudsman has not received the report.

Code of Conduct and Discipline by the Secretary of State

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 11188/11-15, whether the minute constitutes legislative approval by the Secretary of State for the Code of Conduct.

(AQW 12701/11-15)

Mr Ford: The minute from the Secretary of State's Office approves the Code of Conduct and Discipline in line with Rule 6 of The Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (Northern Ireland).

Capital Spending

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) his Department's current capital spending; and (ii) any projects that are planned between now and the end of the current Assembly Mandate.

(AQW 12723/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice capital DEL baseline, split by spending area, is set out in the table below.

The main capital projects that are planned over the Budget 2011-15 period (i.e. to 31 March 2015) include:

NI Prison Service

The NI Prison Service is currently consulting on its Outline Estate Strategy. The Strategy has been developed to meet the accommodation needs of the prison population and also to support delivery of the Prison Service's core aim of improving public safety by reducing the risk of reoffending through the management and rehabilitation of offenders in custody. The outcome of this consultation will inform the main capital projects to be taken forward by the Prison Service.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

In addition to a range of IT, transport and estate capital projects, the Department will also progress the Desertcreat integrated training college, at a cost of up to £138m (this includes £10m of funding in relation to the NI Prison Service elements of the college). The Outline Business Case for the college has been approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

Forensic Science Agency

The Department also plans to develop new laboratory accommodation for the Forensic Science Agency at a cost of approximately £14m over the Budget 2011-15 period. An outline business case for this project is currently being considered by DFP.

DOJ 2012-13 capital baseline	£k
Forensic Science NI	460
Access to Justice Directorate	10,900
Compensation Agency	-
Safer Communities Directorate	400
NI Prison Service	8,300
Youth Justice Agency	-
NI Courts and Tribunals Service	2,280
Police Service of NI	41,807
Office of the Police Ombudsman NI	100
NI Policing Board	-
Probation Board for NI	290
Criminal Justice Inspection NI	-
NI Legal Services Commission	-
NI Police Fund	-
RUC George Cross Foundation	-
Total Capital Budget	64,537

Security Measures at Dungannon Court House

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what is the cost of the additional security measures that are being installed at Dungannon Court House; and whether any other court house is having its security measures increased or improved.

(AQW 12764/11-15)

Mr Ford: The estimated final costs of the additional measures at Dungannon Courthouse is £115,000, excluding VAT and professional fees.

These measures follow a review of the court estate which recommended improvements at a number of courthouses.

Injury Compensation Claims

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether an injury compensation claim can be made in the absence of the incident being reported to the PSNI.

(AQW 12781/11-15)

Mr Ford: An injury compensation claim can be made in the absence of the incident being reported to the PSNI. However, such a claim is likely to be refused under paragraph 14(1) of the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2002, whereby if a person fails to take, without delay, all reasonable steps to inform the police, or other appropriate body, of the circumstances giving rise to an injury, compensation can be withheld or reduced.

Police Ombudsman: Gerry McGeough

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Prisoner Ombudsman has made any representations to his Department, or its arm's-length bodies, in relation to Gerry McGeough.

(AQW 12795/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prisoner Ombudsman has not made any representation in relation to Gerry McGeough.

Case Number 11/128987 at Magherafelt Magistrates' Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why case number 11/128987 at Magherafelt Magistrates' Court did not proceed.

(AQW 12796/11-15)

Mr Ford: On 6 June 2012 at Magherafelt Magistrates' Court the Public Prosecution Service withdrew the charges in case number 11/128987.

This is a prosecutorial decision which is the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions and not something upon which I can comment.

Possession of Illegal Poisons

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been (i) charged with; (ii) prosecuted for; and (iii) convicted of possession of illegal poisons, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12805/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no specific offence for the possession of illegal poisons. Poison related offences may be prosecuted under a range of statutes including Article 9 and Article 12(5) Poisons (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, Article 15B Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Section 7 Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 15 Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Section 22 and Section 24 Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

Prosecution and conviction data for the calendar years 2004 to 2006 and conviction data for 2007 to 2008 (the last year for which data are available) record one prosecution and conviction for administering poison to endanger life in 2006 (Section 24 Offences Against the Person Act 1861).

Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) has recorded no charges for poison related offences in the available corresponding years (2006 – 2008).

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Forensic Services Northern Ireland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12268/11-15, how many cases have been in the Forensic Services Northern Ireland system for more than the 44 day average.

(AQW 12818/11-15)

Mr Ford: At 14 June 2012, 722 cases at various stages of the analysis or reporting process were in Forensic Science Northern Ireland for more than 44 days.

Case Number 12/021693 at Dungannon Magistrates' Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to clarify the circumstances which led to the dismissal of case number 12/021693 at Dungannon Magistrates' Court, after the Public Prosecution Service was unable to offer any evidence.

(AQW 12876/11-15)

Mr Ford: On 8 June 2012 at Dungannon Magistrates' Court the District Judge (Magistrates' Court) made the order 'Dismissed – Prosecution offers no evidence'.

The decision not to offer evidence in any case is a matter for the Public Prosecution Service and the reasons unpinning such decisions are not something upon which I can comment.

Department for Regional Development

Waste Water Treatment Works at the Maze Site

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, what plans there are to construct a waste water treatment works at the Maze site in advance of hosting the Balmoral Show; and what will be the waste water and sewage disposal arrangements on the site.

(AQW 12489/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it has had initial discussions with representatives of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society and with various Government departments regarding the provision of water and wastewater services to the Maze site. Any decisions on the extent of service provision remain premature as there is no firm direction on requirements or timelines from the parties involved.

NIW will address the water and sewerage requirements for the site as part of the normal planning consultation process.

Management Level Posts in Translink

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 11792/11-15, to detail the current number of management level posts within the (i) bus; and (ii) rail sector, broken down by (a) customer services; and (b) engineering posts.

(AQW 12491/11-15)

Mr Kennedy:

- (i) Translink advise that the current number of management level posts in Bus Services with customer service responsibilities is 23 and engineering posts is 3.
- (ii) For the Rail sector with customer services responsibilities the number is 5 and for engineering posts the number is 4.

This gives a total number of 35 posts.

These 35 posts were included in the overall figure of 82 managerial posts which were referred to under AQW 11792/11-15.

Rambler Service in Co Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development why Translink is not operating a Rambler Service in Co Fermanagh.

(AQW 12514/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Rambler Bus services are operated by Translink with support from the Rural Transport Fund (RTF) which is administered by my Department. To qualify for support such services need to comply with the criteria set. These criteria relate to population served, patronage and the level of subsidy required.

There are currently no Rambler services in Fermanagh despite a range of services being previously trialled in the area. These services failed to sustain the RTF criteria for support as set out above.

RTF services are primarily aimed at reducing social exclusion for rural dwellers.

Tullygarley Waste Treatment Plant

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of Tullygarley Waste Treatment Plant's capacity to deal with the waste that it receives.

(AQW 12530/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that under normal conditions the Tullaghgarley Wastewater Treatment Works in Ballymena operates at approximately 76% of capacity and the performance of the Works is satisfactory.

Discharges from the Works are subject to control by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and standards have been set relating to the quality and quantity of effluent that can be discharged to the River Maine. The Works has consistently achieved the standards set and has been assessed by NIEA as compliant.

Tullygarley Waste Treatment Plant

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development what type of waste treatment is carried out at the Tullygarley Waste Treatment Plant.

(AQW 12531/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that Tullaghgarley Wastewater Treatment Works in Ballymena is a Conventional Activated Sludge Plant. The treatment processes at the plant include inlet screening; grit removal; primary settlement; biological aeration; final settlement; tertiary sand filters; sludge thickening and chemical addition to aid phosphorus reduction.

Discharges into the River Maine

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the discharges into the River Maine, from NI Water controlled waste treatment plants, during the last three months, including (i) the dates and times of the discharge; and (ii) the volume and nature of the material discharged.

(AQW 12532/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that four wastewater treatment works discharge into the River Maine namely Tullaghgarley, Dunloy, Glarryford and Slaght. Discharges from these Works are subject to control by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and standards have been set relating to the quality and quantity of effluent that can be discharged to the River Maine.

In relation to (i) all four works are consented to discharge treated wastewater on a continuous basis.

In relation to (ii) NIW is only required to collect treated wastewater volume and quality data for the two larger Works namely Tullaghgarley and Dunloy and this information is provided below for the three month period March to May 2012. The results show that both Works are complying with the quality standards set by NIEA. Dunloy Works is also consented to discharge settled storm wastewater and screened wastewater but there were no discharges to the River Maine from the storm tank during the three month period. There is no requirement to collect volumetric data for Glarryford or Slaght Works so volume and quality data is not available.

Volume Data for Tullaghgarley and Dunloy Works

Date	Tullaghgarley (m3/day)	Dunloy (m3/day)
31/05/2012	22794.96	203.919
30/05/2012	15795.29	208.312
29/05/2012	15800.19	212.442

Date	Tullaghgarley (m3/day)	Dunloy (m3/day)
28/05/2012	16279.93	216.433
27/05/2012	14600.66	235.676
26/05/2012	16620.56	221.006
25/05/2012	19863.34	173.366
24/05/2012	17622.67	237.78
23/05/2012	15669	243.077
22/05/2012	16864.17	246.413
21/05/2012	15230.58	262.322
20/05/2012	16270.5	348.491
19/05/2012	18447.13	375.288
18/05/2012	30861.66	539.232
17/05/2012	22706.82	386.083
16/05/2012	23951.03	446.151
15/05/2012	24417.43	396.733
14/05/2012	17050	257.68
13/05/2012	17534.46	349.647
12/05/2012	24822.77	472.486
11/05/2012	24276.04	400.003
10/05/2012	16750.71	228.739
09/05/2012	20695.1	296.482
08/05/2012	18519.39	383.442
07/05/2012	14313.3	226.652
06/05/2012	14865.23	232.079
05/05/2012	16712.35	227.981
04/05/2012	16885.09	233.897
03/05/2012	16395.55	232.153
02/05/2012	17061.21	235.247
01/05/2012	16644.84	237.268
30/04/2012	16101.04	252.858
29/04/2012	17369.44	258.291
28/04/2012	18403.92	265.275
27/04/2012	25386.73	354.226
26/04/2012	19818.31	288.903

Date	Tullaghgarley (m3/day)	Dunloy (m3/day)
25/04/2012	21331.03	370.698
24/04/2012	22667.5	384.882
23/04/2012	25380.87	459.205
22/04/2012	21329.75	375.665
21/04/2012	17752.36	250.028
20/04/2012	18765.13	299.786
19/04/2012	19799.33	359.336
18/04/2012	31635.32	509.125
17/04/2012	18460.2	268.597
16/04/2012	15935.4	237.384
15/04/2012	16836.12	252.66
14/04/2012	18221.21	302.046
13/04/2012	18183.39	356.432
12/04/2012	17750.24	492.787
11/04/2012	17563.15	538.826
10/04/2012	17579.04	366.842
09/04/2012	17893.23	358.253
08/04/2012	16489.33	324.707
07/04/2012	15486.73	284.524
06/04/2012	15983.08	208.986
05/04/2012	15838.77	256.829
04/04/2012	19258.79	382.475
03/04/2012	15663.77	228.604
02/04/2012	14252.45	212.796
01/04/2012	18073.1	255.967
31/03/2012	17698.33	175.493
30/03/2012	20242.93	215.659
29/03/2012	18733.7	218.051
28/03/2012	16859.31	224.196
27/03/2012	19095.79	229.382
26/03/2012	14996.79	211.231
25/03/2012	15262.82	228.996
24/03/2012	22420.36	225.923

Date	Tullaghgarley (m3/day)	Dunloy (m3/day)
23/03/2012	19483.81	228.54
22/03/2012	15388.16	226.245
21/03/2012	17270.25	231.105
20/03/2012	21605.46	237.962
19/03/2012	16502.27	258.882
18/03/2012	18625.29	344.33
17/03/2012	26330.67	275.313
16/03/2012	17872.31	199.765
15/03/2012	19260.97	173.961
14/03/2012	17684.49	179.104
13/03/2012	17717.39	203.547
12/03/2012	16779.66	279.36
11/03/2012	18288.91	319.994
10/03/2012	19151.23	325.955
09/03/2012	19896.21	345.707
08/03/2012	25342.91	348.149
07/03/2012	21140.02	276.185
06/03/2012	19583.28	300.065
05/03/2012	18418.89	317.125
04/03/2012	24452.07	326.118
03/03/2012	37590.7	183.132
02/03/2012	33146.33	110.407
01/03/2012	27138.72	260.579

QUALITY DATA FOR TULLAGHGARLEY AND DUNLOY WORKS

Works	Date Sampled	Ammonia mg/l	Biological Oxygen Demand mg/l	Total Phosphorus mg/l	Suspended Solids mg/l
Tullaghgarley	07/03/2012	0.04	0.8	0.13	<0.100
Tullaghgarley	15/03/2012	<0.033	0.4	0.12	7
Tullaghgarley	23/03/2012	<0.033	0.9	0.18	2
Tullaghgarley	26/03/2012	<0.033	0.7	0.4	3
Tullaghgarley	03/04/2012	<0.033	0.7	0.73	2
Tullaghgarley	11/04/2012	<0.033	0.8	0.87	6

Works	Date Sampled	Ammonia mg/l	Biological Oxygen Demand mg/l	Total Phosphorus mg/l	Suspended Solids mg/l
Tullagharley	19/04/2012	<0.033	2	0.35	7
Tullagharley	27/04/2012	<0.033	0.8	0.26	4
Tullagharley	03/05/2012	<0.033	1.2	0.34	2
Tullagharley	08/05/2012	<0.033	1.1	0.78	5
Tullagharley	24/05/2012	2	1.2	0.26	2
Dunloy	08/03/2012	0.05	0.8		0.4
Dunloy	23/03/2012	0.07	1.6		6.3
Dunloy	03/04/2012	0.89	0.9		5.6
Dunloy	16/05/2012	0.53	1.1		0.9

Tullagharley Works Consent limits

Ammonia	3 mg/l (Upper tier 12mg/l)
Biological Oxygen Demand	15 mg/l (Upper tier 50mg/l)
Total Phosphorus	1 mg/l
Suspended Solids	25 mg/l (Upper tier 60mg/l)

Dunloy Works Consent Limits

Ammonia	3 mg/l
Biological Oxygen Demand	10 mg/l
Suspended Solids	20 mg/l

NI Water Controlled Waste Treatment Plants

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the discharges into designated water courses, from NI Water controlled waste treatment plants, during the month of May 2012, including (i) the dates and times of the discharge; and (ii) the volume and nature of the material discharged.

(AQW 12533/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it has 359 wastewater treatment works which discharge to designated water courses. In relation to (i) all of these works discharge wastewater on a continuous basis. In relation to (ii) information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Water Mains Network on the Berryhill Road, Donemana

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 11818/11-15, whether the Asset Management Unit has completed plans for the replacement of the water mains network on the Berryhill Road, Donemana, and is ready to commence work when funding becomes available.

(AQW 12574/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it has an on-going multi-million pound water mains rehabilitation programme that includes network modelling and assessments, solution development and ultimately project delivery. The upgrade of the network in Berryhill Road has been included as one element of this programme but work is unlikely to commence until the 2013/14 financial year.

NIW is currently engaged in developing working drawings to allow the project to commence on site when funding becomes available.

Park and Ride Car Parks

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline what action is being taken to ensure that Park and Ride car parks are being used for that purpose, rather than being used as general parking for the location or by people working in the area.

(AQW 12591/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The use of these sites is controlled by the Off Street Parking Order (NI) 2000 which determines the types of vehicles permitted to use the car parks. The Order does not limit the use of the car parks solely for Park and Ride/Park and Share purposes, however, as most of these are located outside of town centres, their use by other users tends to be limited.

Translink officials advise that many of their Park & Ride facilities have access/egress barriers in place to discourage casual parking. However, it is acknowledged that even where these exist and where staff are on site, this may not necessarily prevent motorists from choosing to use the facility without availing of the connecting public transport. They add that at other locations where there are no barriers, for example at the Park and Ride site at Abbey Street, Bangor, arrangements may be put in place to have a security guard on site to deter casual parking.

Such facilities also have relevant signage, to inform intending passengers of the availability of Park & Ride at that location and to highlight to others the purpose of the facility.

Parking Charges in Bangor Car Parks

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline what assessment was made of the potential impact on train users of the introduction of parking charges in Bangor car parks.

(AQW 12592/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member is aware, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) 2015 set out a range of measures to control the demand for parking within the Belfast Metropolitan Area. The BMTP identified an area of parking restraint within Bangor and the car-parks at Dufferin Avenue, Abbey Street West, and Central Avenue all fall within this area.

Plans to introduce charging in a number of Roads Service car-parks were included in the budgetary Savings Delivery Plan relating to the review of car-parking charges. Charges were to have been introduced in 2011 but there was a delay to allow for a consultation period. Roads Service officials have advised me that, during the consultation period, no objections were received in respect of these car-parks.

No specific assessment has been carried out to assess the potential impact that the proposed charges would have on train users. However, tariffs in these car parks have been set at the low end of the spectrum, that is, 20p per hour in respect of Dufferin Avenue car park and 30p per hour at both the Abbey Street West and Central Avenue car parks. Season tickets, which are likely to be an attractive option for train users and offer a significant reduction on these hourly rates, are also available at each of these car parks.

The BMTP can be viewed on-line at the following address: www.drdni.gov.uk/bmtp.

Park and Ride Facilities in Bangor

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the plans his Department has to increase Park and Ride facilities in Bangor.

(AQW 12594/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Last year my Department published a Strategic review of Park and Ride. That report highlighted the importance of Park and Ride in promoting sustainable transport. In addition it set out a

number of recommendations and identified those strategic locations at which the development of Park and Ride should be prioritised as available funding permits.

The report recognised the need for additional Park and Ride at Bangor Station and identified this as a priority site for development as funding permits. While funding has been secured for the extension of Park and Ride across Northern Ireland, it will not be possible to deliver all priority schemes in the current budgetary period. Recognising this, officials from my Department, Roads Service and Translink are finalising details of those schemes to be delivered up to 2015 and those for delivery beyond that period.

TaxSmart Initiative

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are any plans to extend the TaxSmart Initiative to employees within the Imperial Civil Service.

(AQW 12710/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the member that the decision whether or not to introduce the TaxSmart Initiative in the Imperial Civil Service rests with the employing body, HM Treasury.

Policy on Grass Cutting in Residential Areas

Mr Clarke asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the Roads Service policy on grass cutting in residential areas where the 30 mph speed limit applies.

(AQW 12720/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service cuts grass on areas, deemed to be part of the public road, to prevent overgrowth onto carriageways and footway surfaces and obstruction of sightlines and traffic signs. Such grass cutting operations are carried out for road safety reasons and not for cosmetic or amenity purposes.

The present policy provides for two cuts a year in rural areas and five cuts in urban areas. The area to be cut is one swathe width, approximately 1.2m wide, with the complete area required for sightlines to be cut as necessary. This maintains a balance between road safety and environmental protection.

However, for aesthetic and amenity reasons, some Councils wish to have a higher standard of grass maintenance within their boundary than is provided by Roads Service. In such areas, the Councils accept responsibility for the work within their respective boundary and are reimbursed by Roads Service for the cuts that would have been carried out under Roads Service Policy.

Parking Tickets Issued in Omagh During the Olympic Torch Parade

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Regional Development how many parking tickets were issued by traffic wardens in Omagh, during the Olympic Torch parade which took place on 6 June 2012.

(AQW 12721/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that of the 14 Penalty Charge Notices issued in Omagh on Tuesday 5 June 2012, the day of the Olympic Torch parade in the town, two were issued during the parade.

NI Railways Services: Wi-Fi

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the introduction of wi-fi to the Belfast to Dublin Enterprise train service, and other NI Railways services.

(AQW 12726/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advise that the target date for introduction of Wi-Fi on all train services is the end of September 2012.

Roads Scheduled to have Traffic Calming Measures Introduced

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the roads in the North Down area that are scheduled to have traffic calming measures introduced; and when these measures will be introduced.

(AQW 12774/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service receives many requests for traffic calming schemes and, as demand greatly exceeds the resources available to supply these measures, all proposals are assessed, scored and prioritised using established criteria. Works programmes are then drawn up on an annual basis and subsequently published in the Spring Roads Service Report to Councils.

In relation to the 2012/13 financial year, I can advise that Roads Service currently proposes to provide the following traffic calming schemes in the North Down area:

- Brunswick Road area (incorporating Brunswick Road, Rugby Avenue, Grange Road and Grange Avenue);
- Bryansburn Road; and
- Groomsport Road area (incorporating Groomsport Road, Windmill Road and Bellevue).

However, I would emphasise that progression of these the schemes will be dependent on the successful conclusion of the public consultation and legislative processes and the availability of funding. In addition, this programme may be subject to change as priority assessments of new requests for traffic calming are completed therefore ensuring that the finite resources available are directed at those sites deemed to be in greatest need of such measures.

In these circumstances, I am currently unable to provide definitive timescales for the introduction of these schemes.

Construction of Cycle Lanes

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the change in the number of people cycling, as a result of the construction of cycle lanes in the last five years.

(AQW 12804/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the member that I remain committed to promoting and supporting the use of sustainable transport including cycling. The Annual Cycling Usage Report for Northern Ireland 2000-2010 contains information on the average daily flow of cycle journeys recorded at both shared and dedicated cycle facilities and shows increases over 47% in the number of cyclists across Northern Ireland recorded. The average daily cycle flow in 2003 based on the Survey was 1245 and in 2010 was 1837. This is likely to understate the volume of regular cyclists. The report is currently being updated. It is unlikely that a direct causal link can be established between estimates of increases in the number of people cycling and cycle lane construction as there are a range of factors involved.

Roads Service's Policy on Issuing Sandbags

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to review Roads Service's policy on issuing sandbags to properties, particularly to those in areas vulnerable to flooding, such as parts of Finaghy, South Belfast.

(AQW 12888/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: During periods of inclement weather, the primary objective of my Department's Roads Service is to deal with the impact of roads related flooding that is caused by blocked or overwhelmed infrastructure, such as gullies or other road drainage systems, for which it has responsibility.

During periods of flood warnings, severe weather warnings or actual flooding incidents, numerous requests are made to Roads Service from the public, elected representatives and traders for the provision of sandbags. If these requests relate to roads related flooding and when resources permit,

Roads Service will supply and deploy sandbags. In other cases, where Roads Service is not the lead Agency for the distribution of sandbags, I can confirm that if requested and when resources permit, Roads Service will provide assistance to other agencies dealing with flooding incidents, particularly in cases where public safety is an issue or where properties are at risk of flooding.

It is my view that Roads Service's policy relating to the issue of sandbags is fit for purpose and as such, I currently have no plans to review it.

Department for Social Development

Energy Companies: Meetings or Events

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the occasions on which he or his Special Advisor have taken part in hospitality trips, engagements, dinners, meetings or events arranged by, or on behalf of, energy companies in the last four years, broken down by (i) location; (ii) attendees; (iii) the companies present or represented; (iv) the matters that were discussed; and (v) who covered the cost of each event.

(AQW 12447/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): Please see the attached table for information in relation to (i) to (iv) above. Costs of meetings in the Lighthouse Building or Parliament Buildings would be met by the Department for Social Development, with the costs of other events met by the hosts.

Type of event; engagement; meeting etc	Occasion - date	Arranged By	Location (i)	Attendees (ii)	Companies Pres (iii)	Matters Discussed (iv)
Meeting	19 December 08	Eamon Clarke	Alternative Heats – 11 Burrenreagh Road, Castlewellan	Eamon Clarke	Alternative Heat	Renewable energies
Meeting	14 January 09	Minister	Lighthouse Building	Pat Austin	National energy Action - NEA	Warm Homes
Conference	24 February 09	Pat Austin	Dunadry Hotel	Pat Austin	NEA	Opening Address - Action on Fuel Poverty, Finding it – Fixing it
Annual Dinner	11 March 2009	Dan Sinton (Chair NIEI)	Culloden Hotel	Dan Sinton Ciaran McGrath	Energy Institute NI	Provided key note address

Type of event; engagement; meeting etc	Occasion - date	Arranged By	Location (i)	Attendees (ii)	Companies Pres (iii)	Matters Discussed (iv)
Meeting	22 April 2009	John McMullan – Bryson House	Lighthouse Building	John McMullan, Jenny Boyd, Pat Austin, Nigel Brady, Noel Williams, Tracey Colgan, Collete Brolly, Lucinda McMurrin, Paula Tally, Sarah Brady, Andy McCrea, Eleanor Gill, Richard Williams, Mimi McAlinden, Noel Rice, Pat McAuley, Laura Barclay, Mark Prentice, David Strahan, Ann O'Reilly.	NIE, National Energy Action NI, NI Energy Agency, Energy Saving Trust, Northern and Western Health Action Zone, NIFA, Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Agency, Firmus Energy, Phoenix Gas, Age Concern, Minister Ritchie	Affordable warmth, Task Force Recommendations, UK Regional FPAGs, Social Action Plan
Meeting	29 April 2009	Noel Williams	Lighthouse Building	Noel Williams & Patrick Thomas	Energy Savings Trust (EST)	Domestic Energy Efficiency, domestic renewable and roll out of natural gas to rural NI
Meeting	23 June 2010	Terry McErlane	Lighthouse Building	Terry McErlane & Nigel Brady (Account Director, Chambre Public Affairs LLP)	NIEA	Introduction of the boiler replacement scheme & Green New Deal

Type of event; engagement; meeting etc	Occasion - date	Arranged By	Location (i)	Attendees (ii)	Companies Pres (iii)	Matters Discussed (iv)
Meeting	26 October 10	Minister	Lighthouse Building	Stephen McCully, NIE David Strahan, Phoenix Energy, Mark Prentice, Firmus Energy	Phoenix Gas, NIE, Firmus Gas	Fuel Poverty & energy brokerage
Meeting	23 November 10	Minister	Lighthouse Building	Stephen Wheeler, Airtricity	Airtricity	Fuel Poverty & energy brokerage
Meeting	16 February 11	Minister	Lighthouse Building	Shane Lynch	Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulator	Energy Price, Energy Brokerage, Extension of gas network and Regulation of oil
Meeting	9 March 2011	Minister	Parliament Buildings	Peter Molloy, Roy Murray & Beverly Warburton	BP	Energy Price, Energy Brokerage, Extension of gas network and Regulation of oil

MINISTER MCCAUSLAND IN POST FROM MAY 2011

Meeting	26 July 2011	John McMullian – Bryson House	Lighthouse Building	John McMullian, Nigel Brady, NI Energy Agency	NI Energy Agency	Warm Homes Scheme & Boiler Replacement Scheme
Visit	1 September 11	Minister	Portadown	Neil Stewart Graeme Stewart Kevin McNamee	Glen Dimplex Renewables Seagoe Technologies Kingspan Renewables	Overview on the role of renewable energy in tackling fuel poverty
Meeting	20 September 11	Shane Lynch	Parliament Buildings	Shane Lynch, Kevin Shiels & Sarah Brady (Manager, Social & Environmental Sustainability)	Utility Regulator	Professor Liddell's research on the definition of fuel poverty; Social/Affordability tariffs; Winter Fuel Payments.
Meeting	18 October 11	Pat Austin	Parliament Buildings	Pat Austin & Meadhbh McCann	NEA	Fuel Poverty Issues
Meeting	25 October 11	Minister	Parliament Buildings	David Blevings Jillian Ferris Philip Browne	NI Oil Federation, Carillion, Kingspan Environmental	To view a "Pay as you go" Oil System
Meeting	30 January 2012	Neil Stewart	Parliament Buildings	Neil Stewart	Glen Dimplex Renewables	To discuss a potential new domestic energy system

Gamble Park, Castlederg

Mr Doherty asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) whether the houses at Gamble Park, Castlederg, have ever been rewired and when; and (ii) whether he will arrange for a health and safety audit to be undertaken on the houses to ensure that the electrics and plumbing are safe.

(AQW 12558/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Improvement and maintenance works, including rewiring, were carried out to the properties at Gamble Park, Castlederg in the early 1980's. The Housing Executive recently inspected five of their seven properties in the Gamble Park area and whilst the electrics and plumbing were deemed to be safe, a number of socket outlets were below current standards. A kitchen refurbishment scheme is currently programmed for November 2012 and complete house rewiring for the properties in Gamble Park will be included within this scheme.

Empty Homes Action Plan

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the new Empty Homes Action Plan.
(AQW 12568/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In October of last year I tasked the Housing Executive with producing a new empty homes strategy and action plan as a matter of urgency.

A working group has been established to bring forward a revised action plan to actively address the issue of empty homes; this includes senior representatives from my Department, the Housing Executive, the Department of Finance and Personnel and Belfast City Council. Two pilots have commenced in the Fortwilliam/Victoria and Upper Newtownards Road areas of Belfast (comprising of 160 houses in total of which 30 are empty); these will inform the development of a regional plan. However, initial attempts to make contact with registered home owners has been disappointing and follow up work is being undertaken. I will bring forward a plan as soon as possible.

Former Girdwood Barracks Site

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to list all correspondence he has sent to individuals and organisations, in relation to the development of the former Girdwood Barracks site, North Belfast, including the name of each recipient and the date of the correspondence.

(AQW 12573/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I have written to the following individuals and organisations in relation to the development of the former Girdwood Barracks site, North Belfast:

- Caral Ni Chuilin MLA and Gerry Kelly MLA on 12 September 2011;
- Executive colleagues on 27 October 2011 and 18 May 2012;
- Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive on 15 November 2011;
- Judith Cochrane MLA on 5 March 2012;
- Chair of the Assembly's Committee for Social Development on 18 May 2012; and,
- Letter signed by an official, on behalf of the Minister for Social Development, on 18 April 2012 to Belfast City Council officers'.

St Patrick's Barracks Site, Ballymena

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the release of the St Patrick's Barracks site in Ballymena by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

(AQW 12603/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Legal processes for the conveyance of the former military housing at St Patrick's Barracks in Ballymena from OFMDFM to my Department are underway. This will be completed as soon

as possible taking account of the normal conveyance period. In the meantime Fold Housing Association is being facilitated with access to the site for planning purposes.

The remainder of the site is owned by OFMDFM. My Department has been engaged since the site was declared surplus in 2008 with other public sector stakeholders who are interested in acquiring portions of the sites for new facilities. There has been no decision by OFMDFM on the next steps in releasing this part of the site.

QUANGOS

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development how many QUANGOS, that are attached to his Department, have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007.

(AQW 12605/11-15)

Mr McCausland: One new Non-Departmental Public Body has been created as a result of legislation passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly for which my Department has responsibility since 2007.

The Charities Act (NI) 2008 provided for the establishment of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI), an Executive Non-Departmental Body. The CCNI was established in June 2009 to put in place a new regulatory framework for the charitable sector in Northern Ireland.

EU Grant Application for Portadown People's Park

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development to explain the delay in issuing the letter of offer to Craigavon Borough Council for the EU grant application for Portadown People's Park; and when the letter will be issued.

(AQW 12622/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Letters of Offer are issued by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) subject to approval of the Economic Appraisal/Business Case by the Department for Social Development and the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). Since receipt of the Economic Appraisal from the applicant both my Department and DFP have progressed it within the appropriate timescales. In the course of this work it has been necessary to seek further information from the applicants. On the 11 June the applicants provided information that will allow DFP to continue their assessment.

The SEUPB have advised applicants that budgetary constraints within one of the Accountable Departments in Ireland (the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government), responsible for providing match-funding for specific priorities under the EU's PEACE III Programme, have led to a temporary delay in the issuing of letters of offer to a number of projects.

Disabled Facilities in the South Down Constituency

Ms Ruane asked the Minister for Social Development, for each of the last 12 months, to detail (i) how much has been spent on disabled facilities in the South Down constituency; (ii) how many people have received adaptations to their houses; and (iii) how many people have received additional bathroom and bedroom facilities, broken down by (a) areas within the South Down constituency; and (ii) community background.

(AQW 12650/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency or on the basis of their customer's community background. The number of people is also not available.

However, the tables 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 below provide details relating to the Housing Executive's Banbridge, Newry and Downpatrick district office areas. Table 2 is by Council area.

TABLE 1 – HOUSING EXECUTIVE STOCK EXPENDITURE ON ALL ADAPTATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY *

Year	Month	Banbridge District £k	Downpatrick District £k	Newry District £k	Total £k
2011	June	7	7	55	69
	July	22	23	29	74
	August	31	66	58	155
	September	33	45	67	145
	October	30	86	32	148
	November	9	34	17	60
	December	40	34	91	165
	January	27	85	41	153
	February	4	7	31	42
	March	4	51	85	140
2012	April	11	66	113	190
	May	14	27	19	60
Total		232	531	638	1,401

* Expenditure may relate to works commenced in previous months

TABLE 2 – DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFGS) ACTIVITY 2011/12, OWNER OCCUPIERS/PRIVATE RENTED

Council Area	DFGs completed	Expenditure
Banbridge	23	£401,978
Newry and Mourne	79	£1,150,714
Down	36	£763,121

Notes:

- (i) The Housing Executive can not report on Disabled Facilities Grants in terms of work content, constituency area or community background.
- (ii) The most up to date available information regarding Disabled Facilities Grants Activity is for the 2011/12 financial year. This cannot be broken down into monthly.

TABLE 3 – BANBRIDGE DISTRICT MAJOR ADAPTATIONS

Year	Month	Extensions	Type	Heating
2011	June	0		2
	July	0		1
	August	0		1
	September	0		1
	October	0		0
	November	0		0
	December	0		0
	January	0		0
	February	0		0
	March	0		0
2012	April	0		0
	May	1	Bedroom & shower-room	0
	Total	1		5

TABLE 4 – NEWRY DISTRICT MAJOR ADAPTATIONS

Year	Month	Extensions	Type	Heating
2011	June	0		4
	July	0		0
	August	1	Bedroom & shower-room	0
	September	0		6
	October	1	Bedroom & shower-room	1
	November	0		7
	December	1	Shower-room	2
	January	1	Bedroom & shower-room	1
	February	2	1 x Bedroom & shower-room 1 x Bedroom	0
	March	1	Bedroom	1
2012	April	0		0
	May	1	Bedroom & shower-room	0
	Total	8		22

TABLE 5 – DOWNPATRICK DISTRICT MAJOR ADAPTATIONS

Year	Month	Extensions	Type	Heating
2011	June	0		1
	July	1	Bedroom	0
	August	0		1
	September	0		0
	October	0		0
	November	1	Bedroom & shower-room	0
	December	0		1
	January	1	Bedroom	0
	February	0		2
	March	1	Bedroom & shower-room	1
2012	April	0		0
	May	0		0
	Totals	4		6

TABLE 6 – BANBRIDGE, NEWRY & DOWNPATRICK DISTRICTS MINOR ADAPTATIONS

District	Number of minor adaptations completed		No. of dwellings
	Routine adaptations	Shower adaptations	
Banbridge	80	20	75
Newry	177	22	159
Downpatrick	189	45	156

Notes:

- (i) Routine adaptations include the fitting of handrails and ramps.

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.

Social and Affordable Homes in the Foyle Constituency

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of social and affordable homes that his Department plans to build in the Foyle constituency in each of the next three years. [R] **(AQW 12671/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Social Housing Development Programme for the next three years has been published and is available on the Housing Executive website at www.nihe.gov.uk and this will identify where new social housing will be delivered in those years. Affordable homes are demand led and cannot be identified in advance as the Member requests.

Direct Payments for Rent to Landlords via Universal Credit

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department is considering retaining direct payments for rent to landlords via Universal Credit, as is currently the case for Housing Benefit.

[R]

(AQW 12673/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I welcome the overall reform of the welfare system but in doing so I want to be sure that the Northern Ireland position is taken into account when it comes to the question of how that reform is delivered. In this connection I instigated the setting up of the Executive sub-Committee on Welfare Reform and this is one of the questions that Members of that sub-Committee have been addressing. I have yet to take a final view on the implications of the payment arrangements for Universal Credit, in Northern Ireland, as I want to give full consideration to all points of view on this issue.

Social Housing Development Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many new home starts have been delivered in the North Down constituency through the Social Housing Development Programme.

(AQW 12706/11-15)

Mr McCausland: During the last three years, we have started 186 new homes across the constituency of North Down. Details of these are noted below for your information.

Year	Housing Association	Location	Units	Scheme Type	Need Group
2009/10	Helm Housing	Rathgill Zone 1, Bangor	28	NB	General Needs
	Oaklee	Gibson's Lane, Bangor	17	NB	General Needs
	Oaklee	Central Avenue, Bangor	47	NB	Cat 1 Fit Elderly
	Trinity	Strand Avenue, Holywood	19	NB	General Needs
		Total	111		
2010/11	Apex Housing	Moss Road, Millisle	10	NB	General Needs
	Fold	Dufferin Avenue, Bangor	6	OS	General Needs
	Fold	Upritchard Gardens, Bangor	9	OS	General Needs
		Total	25		
2011/12	Clanmil	Bloomfield Road/South Circular Road, Bangor	37	NB	General Needs
	Trinity	Primacy Road, Bangor	13	NB	General Needs
		Total	50		

Motability Scheme

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the difference between a customer receiving notification, from the Motability Scheme, that their award is for 'life', and a customer receiving the award 'indefinitely'.

(AQW 12711/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Motability Scheme, whereby people who receive the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance may exchange all or part of their allowance in return for a

car, is administered by the independent charity Motability. Information on administrative matters can be obtained by writing to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow, and Essex, CM19 5PX.

The Welfare Reform and Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 removed the term "for life" in respect of awards of Disability Living Allowance and replaced it with an award "for an indefinite period", as there had been a misconception held by many Disability Living Allowance recipients that a life award would always remain in payment regardless of their circumstances.

Customer First in the Western District

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Social Development whether the criteria, used by Social Security Agency management, to determine the location of Customer First functions throughout its office network in the Western District area, included any consideration of the existing levels of Civil Service posts in each District Council area.

(AQW 12715/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The locations of Benefit Processing Centres were selected following a detailed analysis of staffing capacities in existing Social Security Agency offices and the availability of skilled staff. In addition consideration was given to:

- Customer impact
- Impacts on staff travel
- Accommodation constraints
- Fit with operational delivery for the future

As the Social Security Agency is structured on the basis of 3 geographical regions across Northern Ireland, no consideration was given to the existing levels of Civil Service posts broken down by District Council areas.

Strabane District Council

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Social Development, given that Strabane District Council already has a disproportionately low number of civil service and public sector jobs, for his assessment of whether the planned transfer of up to 37 additional posts, from the Social Security Office to Derry, will compound this inequality even further.

(AQW 12716/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The aim of the Customer First Project is to develop and implement organisational structures that represent the optimum long-term model for the delivery of services. In keeping with the successful roll-out of Customer First in what was formerly known as North District and Belfast West and Lisburn, it was determined that the centralisation of back office processing created the most sustainable and viable service delivery model.

Analysis undertaken by officials showed that processing staff across the local office network are currently spread too thinly to assure the continued delivery of a high-quality service into the future. As a consequence, the Agency decided to consolidate these skilled resources to ensure the availability of a 'critical mass' of staff to be able to sustain the Social Security Agency's high level of performance.

Officials are in the process of finalising staffing requirements for processing centres and will continue to work with staff and Trade Union side to consider measures which may militate against any adverse impact such as reasonable daily travelling distances. Agency officials will continue to work with local representatives to ensure they are kept informed as Customer First is rolled out.

Customer First in the Western District

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the planned roll-out of Customer First in the Western District, to detail what consideration Social Security Agency management has given to locating at least one of the new telephony service functions at the Strabane Social Security Office.
(AQW 12717/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Customer First has been rolled-out in what was formerly North District and Belfast West and Lisburn and has proven to deliver significant service improvements. The continued roll-out of Customer First, announced by the Social Security Agency on 1 June, will ensure that all customers of the Agency can benefit from these service improvements.

Whilst officials are continuing to finalise staffing numbers for Benefit Processing Centres and support functions the plans announced recently propose organisational arrangements that provide a viable and sustainable service delivery for customers.

Officials will continue to work with staff and Trade Union side to consider measures which may militate against any adverse impact such as reasonable daily travelling distances. Agency officials will continue to work with local representatives to ensure they are kept informed as Customer First is rolled out.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how many Administrative Officers have transferred out of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division to other parts of the Civil Service, in the last year.

(AQW 12727/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Records show that, in the year from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012, 38 Administrative Officers transferred out of the Department's Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division to other parts of the Civil Service.

Training on Mental Health Descriptors

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the training given on mental health descriptors for people carrying out Work Capability Assessments for Employment and Support Allowance, and in particular, the training relating to agoraphobia and other phobic conditions.

(AQW 12728/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Healthcare Professionals carrying out Work Capability Assessments receive mental health training relating to the mental health descriptors as part of their initial training programme. This includes specific training relating to agoraphobia and other phobic conditions.

A yearly training needs analysis is undertaken by Atos Healthcare who are contracted to undertake the Work Capability Assessment, and this is approved by the Social Security Agency. This informs the development of a professional development programme, which for 2012/2013 includes ongoing mental health training for Health Care Professionals.

Mental Health Champions are in place to support mental health training and provide appropriate advice. Part of their role is to provide specialist mental health training to the Health Care Professionals employed to undertake Work Capability Assessments.

Homelessness Legislation

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development whether the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has a legislative duty, under homelessness legislation, to house full duty applicants in social housing as opposed to the private rented sector.

(AQW 12754/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There is no legislative requirement under homelessness legislation, to house full duty applicants in social housing. When someone presents as homeless, Article 10 (2) of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 states that “Where the Executive is satisfied that the applicant has a priority need and is not satisfied that he became homeless intentionally, it shall secure that accommodation becomes available for his occupation.”

IT Housing Management System

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the cost of implementing the new IT Housing Management System; and whether the system has the functionality to extract data for reporting purposes necessary for future planning.

(AQW 12757/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the cost of implementing the new Housing Management System was £12.26m and that the system does have the functionality to extract data for reporting purposes. This functionality is continually being developed as the suite of reports available from the system is expanded and added to.

Social Security Agency Benefits Processing Section in Strabane

Mr Byrne asked the Minister for Social Development to outline why 37 jobs in the Social Security Agency benefits processing section in Strabane are to be removed under current proposals.

(AQW 12762/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The aim of the Customer First Project is to develop and implement organisational structures that represent the optimum long-term model for delivery of services. This involves the centralisation of back office processing which will necessitate the relocation of some staff. Analysis shows that processing staff across the local office network are currently spread too thinly to assure the continued delivery of a high-quality service into the future. As a consequence, the Agency is consolidating these skilled resources to ensure the availability of a ‘critical mass’ of staff to be able to sustain the Social Security Agency’s high level of performance.

Officials are in the process of finalising staffing requirements for processing centres and will continue to work with staff and Trade Union Side to consider measures which may militate against any adverse impact such as reasonable daily travelling distances. Social Security Agency officials will continue to work with local representatives to ensure they are kept informed as Customer First is rolled out.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive’s Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether a pay-as-you-save model is being considered for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive’s Boiler Replacement Scheme, so that up-front costs do not deter customers from switching to more efficient boilers.

(AQW 12766/11-15)

Mr McCausland: On the 25th May 2012, I announced a £12m boiler replacement scheme to improve energy efficiency in 16,000 homes across Northern Ireland which will be administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The scheme, which will launch in September this year, will be open to owner occupiers who earn less than £40,000 and with an inefficient boiler of at least 15 years old. The scheme will provide a grant of up to £1000 dependent on total gross income to assist in replacing an inefficient boiler for a more energy efficient condensing oil or gas boiler; switching from oil to gas; or switching to a wood pellet boiler.

A pay-as-you-save model was not considered as part of the scheme.

Work Planned for the West Belfast Constituency

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the work his Department is due to carry out in the West Belfast constituency in 2012/13.

(AQW 12808/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The new build schemes within the Social Housing Development Programme for the West Belfast constituency in the 2012/13 financial year are attached at Annex A. The information relating to the Housing Executive's planned programme of improvement and maintenance schemes is not available by Constituency. However, the Housing Executive's West Belfast, Shankill and Lisburn Dairy Farm District offices cover the West Belfast constituency and details of the programmed schemes in 2012/13 are listed at Annex B.

My Department also manages a regeneration strategy for the renewal and development of the most deprived areas in and around Belfast, including areas of the west Belfast constituency. The Belfast Regeneration Office continues to deliver the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Programme, to encourage private sector property development and deliver physical development and environmental improvement projects.

A £5 million regeneration scheme is planned for Bank Square and surrounding area subject to business case approval.

Finally, an announcement to continue the roll-out of the Customer First Initiative within the Social Security Agency's Working Age network was made on 1 June. It is anticipated that approximately 27 members of Shankill Jobs and Benefits processing staff will be relocated to Royston House Benefit Processing Centre in mid - September 2012, which is located in the centre of Belfast.

ANNEX A - SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2012/13 WEST BELFAST CONSTITUENCY

Scheme/Location	Units	Need Group
Springfield Crescent, Belfast	9	General Needs
Lenadoon Flats EA (T)	27	General Needs
Colin Glen, Belfast	66	General Needs
Ballyowen Replacement	31	Elderly Housing
Lawnbrook URA Phase 2, Belfast (T)	28	General Needs
St John's GAA Site, Belfast	34	General Needs
Arundel Replacement, Belfast (T)	8	General Needs
Jasmine Way, Twinbrook (T)	22	General Needs
Ballygomartin Road/Somervale, Belfast (T)	41	General Needs
Cupar Street Site, St Galls Phase 3, Belfast (T)	16	General Needs
Hannahstown, Phase 1A, Belfast	119	General Needs
Lower Shankill, Belfast (T)	24	General Needs
Lower Clonard Street, Belfast (T)	2	General Needs
Peters Hill, Belfast MAH Resettlement (Oldstone)	13	Learning Disabilities
West Belfast Learning Disability (Dympna House Reprovision)	12	Learning Disabilities
Forthriver Road, Belfast	18	General Needs

Scheme/Location	Units	Need Group
Distillery Street, Belfast (T)	16	General Needs
Devonshire Tradas Phase 3, (Albert Court), Belfast	11	General Needs
Good Shepherd Road, Poleglass	23	General Needs
Total	520	

(T) – transfer scheme from NIHE to a Housing Association Annex B – NIHE Programmed Schemes in 2012/13

WEST BELFAST DISTRICT

Scheme	Dwellings	Work Group
Hannahglen Heights *	27	Double Glazing
Donegall Rd/St James Windows *	105	Double Glazing
Kenard/Ramoan	164	Double Glazing
Doon Road Flats	58	Double Glazing
Carrigart Avenue	72	Double Glazing
Andersonstown	202	Double Glazing
Brooke/Greenane	164	Double Glazing
Whiterock	150	Double Glazing
Lower Falls/Grosvenor 1	191	External Cyclic Maintenance
Bearnagh/Bingnian	174	External Cyclic Maintenance
Glencolin/Hamill	168	External Cyclic Maintenance
Fire Safety West Belfast	305	Health & Safety
Lenadoon Flats (Ec7)	100	Heating Installation
Low Rise Ec7 (West) Ph 2	140	Heating Installation
Doon Road Flats (Roofing)	30	Revenue Repair
Doon Road Health & Safety	48	Revenue Repair
Ballymurphy Orlits (Roofing)	100	Revenue Repair
Springmadden/Ballymurphy	40	Kitchens
Divis Kitchens 2	80	Kitchens
Doon Road	48	Kitchens
Carrigart/Corrib	152	Kitchens

SHANKILL DISTRICT

Scheme	Dwellings	Work Group
Woodvale/Donaldson*	158	Double Glazing
Glencairn	323	Double Glazing
Ainsworth	127	Double Glazing

Scheme	Dwellings	Work Group
Lower Shankill	168	External Cyclic Maintenance
Woodvale/Twaddell	144	External Cyclic Maintenance
Glencairn	258	External Cyclic Maintenance
Fire Safety Shankill Belfast	117	Health & Safety
Low Rise Ec7 (Shankill) Ph 1	133	Heating Installation
Mid Shankill Phase 2	147	Kitchens
West Circular Rd (Roofing)	2	Revenue Repair
Mid Shankill Phase 3	206	Kitchens

LISBURN DAIRY FARM DISTRICT

Scheme	Dwellings	Work Group
Colinbrook	95	External Cyclic Maintenance
Altan/Glenfearna *	94	Double Glazing
Cherry/Aspen	172	External Cyclic Maintenance
Summerhill/Thornhill	138	External Cyclic Maintenance
Colinvale/Glendowan	90	External Cyclic Maintenance
Lisburn Df Med Rise Fire Doors	51	Health & Safety
Bbu Rep Woodside Poleglass	122	Heating Installation
Lisburn Df Smoke Det Repl 12/13	77	Smoke Alarm Install

* Double glazing schemes proceeding. The remaining double glazing schemes are being held pending the introduction of the new procurement arrangements. The delivery of these remaining schemes during this financial year will be subject to the availability of funding and appropriate approvals.

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.

Double-Glazing Scheme for the West Belfast Constituency

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the double-glazing scheme for the West Belfast constituency.

(AQW 12809/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As part of the Housing Executive's review of double glazing, I have agreed what category groups and scheme should now proceed. The following schemes should commence this financial year in West Belfast:-

- Hannahglenn Heights
- Donegall Road/St James
- Altan/Glenfearna
- Woodvale/Donaldson

Licensing of Pavement Cafés Legislation

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Social Development when the Licensing of Pavement Cafés legislation is likely to come into operation.

(AQW 12814/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Subject to Executive approval, I anticipate a Bill to licence pavement cafés will be introduced and approved by the Assembly in its next session. District councils will then need some time to complete the preparations necessary to administer the new statutory licensing scheme. Therefore, the main provisions of the legislation will come into operation on a date appointed in an Order made by my Department, following liaison with district councils.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development what plans he has for an area-based approach to tackle fuel poverty.

(AQW 12820/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is working with the University of Ulster and District Councils to pilot an area based approach to tackling fuel poverty. Working in partnership with other Departments such as OFMDFM and DARD 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 start later this year and the outcome will inform our approach to tackling fuel poverty in the future.

Work Capability Assessments

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the qualifications that people who conduct the Work Capability Assessments are required to have to carry out assessments on people with (i) mental health disabilities; (ii) anxiety disorders; (iii) respiratory conditions ; (iv) cardiovascular disease; (v) chronic fatigue syndrome; and (vi) arthritic and rheumatic conditions.

(AQW 12851/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The qualifications required of healthcare professionals who conduct Work Capability Assessments are:

- (a) in the case of a Medical Practitioner:
- to hold a current registration to practice in the United Kingdom;
 - to have 3 years post-registration full-time equivalent experience across a range of relevant clinical disciplines (within the last 6 years prior to an advertisement for positions being placed); and
 - to hold a full and unconditional registration with the United Kingdom General Medical Council.
- (b) in the case of a nurse:
- to be fully registered, without restrictions or conditions, with the Nursing and Midwifery Council; and
 - to have a minimum of 3 years post registration experience.
- (c) for all other healthcare professionals:
- to be fully registered, without restrictions or conditions, with the relevant licensing body;
 - to have a minimum of 3 years post registration experience;
 - to possess good communication skills;
 - to have an understanding of customer care issues; and
 - to have an understanding of disability issues.

Whilst healthcare professionals are not required to have specialist qualifications in areas (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), as part of their initial training every practitioner is provided with specific training material and is given access to Evidence Based Medicine protocols, which include protocols on a number of mental health, cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal, neurology and rheumatology conditions, and include one specifically addressing Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Neighbourhood Wardens

Mr Kinahan asked Minister for Social Development to detail number of Northern Ireland Housing Executive Neighbourhood Wardens in (i) Northern Ireland; and (ii) the South Antrim constituency, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12854/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency. However, in relation to (i) they have advised that there are currently 70 Neighbourhood Officers throughout their local offices in Northern Ireland and this has been the case for the last five years and (ii) the Housing Executive confirmed that there are two Neighbourhood Officers in each of their Antrim, Newtownabbey 1 and 2 District offices, which contains the areas which comprise the South Antrim constituency.

Private Rental Tenants

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development whether there are any schemes available to help private rental tenants with money towards a deposit to help secure a tenancy.

(AQW 12924/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive currently funds a voluntary sector organisation (First Housing and Support Services) for the provision of a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme called SmartMove.

The aim of SmartMove's Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme is to promote the private rented sector as a decent and affordable housing option. They cover such areas as budgeting, applying for Housing Benefit, rent statements and a support plan that deals with securing and sustaining a tenancy.

This scheme, which is available in North Belfast, Londonderry and in a limited number of other locations, enables homeless and waiting list applicants to access the private rented sector without the need to pay a deposit to secure the tenancy.

My Department in conjunction with The Housing Executive is currently preparing plans for the expansion of this scheme across Northern Ireland and I expect it to see it implemented province wide by spring 2013.

White Horse Group

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development, given that the White Horse Group is withdrawing its services from West Belfast maintenance for the Housing Executive, which contractor will replace it and when.

(AQW 12931/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive state that their new contracts for the provision of response Maintenance Service are currently set for commencement on 1 August 2012. They hope to appoint contractors within the next 2 weeks. As the Housing Executive is still carrying out the procurement process it is unable to provide the name of the contractor who will replace the White Horse Group. Once the procurement process has been completed the Housing Executive will publish the result of the procurement in the Official Journal of the European Union as well as directly informing all those who expressed an interest in providing these services.

In terms of the White Horse Group withdrawing its services, the Housing Executive confirms that the Group will continue to operate in support of tenants, until the new contracts are in place.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Heating in Parliament Buildings

Mr Wells asked the Assembly Commission what were the temperatures recorded, at noon, in Parliament Buildings on 28 May and 29 May 2012.

(AQW 12378/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Unfortunately, the Assembly Commission is not in a position to provide the information that you request as it does not currently maintain a record of the temperatures within Parliament Buildings.

Should you require any supplementary information I would be very happy to assist with your enquiry.

Heat in Parliament Buildings

Mr Wells asked the Assembly Commission why the heat was on in the Long Gallery and Room 115, Parliament Buildings on 28 May and 29 May 2012.

(AQW 12380/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The majority of Parliament Buildings is heated by a low temperature hot water system using gas fired boilers. This heating system was not in operation on either 28th or 29th May.

The heating within the Long Gallery and Room 115 differs from the rest of the building in that it is heated by radiators with convector fans. The heat for these convectors is a by-product from the air handling units in the building and is fed by the constant temperature (CT) pumps. When additional heat is required in these rooms the convector fans are employed to circulate the heat.

On the days in question, as the air handling units were in operation, the CT pumps were passing hot water through the system but the convector fans were not in operation.

Unfortunately the Building Energy Management System (BEMS) affords only limited control over the heating and cooling systems in the building and the Commission has plans to upgrade the BEMS system during the forthcoming roof refurbishment project.

Building Services are aware of the problem in the areas that you refer to when there is a high ambient temperature and investigatory work is currently taking place to see if it would be possible to install additional isolation valves to allow greater control over the heating and cooling in these areas.

I hope that the above information provides the detail that you sought, however should you require any supplementary information I would be very happy to assist with your enquiry.

Protocol on Non-Members Giving Media Interviews in the Great Hall

Mr Allister asked the Assembly Commission to outline the current protocol on non-members giving media interviews in the Great Hall, Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 12776/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Northern Ireland Assembly Media Handbook, which can be accessed on the NIA website at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/News-and-Media/Media-Handbook/> sets out the conditions for interviews in the Great Hall.

In respect of interviews with non-Members the Handbook states that: "Committee witnesses, members of other legislatures and others may be interviewed in the Great Hall. Interviewees must give their consent in advance."

This advice allows for non-Members to be interviewed in the Great Hall along with MLAs or Ministers. Non-Members may not be interviewed in the Great Hall unless they have been witnesses to a Committee as stated above or are being interviewed with a Member.

Car Parking Facilities for Users of Parliament Buildings

Mr Copeland asked the Assembly Commission for its assessment of the adequacy of the car parking facilities for users of Parliament Buildings, including staff and visitors; and when it intends to take action to resolve this issue permanently.

(AQW 12987/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission fully recognises the difficulties experienced in parking within the car parks, particularly on sitting days. In recent years the Assembly Commission has been working with DFP, who are responsible for Stormont Estate grounds, to find ways of alleviating the problem.

As a result of this work, some realignment work within the lower East car park together with the introduction of the overspill car park, has gone some way towards providing additional parking spaces, and this has been favourably received by the vast majority of car park users. It has also already been concluded that it would not be possible to increase the number of parking spaces within the existing car parks without recourse to significant works and redevelopment.

Whilst further resolution of the perennial problem of car parking cannot be guaranteed at this time, Facilities Directorate will nevertheless continue in consultation with the Assembly Commission and DFP, to explore other potential options for improvement. In the meantime, Assembly Security staff will continue to oversee and manage both car parks to ensure that these are used as efficiently and as effectively as possible, and to that end the cooperation and assistance of all car park users is very much appreciated.

Overflow Car Park

Mr Copeland asked the Assembly Commission whether it has sought to renegotiate, with the Department of Finance and Personnel, the terms for use of the overflow car park, to extend the length of time for which it can remain open; and if not, to outline the reasons for its position on this issue.

(AQW 12988/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Overflow car park was an additional facility the Assembly Commission negotiated with DFP to help alleviate on-going problems with car parking, and it has undoubtedly gone some ways towards helping with those problems. It was agreed with DFP at the outset however, that like the lower East car park, the Overflow car park would be staffed and managed by Assembly Security Officers whilst open.

To make the most efficient use of finite Security staff resources and still continue to meet other pressing operational security requirements however, it remains necessary to close the Overflow car park at 7pm. At present, it is not possible to extend opening beyond this time within existing resources.

For this reason, all users of the Overflow car park are therefore advised to move their vehicles into the lower East car park before 7pm as spaces become available, and we rely on car park users to comply accordingly.

As with all operational security measures, the Assembly Commission will keep this matter under review.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 22 June 2012

(AQW 12212/11-15)

As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted Queen's University and the University of Ulster. The information has been placed in the Assembly Library and on my Department's website <http://www.delni.gov.uk/>.

(AQW 12227/11-15)

There are currently fifteen bodies classified as NDPBs of the Department for Employment and Learning.

From 2008 until October 2009, there were officially seven such bodies: three NDPBs, three tribunal NDPBs, and one non-executive advisory committee. The latter was abolished in October 2009, leaving six NDPBs.

The role of NI Adviser for Employment and Skills was established in October 2008, however the Department of Finance and Personnel officially classified the post as an Advisory NDPB in November 2011, bringing the total number of NDPBs back to seven.

The Office of National Statistics reclassified the six Further Education Colleges and the two University Colleges as NDPBs from an administrative perspective from 1 April 2012. The addition of these eight bodies results in the current total of 15 NDPBs.

The Certification Officer for Northern Ireland is classed as a Statutory Office Holder, rather than an Arm's Length Body.

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. The next edition of the Annual Report will reflect the new classification of the NI Adviser for Employment and Skills.

(AQW 12121/11-15)

(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	19,440	22,535
Southern	-	15,900	33,160	17,695	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
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**

Northern	Southern	Eastern	Western	Training Centre	Community Development
Agnew Recovery Services	Agnew Recovery Services	Agnew Recovery Services	Alcorn Recovery	Abbey Car Breakers	Agnew Recovery Services
Beatties Recycling	B&C McKeown	Beatties Recycling	Beatties Recycling	Agnew Recovery Services	Alcorn Recovery
B&C McKeown	Beatties Recycling	B&C McKeown	C Russell	B&C McKeown	B&C McKeown
C Russell	C Russell	C Russell	Darcy Bros	Beatties Recycling	C Russell
Gavin's Recovery	D&A Garages	Gregg Hyndman	Hilltop	C Russell	Lakeland Recovery
Hilltop	Gavin's Recovery	I Ross	John Beers Recovery	John Beers Recovery	Ruddell Metals
John Beers	John Beers	John Beers	Lakeland Recovery	PPE Group	Temple Auto Salvage
J Tinnelly	J Tinnelly	PPE Group	Morrow Recovery	Gavin's Recovery	Two Trees
PPE Group	PPE Group	Roy Nixon	PPE Group	RR Recovery	
RR Recovery	RR Recovery	Ruddell Metals	Robert McDaid Carbreakers	Temple Auto Salvage	
Temple Auto Salvage	Ruddell Metals	T-Met	Temple Auto Salvage	T-Met	
T-Met	Temple Auto Salvage	Temple Auto Salvage	T-Met	Two Trees	
Two Trees Recovery	T-Met	Two Trees	Two Trees Recovery		
	Two Trees Recovery	Ultra Building Products			
	Watson 24 Hour Breakdown				

We are advised that the Equality Commission is complying with the requirements of equality legislation and that they continue to take a range of measures to try and resolve their current employee balance.



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