

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 6 July 2012

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

QUANGOs

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

(AQW 12602/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): Two public bodies sponsored by our Department have been created as a result of legislation passed by the Assembly since 2007, they are:

- a) the Commission for Victims and Survivors; and
- b) the Commissioner for Older People.

Since 2007, our Department has withdrawn funding from one public body – the Economic Research Institute for NI. The funding our Department provides for the NI Memorial Fund will be withdrawn once the functions it undertakes are transferred to the Victims and Survivors Service. Neither of these public bodies was created by legislation.

Equality Commission

Mr D McIlveen asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what outreach work the Equality Commission undertakes with migrant workers and ethnic minorities who may not be aware of their services.

(AQW 12621/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Equality Commission is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. As this question relates directly to the work of the Equality Commission, Evelyn Collins, Chief Executive of the Commission, will write to you about this matter.

Forum for Victims and Survivors

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of Evelyn Glenholmes as a member of the Forum for Victims and Survivors.

(AQW 12636/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We welcome the establishment of a new Victims and Survivors Forum which met for the first time on 21 June 2012 in Belfast. The establishment of the Forum is a statutory responsibility of the Commission for Victims and Survivors and neither Ministers nor officials were involved in the selection process.

Children and Young People's Unit Staff

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) how many staff are in the Children and Young People's Unit; and (ii) the team's remit.

(AQW 13029/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: There are currently five staff in the Children and Young People's Unit in OFMDFM. The Unit is responsible for taking forward implementation of the Ten Year Children and Young People's Strategy in the context of Delivering Social Change and for monitoring of compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, it drives forward work on OFMDFM responsibilities in the Play and Leisure Implementation Plan.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the development and project grants allocated to each group to date, under the Minority Ethnic Development Fund, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 13079/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the table below details information requested for the year 2011-12 which is the most recent figures available.

Although the majority of the groups are located in Belfast, the groups often operate across the region to support the largest number of minority ethnic people.

Group	Area Based	Project (£)	Development (£)
Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha	Belfast	15,000	45,000
South Belfast Partnership	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Embrace	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group	Tyrone	n/a	45,000
Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum	Antrim	6,500	45,000
Homeplus NI	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Wah Hep Chinese Community	Armagh	n/a	45,000
The Welcome Project	Antrim	n/a	45,000
ArtsEkta	Belfast	15,000	45,000
Cookstown & Western Shores Area Network	Tyrone	n/a	43,597
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Ballymoney Community Resource Centre	Antrim	n/a	43,895
Foyle Multi-Cultural Forum	Derry/ Londonderry	n/a	27,750
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	Armagh	n/a	45,000
African and Caribbean Community Support Organisation in Northern Ireland	Belfast	n/a	30,433

Group	Area Based	Project (£)	Development (£)
Belfast Islamic Centre	Belfast	n/a	45,000
An Munia Tober	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Chinese Welfare Association	Belfast	n/a	45,000
Multi-Cultural Resource Centre	Belfast	15,000	45,000
Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Belfast	15,000	45,000
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	Tyrone	15,000	45,000
Derry Travellers Support Group	Derry/ Londonderry	n/a	45,000
SEEDS	Derry/ Londonderry	n/a	45,000
North Down YMCA	Down	14,903	n/a

A six-month extension to funding for groups already receiving development funding for 2011/12 under the Minority Ethnic Development Fund was announced in April this year.

Officials are currently working on a revised Minority Ethnic Development Fund that will be open to new applications from the Sector in the early autumn.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Public Inquiry

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what is the total cost to date of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Public Inquiry.

(AQW 13277/11-15)

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

“The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan was published by the Department of the Environment in November 2004 and is the most comprehensive Plan ever produced by the Department extending to six local government districts. It generated almost 4,300 objections which were categorised by the Department into more than 7,200 elements. The Commission conducted a Public Inquiry to consider the objections to the Plan between April 2007 and the beginning of May 2008. This Inquiry was the most lengthy and complex in the history of the Commission. In addition, the Commission considered many written objections which were not heard at the Inquiry.

The Inquiry report has been provided to the Department in stages. The report on strategic Retail matters was provided in January 2009 and the remainder of the Strategic Plan Framework in March 2011. The reports into site specific issues in Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh Districts were provided in July 2011, Lagan Valley Regional Park and North Down District in September 2011 and Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus Districts January 2012.

The total cost of the Commission’s report is estimated to be approximately £750,000.

I would be happy to provide any further information you require arising out of this response or to meet you to discuss the matter if you would find that more suitable”.

Maze/Long Kesh: Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

Mr Givan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of the decision by the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society to relocate to the Maze/Long Kesh site, what actions are required to facilitate this move and to develop the whole site.

(AQO 2288/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We welcome the decision of the members of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society to relocate to Maze/Long Kesh.

The Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation will be established shortly. However, work is progressing in the interim. The Maze/Long Kesh Programme Delivery Unit is preparing a spatial framework that sets out how the overall site will be developed.

The spatial framework will detail plans for the initial provision of utilities and the related infrastructure that will help facilitate the Royal Ulster Agriculture Society in their relocation to the site and support their plans to develop a Centre of Rural Excellence at Maze/Long Kesh.

The spatial framework identifies initial developments including the construction of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre at the site by 2015.

On 15 March we accepted £18.1m EU funding to help with this project which will include plans to ensure we maintain the listed buildings located alongside the new facility.

We are hopeful of securing Heritage Lottery Funding and are through to the second stage of the HLF assessment process. If obtained, this funding will assist in the development of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre.

Proposals are also being developed for the World War II aircraft hangars with the Ulster Aviation Society, and plans are to be developed for a community zone near the Halftown Road.

European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

Mr A Maskey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the work being taken forward regarding intergenerational initiatives in this the European year of active ageing and solidarity between generations.

(AQO 2289/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In this European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations we are continuing to drive forward a range of key measures, including a small grants scheme, proposals for legislation to help tackle age discrimination, and a revised Older People's Strategy. These will improve older people's quality of life and help tackle the inequalities they face.

We have committed at least £100,000 to a small grant scheme for projects to promote active ageing and solidarity between generations. The closing date has now passed and applications are being considered by the selection panel. In total, 76 individual applications have been received requesting almost £900,000 in grant funding, which highlights the demand to promote intergenerational and active ageing work in the local communities.

Our AGE Goods Facilities and Services legislation and revised Older People's Strategy will be progressed within our Delivering Social Change framework.

In the autumn we will consult on our revised Older People Strategy. This will be followed by a consultation on proposals for legislation to outlaw unfair discrimination on the grounds of age in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

We will continue to take account of the views of the Commissioner for Older People and the Older People's Advisory Panel as we finalise our proposals.

We are also taking their advice in ensuring that our consultations are appropriately timed, targeted and designed to facilitate the participation of older people, especially those hard to reach groups.

Third sector organisations, the Equality Commission, the Commissioner for Older People and the Older People's Advisory Panel have been involved in developing a programme of events which showcase the principles of the year.

The calendar of these events that include an event to mark Older People's Day in October is on the OMFDFM website. It is regularly updated with information from stakeholder organisations. We are pleased that Junior Ministers have been able to attend and speak at some of these events.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Fishing Fleet

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the capacity of the fishing fleet, in each year since 1995.

(AQW 12872/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): Fleet Capacity is expressed in terms of the Gross Tonnage (GT) and Engine Power, measured in Kilowatts (Kw) of vessels.

The table below sets out GT and Kw for the fishing fleet from 1995 to 2010 which are the latest figures available.

NORTHERN IRELAND FLEET CAPACITY FROM 1995 TO 2010

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
10m and under vessels	No. 280	224	214	161	163	165	167	167	167	195	195	194	192	204	221	232
	GT 993	805	744	608	632	703	715	731	727	836	814	758	757	864	936	946
	kW 11,724	9,993	8,660	7,348	7,507	8,226	8,284	8,576	8,637	10,962	10,510	10,226	10,369	11,924	12,710	12,896
Over 10m vessels	No. 209	187	188	190	181	181	175	156	145	137	138	137	144	147	149	147
	GT 11,059	9,935	12,143	11,770	13,702	15,133	15,223	15,732	14,520	13,720	13,646	13,755	13,860	11,870	11,761	15,238
	kW 53,346	48,048	52,451	51,079	51,245	55,024	54,304	51,938	44,669	45,277	44,158	44,858	46,449	40,904	41,157	49,635
Total	No. 489	411	402	351	344	346	342	323	312	332	333	331	336	351	370	379
	GT 12,052	10,740	12,887	12,378	14,334	15,836	15,938	16,463	15,247	14,556	14,460	14,513	14,617	12,734	12,698	16,184
	kW 65,070	58,041	61,111	58,427	58,752	63,250	62,588	60,514	53,306	56,239	54,668	55,084	56,818	52,828	53,867	62,531

Catches Under the Monthly Shellfish Returns

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total recorded catches, under the monthly shellfish returns, in each month of (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; (iv) 2011; and (v) 2012 to date.
(AQW 12922/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Attached table details total quantities of "pot caught" shellfish by vessels administered by my Department for the period requested.

MONTHLY SHELLFISH RECORDS FROM NI VESSELS FOR 2008 POT CATCHES BY LW (TONNES)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual total
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	17.32	19.38	17.73	23.38	37.61	61.31	80.38	139.52	148.54	124.80	107.80	41.46	819.23
Green Crab							20.91	21.07	1.86				43.84
Brown Shrimps	0.08	0.01	0.02		0.11						0.35	0.27	0.83
Lobsters	1.16	1.61	1.23	2.51	4.65	5.85	8.48	7.94	4.22	3.57	2.90	2.11	46.23
Velvet Crabs	4.42	7.31	5.86	7.27	12.09	33.92	18.04	23.88	25.08	34.00	18.53	19.96	210.36
Nephrops	0.40	0.96	1.02	0.92	1.07	2.17	1.58	0.39	0.41	0.10			9.01
Spider Crabs	0.24	0.29	0.17	0.17	0.23	0.11		0.02	0.30	1.82	0.36	0.26	3.98
Wheleks	9.34	11.15	14.33	13.21	15.59	8.75							72.37
Mixed Shrimps											0.00	0.11	0.12
Totals	32.96	40.71	40.37	47.44	71.34	112.11	129.38	192.82	180.41	164.29	129.95	64.18	1205.96

**MONTHLY SHELLFISH RECORDS FROM NI VESSELS FOR 2009
POT CATCHES BY LW (TONNES)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual total
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	10.63	13.78	20.14	27.70	25.57	32.62	67.40	128.97	139.51	135.83	72.64	45.88	720.66
Green Crab						0.28	9.50	18.49	16.94	17.40	17.99	4.56	85.16
Crabs (C.PFemale)				0.60	0.12	0.53	0.31	0.33					1.88
Brown Shrimps	0.38	0.16	0.46	0.54	0.22	0.01			0.43	0.82	2.34	2.34	7.69
Lobsters	1.13	1.49	2.00	3.54	3.60	5.18	10.23	8.06	6.48	4.12	2.33	2.36	50.54
Velvet Crabs	5.32	7.12	8.36	17.35	12.89	15.21	21.58	24.44	26.97	23.64	23.44	25.42	211.73
Nephrops	0.11	0.91	1.23	0.81	1.35	1.22	0.88	0.02	0.12	0.88	0.18	0.15	7.84
Periwinkles												0.01	0.01
Spider Crabs			1.75	2.19	1.46	1.19	1.00	0.04				0.04	7.66
Whelks	25.02	16.95	7.35	0.76	0.58		0.04						50.70
Totals	42.59	40.41	41.29	53.48	45.78	56.22	110.95	180.35	190.45	182.67	118.92	80.76	1143.87

**MONTHLY SHELLFISH RECORDS FROM NI VESSELS FOR 2010
POT CATCHES BY LW (TONNES)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual total
Crabs (C.P. Mixed Sexes)	21.54	21.22	32.16	44.09	38.31	51.01	108.25	159.49	149.58	125.74	116.89	52.28	920.55
Green Crab				3.96	5.91	26.96	28.25	18.10	32.07	18.49	2.81		136.55
Brown Shrimps	3.92	0.67	0.33	0.84	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.03	0.24	0.39	0.70	7.46
Lobsters	1.68	1.33	2.05	3.87	3.97	5.64	9.89	8.71	5.60	3.70	2.13	2.04	50.61
Velvet Crabs	7.80	7.20	6.26	9.26	13.88	12.44	13.94	23.30	25.08	17.13	15.29	16.64	168.22
Nephrops	0.08	0.92	0.99	2.16	2.18	3.14	4.12	0.28	0.30			0.01	14.17
Whelks		7.41	10.42	1.60	5.05	2.43	1.83	0.04					28.79
Totals	35.02	38.75	52.21	65.79	69.39	101.68	166.34	210.05	212.64	165.31	137.50	71.67	1326.35

**MONTHLY SHELLFISH RECORDS FROM NI VESSELS FOR 2011
POT CATCHES BY LW (TONNES)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual total
Crabs (C.P. Mixed Sexes)	36.94	23.02	23.01	16.56	26.08	75.62	116.05	122.52	73.01	108.84	60.51	25.33	707.48
Green Crab		13.13	24.02	18.77	22.43	28.48	35.13	40.90	37.66	19.60	1.80	4.69	246.60
Brown Shrimps	0.56	0.66	0.23	0.24	0.01			0.00	0.06	0.35	0.39	0.76	3.26
Lobsters	2.42	1.54	2.74	2.73	4.05	7.62	10.11	8.32	3.92	3.19	1.88	1.96	50.48
Velvet Crabs	9.21	5.69	7.03	9.54	5.61	15.73	16.87	21.10	13.39	17.91	14.09	22.25	158.43
Nephrops	0.35	0.74	1.35	1.07	0.60	1.89	1.98	0.24		0.15	0.05	0.05	8.45
Whelks	15.77	14.15	17.45	13.66	11.85	2.08							74.95
Totals	65.25	58.93	75.83	62.55	70.62	131.41	180.14	193.08	128.04	150.04	78.73	55.03	1249.65

**MONTHLY SHELLFISH RECORDS FROM NI VESSELS FOR 2012
POT CATCHES BY LW (TONNES)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual total
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	6.45	5.94	12.03	2.73	0.98								28.13
Green Crab	14.48	18.30	29.71	21.93									84.41
Brown Shrimps	0.23	0.20	0.07										0.50
Lobsters	1.23	2.40	0.39	0.29	0.03								4.34
Velvet Crabs	9.48	6.16	6.04	2.63	0.11								24.42
Nephrops	0.14	0.40	0.50	0.47									1.51
Whelks	19.27	28.89	25.25	8.28									81.69
Totals	51.28	62.28	74.00	36.32	1.12								224.99

Catches Under the Fish Buyers and Sellers Legislation

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total recorded catches, under the Fish Buyers and Sellers legislation, in each month of (i) 2008; (ii) 2009; (iii) 2010; (iv) 2011; and (v) 2012 to date.
(AQW 12923/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites Regulations (NI) 2005, require that buyers or sellers of first sale fish are registered. The Regulations were primarily introduced to improve compliance and enforcement with regard to the reporting of fish landings. The attached tables detail monthly landings by all vessels into local ports for the period requested.

LANDINGS INTO N.I.PORTS 2008 LW (TONNES)

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bass				0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.03	2.23	2.30
Blonde Ray		0.04		1.52									1.56
Brill	1.81	1.97	1.47		1.22	0.57	1.02	1.31	1.91	0.94	1.75		13.95
Brown Shrimps	0.08	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.15	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.12	0.68	0.52	1.85
Cockles									19.72	95.42	7.54		122.68
Cod	17.84	39.86	75.78	32.37	54.07	56.51	64.92	64.09	44.53	21.15	36.43	25.04	532.58
Conger Eels	5.82	1.95	2.35	2.02	5.83	1.92	3.76	7.71	8.58	4.35	9.74	9.94	63.98
Crabs - Velvet (Swim)	5.06	5.37	6.24	8.14	13.87	36.25	19.27	25.48	28.98	36.44	20.65	21.47	227.21
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	33.17	25.38	16.39	22.14	35.89	61.81	76.56	124.53	181.7	140.2	115.68	49.21	882.60
Dogfish (Scylliorhinidae)	0.01		0.06	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.01						0.18
Eels							0.17						0.17

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Flounder			0.02										0.02
Green Crab							20.91	21.07	1.86			0.60	44.43
Gurnard and Latchet	6.88	3.67	1.04	2.74	3.57	0.23	0.37	0.64	3.75	0.69	5.36	4.71	33.65
Haddock	34.98	53.90	68.53	19.63	81.44	44.81	74.27	61.48	37.13	10.46	8.69	8.19	503.53
Hake	13.36	15.03	13.00	11.09	45.88	43.78	14.93	10.83	21.32	6.76	17.95	20.46	234.39
Halibut						0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00				0.03
Herring	95.14							1443.6	3054	1209.	14.93	124.2	5940.8
Horse Mackerel											348.37		348.37
John Dory	0.28	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.03	0.01	0.16	0.15	0.53	0.40	1.82
Lemon Sole	0.24	0.41	0.21	0.13	0.60	0.57	0.04	0.17	0.05		0.01		2.44
Lesser Spotted Dog	0.35	0.36			0.15				4.15	0.84	1.08	0.85	7.77
Ling	1.13	2.72	3.80	3.25	1.24	1.35	0.97	2.15	4.17	1.47	2.52	2.47	27.24
Lobsters	1.65	1.94	1.74	3.02	4.16	6.93	10.80	9.60	6.88	3.62	2.84	3.09	56.28
Mackerel	1530.7	720.35		0.06	0.55	0.76	3.87	2.94	1.90	0.01	2.08		2263.2
Megrim	0.01				0.09	0.25	0.41			0.38	0.79	0.01	1.94
Monks or Anglers	6.58	14.94	11.87	9.97	7.52	10.07	8.58	13.36	13.05	4.22	6.45	3.45	110.06
Mullet Other					0.01	0.01					0.00		0.03
Mussels	301.24	165.63	113.2	34.25					68.91	128.0	131.58	50.50	993.32
Native Oysters									0.75				0.75

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Nephrops (Norway Lobster)	334.26	545.43	612.7	720.6	788.05	1097.1	1009	1294.3	671.5	319.8	324.21	309.1	8025.87
Other Crustaceans											0.00	0.11	0.12
Other or mixed Demersal	3.08	3.48	5.07	4.72	3.40	2.86	2.29	2.98	3.60	1.75	2.70	2.76	38.70
Periwinkles			0.09										0.09
Pilchards							0.01				13.25		13.26
Plaice	4.71	6.15	2.71	1.26	13.93	10.78	5.75	1.42	3.18	0.21	4.23	3.33	57.66
Pollack	2.27	1.93	7.59	2.33	11.48	7.55	2.62	3.19	4.34	1.08	2.83	2.90	50.10
Porbeagle	0.04												0.04
Razor Clam					0.14								0.14
Roes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00
Saithe	0.16		0.14	0.01	1.35	0.35	0.39	1.56	3.77	0.29	0.61	0.73	9.37
Scallops	56.75	48.97	40.86	45.97	52.43	16.00	8.00	3.02	8.29	10.33	209.82	101.5	601.94
Sharks	0.07	0.01	0.15	0.01	0.11	0.04	0.44	0.44	0.17	0.06			1.51
Skates and Rays	10.94	16.12	8.45	8.77	4.05	0.52	1.37	1.33	3.00	0.34	4.36	13.89	73.14
Smoothhound								0.10					0.10
Sole	0.46	0.99	1.45	1.79	1.31	0.77	1.29	0.50	1.08	0.12	0.48	0.56	10.80
Spurdog	5.25	2.62	1.34	1.70	1.95	1.43	1.52	6.69	5.94	1.15	3.12	3.80	36.52
Squid	0.68	0.29	0.01	0.00		0.01	0.01	0.56	0.85	1.90	5.81	3.70	13.83
Tope	0.07						0.10	0.20	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.47

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Turbot	0.35	0.82	0.74	0.78	1.65	4.09	3.29	1.27	0.69	0.13	0.22	0.18	14.21
Whelks	24.52	29.57	22.55	13.07	15.59	8.75				0.06			114.11
Whiting		0.05	0.39	0.09	0.23	4.10	1.68	2.28	1.90	1.98	0.53	0.30	13.54
Witch	2.27	6.02	5.24	6.74	4.15	5.07	5.52	5.92	6.88	2.96	2.79	2.34	55.90
Grand totals	2502.2	1716.0	1025.	958.3	1156.2	1425.3	1344.	3115	4219	2006.	1310.6	772.3	21550.5

LANDINGS INTO N.I.PORTS 2009

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Bass			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.01		0.00	0.02
Blonde Ray													0.00
Brill	1.30	2.32	1.33	1.32	1.31	0.88	0.53	0.82	1.89	0.94	1.10	1.52	15.25
Brown Shrimps	0.53	0.34	0.55	0.57	0.22	0.01			0.45	1.01	2.51	2.78	8.97
Cockles										66.06			66.06
Cod	19.76	44.85	43.92	18.74	47.61	39.95	24.88	37.72	42.85	46.99	14.51	17.81	399.59
Conger Eels	4.85	2.84	0.99	1.94	2.09	2.64	1.10	3.79	7.13	13.70	2.65	3.21	46.94
Crabs - Velvet (Swim)	5.63	7.80	8.66	9.84	10.26	16.39	22.03	25.14	30.00	27.45	24.63	25.97	213.80
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	8.89	10.79	20.73	37.78	32.45	39.79	84.50	116.5	186.5	164.1	99.44	74.18	875.61
Dabs		0.17											0.17
Dogfish (Scyllorhinidae)	0.14			0.03	0.03	0.02			1.01		0.02	1.94	3.18
Eels												0.56	0.56
Flounder	0.00												0.00
Green Crab						0.28	9.50	18.49	16.94	17.40	17.99	4.56	85.16
Gurnard and Latchet	3.46	3.60	2.27	1.52	3.05	0.03	0.14	0.07	3.53	2.05	0.62	1.28	21.62
Haddock	9.00	26.19	16.33	9.17	47.66	48.45	27.61	54.31	43.31	38.26	3.95	8.21	332.45
Hake	15.43	13.21	6.78	16.33	33.67	39.11	5.76	15.81	20.07	11.82	2.93	17.10	198.02

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Halibut		0.01	0.00		0.01		0.02	0.01					0.06
Herring	185.28		0.01			0.12	0.01	1308	2969.	1055.			5517.75
Horse Mackerel		1343.9	127.4										1471.31
John Dory	0.39	0.14	0.32	0.86	0.29	0.05	0.01		0.27	0.46	0.14	0.43	3.36
Lemon Sole	0.25	0.13	0.22	0.56	0.48	0.46	0.04	0.09	0.09	0.06		0.02	2.40
Lesser Spotted Dog	0.90		0.50		0.04	0.01							1.45
Ling	4.23	2.94	3.65	8.06	1.67	2.04	1.48	3.43	7.14	4.56	0.65	1.23	41.08
Lobsters	1.74	1.71	2.07	2.83	3.73	5.57	11.36	9.43	7.42	4.78	2.70	2.58	55.94
Long Rough Dabs	0.01	0.07											0.08
Mackerel	1899.4	1021.0	7.51		2.08	5.63	2.26	1.21	0.82		101.00		3040.84
Megrim	0.04	0.11	0.18	0.39	0.18	0.46	0.04	0.10	0.17			0.01	1.67
Mixed Crabs						0.02							0.02
Mixed Squid and Octopi											0.05		0.05
Monks or Anglers	7.64	12.97	10.28	8.47	9.76	9.72	6.58	9.50	14.46	5.29	0.63	1.23	96.54
Mullet Other						0.03				0.00			0.03
Mussels		3.28								8.60	7.12	19.58	38.59
Native Oysters											0.17	0.15	0.32
Nephrops (Norway Lobster)	317.77	550.75	554.0	596.2	630.82	1214.4	926.1	947.6	785.7	321.9	174.03	291.7	7310.94

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Other Crustaceans			4.43										4.43
Other or mixed Demersal	2.16	4.65		0.04									6.86
Periwinkles											0.24	0.01	0.24
Pilchards													0.00
Plaice	2.86	5.53	1.24	1.26	3.87	2.00	1.34	0.94	2.96	0.60	2.28	3.08	27.96
Pollack	1.23	2.12	5.91	2.25	6.76	4.83	2.18	2.72	5.67	2.55	0.67	1.02	37.92
Porbeagle													0.00
Portuguese Oysters									1.48	0.88			2.35
Queen Scallops							24.20	189.6	254.1	219.3	109.51	103.6	900.35
Razor Clam													0.00
Roes	0.00	0.00	0.00										0.00
Saithe	0.10	0.24	0.13	0.01	1.60	0.92	0.70	4.72	4.12	0.90	0.17	0.61	14.21
Scallops	78.16	84.65	54.92	45.35	65.75	105.38	24.44	15.00	6.97	7.65	202.44	124.3	814.99
Sharks					0.01		0.05	0.16				0.01	0.24
Skates and Rays	9.32	13.31	4.85	6.52	3.91	0.70	0.65	0.76	4.79	1.12	1.87	2.88	50.68
Smoothhound													0.00
Sole	0.26	1.39	1.35	1.11	0.79	1.30	0.64	0.47	0.96	0.25	0.29	0.29	9.09
Spurdog	7.32	1.16	0.98	2.77	2.19	1.22	1.28	17.62	12.15	2.82	1.61	3.56	54.69
Squid	0.37	0.24	0.01	0.00		0.01	0.10	0.70	2.55	4.20	3.83	5.25	17.26

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Thornback Ray											0.33	1.51	1.84
Thrasher Shark								0.10					0.10
Tope	0.03									0.01		0.06	0.10
Turbot	0.32	0.76	0.56	0.57	1.50	5.02	2.13	0.50	0.86	0.35	0.13	0.19	12.90
Unidentified Dogfish									1.11		0.80		1.91
Whelks	38.45	27.20	11.49	0.04						0.06	5.49	11.99	94.71
Whiting	0.02	0.03	0.11	0.30	0.06	6.45	0.03	2.61	5.40	2.07	0.11	0.37	17.56
Witch	2.79	4.00	3.79	5.04	4.74	7.52	5.90	6.46	11.35	3.24	0.36	0.58	55.77
Grand totals	2630.0	3194.4	897.5	779.9	918.59	1561.3	1188	2794.	4454	2036.	786.98	735.2	21976.0

**LANDINGS INTO N.I. PORTS 2010
LW (TONNES)**

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bass	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.20
Black Seabream						0.00						0.00
Blonde Ray			0.04	0.34	0.20	0.13	0.02	2.23	1.40	0.43	0.82	1.29
Brill	2.36	4.85	1.58	1.04	1.00	0.70	0.71	1.06	1.30	0.32	0.45	1.48
Brown Shrimps	4.39	1.08	0.76	0.94	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.03	0.26	0.42	0.92
Cockles												0.00
Cod	20.74	21.28	23.49	17.87	21.92	28.34	20.56	14.11	21.16	35.49	29.80	37.53
Conger Eels	4.19	3.22	0.51	1.28	1.79	0.81	0.76	1.65	3.81	8.23	6.44	5.27
Crabs - Velvet (Swim)	9.25	8.38	7.06	10.72	16.05	14.23	14.59	24.27	26.91	18.34	16.07	17.15
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	47.32	55.38	39.13	46.37	43.90	59.62	123.6	193.83	172.2	151.7	168.94	78.83
Cuckoo Ray			0.05	0.11	0.09	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.22	0.34	0.07
Dabs		0.03										0.03
Green Crab				3.96	5.91	26.96	28.25	18.10	32.07	18.49	2.81	
Gurnard and Latchet	3.46	1.48	0.98	2.39	2.46	0.09	0.03	0.35	1.60	0.67	1.84	1.94
Haddock	17.76	28.83	29.36	13.08	87.21	21.97	62.59	76.75	26.74	35.32	16.90	11.60
Hake	10.46	12.46	8.64	12.33	28.25	35.01	12.75	15.16	15.95	7.08	11.81	12.40
Halibut			0.02			0.02						0.04

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Herring		85.97					0.01	1557.	2071	1581.	1028.6	6323.83
Horse Mackerel	218.53	65.10									75.19	434.97
John Dory	0.27	0.19	0.26	0.11	0.17	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.19	0.15	1.63
Lemon Sole	0.12	0.28	0.65	0.37	0.44	0.27	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.15	0.19	2.77
Lesser Spotted Dog			1.62	0.13				0.25				2.00
Ling	2.38	4.35	8.61	6.58	4.44	3.33	2.54	3.80	4.96	1.81	1.87	46.98
Lobsters	2.13	1.95	2.16	3.87	4.78	6.70	11.96	10.27	6.25	4.62	2.66	59.92
Long Rough Dabs												0.00
Mackerel	2653.5	345.61				0.22	6.53	9.80	4.37	0.02	289.47	3309.52
Megrim	0.37	0.07	0.22	0.01	0.19	1.02	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.19	0.21	2.60
Mixed Squid and Octopi											0.01	0.01
Monks or Anglers	6.35	11.36	8.37	4.31	4.54	6.53	7.40	9.56	7.17	3.32	1.31	72.95
Mullet Other			0.02		0.01	0.02	0.02			0.02	0.06	0.15
Mussels	0.52	2.00							0.04			4.01
Native Oysters	0.54											0.54
Nephrops (Norway Lobster)	384.63	528.22	542.2	697.1	441.85	1182.4	991.3	1189.	534.65	173.1	239.44	7134.42
Plaice	4.48	6.96	2.47	0.75	4.13	2.50	0.85	0.76	2.04	1.03	1.15	32.90

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pollack	2.40	5.87	6.44	4.56	8.55	4.88	4.69	7.86	5.53	1.86	1.33	2.53
Queen Scallops	34.08		0.16	23.33	97.41	359.81	223.6	465.35	482.68	481.7	563.07	324.1
Razor Clam		0.19	0.02									0.21
Red Mullet		0.00				0.01						0.01
Roes	0.00	0.00	0.00									0.00
Saithe	0.28	0.26	0.28	0.25	0.52	0.57	0.20	0.57	0.23	0.28	0.14	0.29
Scallops	76.69	107.02	74.62	81.97	101.62	39.88			0.01	0.94	224.67	149.7
Sharks												0.00
Skates and Rays	8.39	18.24	3.86	1.34	0.40				0.00		0.07	0.25
Smoothhound			0.04									0.04
Sole	0.98	0.82	0.57	0.45	0.55	0.59	0.31	0.44	0.50	0.16	0.06	0.43
Spotted Ray			0.01	0.16	0.01			0.02	0.17			0.05
Spurdog	0.69	0.16	0.07	0.01								0.93
Squid	1.89	0.67	0.06	0.00	0.00			0.09	0.92	3.02	4.01	4.78
Starry Ray								0.01	0.01		0.01	0.02
Thornback Ray		0.12	1.34	2.08	1.40	0.43	0.13	0.75	1.24	2.16	1.33	6.09
Thrasher Shark												0.00
Tope	0.02	0.02			0.02				0.01			0.07
Turbot	0.52	1.36	1.14	0.78	1.12	5.96	2.77	1.61	0.60	0.17	0.03	0.24

Species	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Unid DS Squal Sharks & Dogfish									0.28			0.28
Unidentified Dogfish		1.20	0.10	0.60					1.73	0.40	1.06	0.07
Wheleks	6.53	9.45	11.64	2.13	5.81	2.68	1.83	0.09	0.02			40.18
Whiting	0.45	2.24	4.88	2.01	1.95	3.44	0.71	0.36	0.38	8.26	7.61	1.29
Witch	2.89	5.04	4.45	4.02	2.27	3.89	5.06	8.74	5.16	1.43	0.40	1.03
Grand total	3529.6	1341.7	787.9	947.4	891.10	1813.1	1524.	3615	3433	2542.	2700.8	983.1
												24110

LANDINGS INTO N.I. PORTS 2011

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Arctic Skate	0.01												
Bass	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Blonde Ray	1.22	3.45	5.76	0.92	0.03	0.04	3.74	1.81	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.06	18.36
Bluemouth (Blue Mouth Redfish)									0.28				0.28
Brill	1.89	1.68	2.99	1.73	0.57	1.05	0.95	1.34	0.87	0.20	0.87	0.14	14.29
Brown Shrimps	0.87	0.69	0.26	0.27	0.01			0.00	0.06	0.38	0.41	0.87	3.81
Cockles			0.03										0.03
Cod	26.76	11.95	28.58	9.41	13.47	31.45	18.88	9.89	2.35	0.89	0.13	3.92	157.69
Conger Eels	3.51	3.02	1.15	0.50	0.93	1.41	1.38	0.93	0.30	0.15	0.01	0.50	13.79
Crabs - Velvet (Swim)	9.39	5.89	7.84	11.08	6.44	16.94	17.92	22.90	14.59	18.56	14.34	23.80	169.68
Crabs (C.P Mixed Sexes)	56.27	33.41	31.54	24.78	31.80	67.31	104.2	152.18	153.3	212.3	144.04	59.92	1071.1
Cuckoo Ray	0.49	0.96	1.08	0.23	0.09	0.01	0.03	0.30	0.28	0.30	0.55	0.01	4.33
Dogfish (Scylliorhinidae)	1.10							0.15					1.25
Greater Forked Beard									0.00				0.00
Green Crab		13.13	10.05	5.62	6.16	12.90	18.53	27.32	37.66	19.60	1.80	4.69	157.46
Gurnard and Latchet	2.09	3.93	9.72	3.17	0.24	0.30	0.37	1.07	2.00	1.77	4.48	0.62	29.77

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Haddock	14.55	17.83	31.49	20.53	29.26	75.66	27.34	21.11	37.25	30.29	4.06	1.14	310.50
Hake	6.89	3.42	9.48	2.64	13.70	38.97	12.27	2.91	1.78	0.21	0.68	2.49	95.45
Halibut								0.00					0.00
Herring	109.38							794.15	2572.	1728.	644.02	19.69	5867.7
Horse Mackerel	975.61	1.00									102.25		1078.9
John Dory	0.20	0.15	0.20	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.15	0.20	0.61	0.07	1.76
Lemon Sole	0.40	0.23	0.70	0.38	0.08	0.53	0.26	0.26	0.32	0.00	0.13	0.00	3.28
Lesser Spotted Dog	0.25	0.60	3.10	1.00					1.16	0.23	2.84		9.18
Ling	1.37	4.08	16.20	2.48	2.65	4.38	2.57	3.79	1.62	0.33	0.14	0.14	39.74
Lobsters	3.26	1.87	3.31	3.48	4.84	9.38	12.39	10.26	4.96	3.57	2.20	2.45	62.00
Mackerel	2831.6	325.86			0.22	1.59	4.01	10.01	4.39	0.88		153.1	3331.6
Megrim			0.05	0.03	0.02	0.26	0.03	0.03	2.40	0.01	0.02		2.86
Mixed Squid and Octopi									0.01				0.01
Monks or Anglers	4.20	8.00	22.68	5.28	4.67	12.20	9.22	15.28	7.84	2.86	3.74	1.30	97.27
Mussels	28.85	67.65	20.50					3.00	38.91	15.00	4.50		178.41
Mullet - Other					0.00	0.09	0.01						0.11
Native Oysters									0.13				0.13
Nephrops (N'way Lobster)	325.39	323.99	782.1	608.1	370.31	1362.5	1159.	1360.0	375.4	177.1	247.49	273.9	7365.8

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Octopus							0.21	0.16	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.87
Plaice	11.62	6.02	6.36	1.65	1.24	3.45	1.76	1.26	1.29	1.06	7.11	4.10	46.92
Pollack	3.54	4.44	7.06	6.17	6.17	10.20	3.57	1.20	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.28	42.73
Queen Scallops	46.31			2.57	0.87	250.96	509.6	782.90	464.7	613.8	540.19	75.99	3287.8
Roes	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00							0.00
Saithe	0.18	0.01	0.29	0.16	0.21	0.50	0.11	0.17	2.44			0.02	4.09
Scallops	178.30	93.59	198.3	51.08	7.29	11.95			2.24	10.16	150.85	123.4	827.18
Skates and Rays	0.30	0.91	0.60	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.00					0.00	1.97
Sole	0.37	0.55	1.56	0.73	0.40	1.26	0.78	0.76	0.37	0.34	1.09	0.04	8.25
Spotted Ray	0.24		0.02				0.13						0.39
Sprats											247.64		247.64
Squid	0.73	0.17	0.07			0.00	0.04	0.56	1.79	7.95	19.56	9.74	40.61
Starry Ray	0.04		0.38	0.07		0.03	1.61	0.00	0.01		0.20		2.35
Thornback Ray	1.85	11.73	4.96	3.31	0.54	0.77	2.66	1.46	3.58	1.09	8.56	0.82	41.34
Turbot	0.34	0.64	1.75	0.90	1.00	4.82		1.23	0.40	0.09	0.42	0.09	11.67
Unid DS Squal Sharks & Dogfish													
Unidentified Dogfish	3.52	13.52	0.40			1.00		0.40	0.05	9.72	1.26		29.87
Wheleks	20.02	26.95	31.13	18.70	11.47	2.08						0.05	110.40
Whiting	0.41	0.34	2.51	0.56	0.05	1.85	0.09	0.38	8.99	1.59	0.20	0.03	17.01

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Witch	3.34	4.11	10.16	4.70	4.26	11.11	7.83	10.04	4.24	1.94	0.78	0.35	62.86
Grand total	4676.7	995.76	1254.	792.4	519.07	1937.0	1922.	3239.	3751.	2866.	2193.3	772.9	24919.

LANDINGS INTO N.I.PORTS 2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Arctic Skate													
Bass		0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01								0.02
Blonde Ray	0.57	3.24	4.12	0.44	0.14								8.50
Bluemouth (Blue Mouth Redfish)													0.00
Brill	1.42	1.48	0.94	1.19	0.76	0.02							5.80
Brown Shrimps	0.27	0.23	0.11	0.01									0.62
Cockles													0.00
Cod	4.94	7.60	20.21	6.39	5.33	2.17							46.64
Conger Eels	0.02	0.37	0.29	0.07	0.05	0.02							0.82
Crabs - Velvet (Swim)	10.07	6.41	6.56	2.80	0.11								25.94
Crabs (C.P. Mixed Sexes)	18.56	11.87	17.95	7.36	2.00								57.74
Cuckoo Ray	0.76	0.46	0.93	0.01	0.01								2.17
Dabs			0.04										0.04
Eels			0.02										0.02
Dogfish (Scyllorhinidae)													0.00
Greater Forked Beard													0.00
Green Crab			10.67										10.67

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Gurnard and Latchet	0.35	1.98	3.28	1.04	1.40	0.01							8.06
Haddock	2.65	14.94	54.78	28.69	2.40	0.26							103.72
Hake	5.87	8.75	12.21	2.85	7.22	0.63							37.53
Halibut					0.01								0.01
Herring													0.00
Horse Mackerel		260.18											260.18
John Dory	0.09	0.36	0.31	0.12	0.29	0.01							1.19
Lemon Sole	0.11	0.23	0.73	0.54	0.26								1.86
Lesser Spotted Dog	0.75	4.55	14.86	0.30									20.46
Ling	1.58	4.40	9.54	2.51	0.97	0.28							19.28
Lobsters	1.52	2.70	0.85	0.82	0.14								6.04
Mackerel	2065.2	589.59			0.06								2654.8
Megrim		0.02	1.03	0.60		0.01							1.65
Mixed Squid and Octopi													0.00
Monks or Anglers	7.86	21.56	30.24	6.72	11.61	1.85							79.84
Mussels													0.00
Mullet - Other			0.02	0.00									0.02
Native Oysters													0.00

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Nephrops (Norway Lobster)	445.10	616.40	803.0	455.9	1156.6	147.34							3624.4
Octopus	0.10			0.01	0.08	0.01							0.19
Plaice	14.85	13.92	3.64	0.58	0.56	0.03							33.59
Pollack	0.05	0.93	4.80	1.25	0.10								7.12
Queen Scallops		17.62											17.62
Roes	0.00	0.00	0.00										0.00
Saithe	0.00	0.02	0.02										0.04
Scallops	159.38	124.52	140.9	39.41	31.18	0.01							495.47
Skates and Rays	0.00	0.40	0.86	0.06	0.04								1.36
Sole	0.38	0.51	0.84	0.31	1.01	0.07							3.12
Spotted Ray		0.29	0.04	0.54	0.06								0.93
Sprats													0.00
Squid	2.86	0.90	0.14	0.00	0.02	0.00							3.92
Starry Ray	0.21	0.72	0.22	0.01	0.01								1.17
Thornback Ray	2.48	3.99	15.06	2.19	2.35	0.13							26.20
Turbot	0.46	0.37	1.35	0.67	1.93	0.22							5.00
Unid DS Squal Sharks & Dogfish													
Unidentified Dogfish		7.17	0.22										2.47
													7.39

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Wheks	29.88	41.73	45.07	21.41	6.83								144.92
Whiting	0.01	0.18	7.16	3.76	0.04								11.16
Witch	4.91	10.17	12.05	2.46	4.14	0.77							34.51
Grand total	2785.7	1780.7	1225.	591.0	1237.7	153.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7774.1

Re-Tagging Animals

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when plastic tags were first used, in place of steel tags, for re-tagging animals that had lost their original tag.

(AQW 12936/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Plastic Tags were first used, in place of steel tags for re-tagging animals that had lost their original tag from 1st January 1998.

Re-Tagging Animals

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the use of plastic tags for the re-tagging of animals, to detail the largest percentage of re-tags her Department has received from an individual farmer, and in what year this occurred.

(AQW 12937/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department uses the term “re-tag” to refer to the application of two new tags to an animal that has lost both of its original tags and therefore the animal is re-identified with a different number.

The largest percentage of re-tags was in 2010, when 522 animals were retagged and one particular farmer had 8.62% (45 animals) of the total number of animals retagged that year.

My Department uses the term “replacement tag” to refer to the situation where an animal has lost one tag and that tag is replaced with a single matching tag with the same identification number as that of the lost tag.

Re-Tagging Animals

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when plastic tags were first used on bovine animals in place of steel tags.

(AQW 12938/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Plastic tags were introduced on 1st January 1998.

Single Farm Payment

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the process used by her Department when dealing with an error in a Single Farm Payment application when (i) the error has been made by an applicant; and (ii) the error has been made by a departmental official.

(AQW 13069/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As a general principle, if the Department finds there has been an error in a Single Farm Payment application, in line with EU Regulations, the application is adjusted to the correct position and recovery action and/or penalties applied, as appropriate. However, penalties are not applied if the applicant can demonstrate that the application was factually correct at the time it was submitted or can show that he/she was otherwise ‘not at fault’.

- (i) Errors made by applicants can be treated in a number of ways. In some instances, the Department can apply the ‘obvious error’ provisions as detailed in EU guidance. In the case of ‘obvious error’ an application is adjusted by the Department to the correct position. Such errors have to be detected by staff from the information given in the applications, for example, mistakes deleted in calculations or figures reversed in farm survey numbers. No penalties are applied in cases of obvious errors.

The EU regulations also allow an applicant to notify DARD of an error at any time. The Department can correct the error and not apply penalties provided that it has not already told the applicant about the error or has not given notification of an inspection. If an applicant wants to amend an application they can only do so up to the final deadline for applications and, in some cases, penalties may apply.

- (ii) If it is established that an error has been made by a Departmental official, the application is adjusted to the correct position. However, in these circumstances, as the applicant is not 'at fault', penalties are not applied.

Single Farm Payments

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for a breakdown of the costs incurred by her Department caused by (i) fraud; and (ii) error in Single Farm Payments, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13070/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: While DARD does not hold information on the actual costs incurred in dealing with fraud and error in Single Farm Payment cases, it estimates that the cost of:

- 1 investigations of suspected SFP Fraud cases in 2009, 2010 and 2011 were £4,600, £5,300 and £4,100 respectively; and
- 2 the work associated with errors on Single Farm Payments arising through administrative checks, on farm inspections or farmer notified changes has cost my Department £169,921, £167,662 and £185,258 in the last three years.

Designated Reservoirs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the areas of water designated as reservoirs by her Department in the North Down area.

(AQW 13072/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Reservoirs Bill will define the structures or areas that are to be regarded as controlled reservoirs and the recent consultation stated that "a controlled reservoir would be any structure or area which is capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. This includes any structure designed for collecting or storing water as well as a lake or other area capable of storing water which was created or enlarged by artificial means. The term controlled reservoir will also refer to structures or areas that individually do not meet the volume threshold but where water does or can flow between them and there could be an uncontrolled release in excess of 10,000 cubic metres of water."

The reservoirs authority will not designate structures or areas as controlled reservoirs. The legislation will place a requirement on the reservoir manager to register the reservoir if it meets the criteria. The Department is however engaging with known reservoir managers/owners to involve them in the development of the reservoir safety policy proposals.

My Department has identified the following structures or areas within the North Down area which we consider may meet the criteria for a controlled reservoir:-

- Clandeboye Reservoir, Bangor
- Clandeboye Lake, Bangor
- Ballysallagh Upper Reservoir, Bangor
- Ballysallagh Lower Reservoir, Bangor
- Creightons Green, Holywood
- Church Road Upper, Holywood
- Church Road Lower, Holywood
- Conlig Upper, Bangor
- Conlig Lower, Bangor
- Portavoe, Groomsport
- The Warren Pond, Ballyleidy

Proposed Legislation on Reservoirs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the timescale for the proposed legislation on reservoirs.

(AQW 13073/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Indicative timetable for the Reservoirs Bill

1 June 2012	Public consultation ended
October 2012	Policy Finalisation
June- December 2012	Drafting of Bill
February – November 2013	Bill Assembly Stage Introduction Committee Stage Consideration Stage Final Stage
December 2013	Final Assent
Early 2014	Operative Date
2014	Make Regulations and develop implementation systems

Tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many tickets for the Jubilee Garden Party on 27 June 2012 were allocated to (i) the Minister; (ii) her Department; and (iii) its arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 13119/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: No tickets were allocated to me or to my Department's non -Departmental Public Bodies for the Jubilee Garden Party. An allocation of 150 tickets was made available to my Permanent Secretary for allocation in the Department.

Lay Vaccinators

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she has any plans to bring forward legislation, similar to the Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010, which would allow the introduction of Lay Vaccinators.

(AQW 13139/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under powers in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 as amended, the Veterinary Surgery (Vaccination of Badgers Against Tuberculosis) Order 2010 was made to enable the vaccination of badgers to be carried out by non-veterinarians in England, Scotland and Wales. The 2010 Order does not currently apply here.

Should a policy of badger vaccination deploying trained lay vaccinators be advocated then an appropriate legislative enabling amendment would be brought forward to the Veterinary Surgeons Act.

My Department hosted an International Vaccination Experts' Scientific Symposium on badger vaccination during 14-16 May 2012 and the outcomes of the Symposium are still being written up.

Public Contract Tenders for Construction

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of (i) her Department's elements criteria used to determine public contract tenders for construction; and (ii) whether the criteria, such as turnover thresholds, might prohibit small-to-medium sized local businesses from making applications,

(AQW 13152/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: All my departments construction contracts are currently awarded through DFP's Central Procurement Directorate. I will be keeping our procurement policy constantly under review to ensure that small and medium businesses are not disadvantaged.

Dairy Industry

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQO 2112/11-15, (i) given the price fluctuation of dried powdered milk in recent years owing to growth in demand, and that the majority of the demand is being offset by New Zealand dairy farmers, whether there are any plans to revise and develop a regional marketing strategy to enhance Northern Ireland's competitive capacity; and (ii) in light of the proposed plans to allocate greater funding to research initiatives, what consideration has been given to refocusing research on areas of natural advantage, such as Northern Ireland's capacity to grow grass which can lend itself to cheaper dairy production, as opposed to focusing research efforts and resources in other restricted areas, such as indoor containment systems.

(AQW 13177/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Price fluctuation for milk powders is a reality of trading in commodity products on global markets. So, while our dairy industry continues to trade heavily in the processing of milk powders it will continue to face such price volatility. However, I am pleased to note that with normal peak production season now past, the situation on dairy markets appears to have stabilised with some improvement in prices.

Whilst I agree that a strategy is needed to enhance the sector's competitive capacity, I also believe this is true for the whole agri-food sector. Furthermore in view of our dependence on external markets I consider that it needs in fact to be developed on a global scale, developing the home market as well as new markets, further afield.

That is why an industry-led Agri-Food Strategy Board has been established. I am pleased that the Board has recently commenced its work to develop a strategy with ambitious growth targets up to 2020. It will be important for the dairy sector to engage positively with the Board.

As regards research activities by my Department I wish to advise that the DARD Evidence and Innovation Strategy published in 2009, provides a high-level framework for DARD's evidence gathering and innovation support activities. The aim is to align research activities with the Department's Strategic Goals. In so doing I can assure you that I value highly the fact that industry views are taken into consideration in assessing priorities. In this respect the Evidence and Innovation Stakeholder Forum fulfils a very important role.

Research within my Department is already focused on fully utilising the available resources on projects aimed at producing a sustainable, competitive and innovative agri-food sector. With this in mind areas for research are reviewed annually and projects prioritised within budgetary constraints. As part of this process, there are normally a number of research projects which focus on areas of natural advantage, such as the north's capacity to grow grass.

The DARD funded Grassland Research Programme at AFBI is internationally recognised and grassland research is an important research priority for my Department. As a result, having worked in conjunction with industry through AgriSearch, DARD's current Research Work Programme at AFBI includes four grass-based research projects and I hope that the findings will be useful to dairy producers in their forward planning.

Bees and Bee Products

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the report by the Agricultural Development Advisory Services for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that cited existing research which concludes that the importation of bees and bee products generates the greatest risk to the health of bees, whether her Department plans to carry out any research in this area. **(AQW 13301/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: There is no doubt that the importation of bees and bee products represents a serious risk to bee health. Whilst no specific research has been commissioned by DARD, beekeepers can, and will, have benefited from the outcome of research undertaken elsewhere. Through the implementation of the 'Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee' the Bee Science Sub-group has the opportunity to bring forward proposals under DARD's Evidence and Innovation call for bee research specific to the needs of beekeepers here, and I would encourage them in that consideration.

Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 12396/11-15, whether the action plan and timelines submitted by the Competency Development Sub-group have been agreed by the Implementation Group. **(AQW 13302/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: The Competency Development Sub-group's Action Plan and timelines for its agreed priorities were considered and agreed by the Implementation Group at its recent meeting on 26 June 2012. The Sub-group has now been asked to prepare a work programme for actions that are being taken forward at this point.

Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 12396/11-15, when the Communications and Relationships Sub-group, the Risks from Pests, Diseases and Undesirable Species Sub-group and the Bee Science Sub-group will submit their action plans and timelines to the Implementation Group for consideration. **(AQW 13303/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: It is the responsibility of each sector led Sub-group to develop action plans and timelines. Although each of these Sub-groups has met on several occasions, they have yet to finalise their action plans and timelines. The Sub-groups have been reminded to submit their action plans at the earliest opportunity.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 12664/11-15, to clarify whether the figures given in respect of each year contain any element of carry-over of cases from one year to the next; and, if so, whether figures can be provided which exclude any such duplication. **(AQW 13345/11-15)**

Mrs O'Neill: I can confirm that the figures given in response to AQW 12664/11-15 do not contain any element of carry-over of cases from one year to the next. The figures given relate to new cases referred to the CIS for investigation during a financial year.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Opening of a Photographic Exhibition of the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks in New York

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, following her opening of a photographic exhibition of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York, what plans she has to encourage and promote such exhibitions to depict the aftermath of IRA terrorist attacks.

(AQW 11373/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): I will, as with this exhibition, consider any invitations to open or launch an event. I have no plans to encourage and promote photographic exhibitions as described by the Member.

Culture Company 2013 Limited

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the role of the Culture Company 2013 Limited after 31 December 2013.

(AQW 13055/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Culture Company is expected to wind up in June 2014.

A core complement of staff will remain after December 2013 to ensure an appropriate handover period for legacy actions and to undertake post project evaluation as well as the finalisation of funding claims, the annual reporting for 2013/14 and the administration around the dissolution of the company.

Culture Company 2013 Limited

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the projected budget of the Culture Company 2013 Limited in each of the next three financial years.

(AQW 13056/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Culture Company aim to attract sponsorship, receipts and allocations from funders totalling £23.3m to deliver the Cultural Programme of events. DCAL have committed to provide £12.6m in 2012/ 13 and 2013/ 14. Derry City Council funding for the City of Culture Project will be up to £4.1m, including the Clipper Festival which it is directly managing, and the Council has approved a contingency for unforeseen costs subject to approval in advance to utilise this contingency. Derry City Council has funded all running costs to date and has committed to funding the full running costs of the Company.

The Company's projected budget for the next three years is as follows:

	Operational	Programming	Marketing
2012/13	980,000	7,605,000	1,400,000
2013/14	971,000	10,845,000	1,400,000
2014/15	257,000	-	-
Total	2,208,000	18,450,000	2,800,000

Culture Company 2013 Limited

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the projected staff complement within the Culture Company 2013 Limited for each of the next three years.

(AQW 13057/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The current core staff complement of the Culture Company is 18 people including the CEO and administrative, operational, finance, marketing and communication and programming staff. There are also 2 people on secondment into the organisation. There are no plans for the core

complement to change during the next 3 years, however, Derry City Council will consider resource needs as the project progresses.

Derry City Council, as owner of the Culture Company and licensee of Derry~Londonderry City of Culture 2013 are responsible for funding the core staff complement of the Culture Company. Derry City Council have deployed a member of the Council's internal audit team to work with the Company on a part time basis. Any requirements for additional core staff will be met by Derry City Council.

In addition to the Culture Company's core complement, a number of personnel will be contracted to undertake events management, project management, production and technical roles in the run up to and during 2013. Costs associated with these roles will be met within the Cultural Programme budget to which DCAL has committed £12.6m in 2012/ 13 and 2013/ 14.

Northern Ireland Events Company

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what lessons have been learned from the demise of the Northern Ireland Events Company.

(AQW 13131/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Following the demise of the Northern Ireland Events Company in 2007 independent professional financial advisers KPMG were engaged to carry out a comprehensive and authoritative review of the financial affairs of the company, to advise on meeting the existing liabilities of the NIEC and the most appropriate method of winding-up the Company in an orderly manner; and to carry out a comprehensive review of all the circumstances surrounding the deficit accumulated by the NIEC. Furthermore, the Department commissioned the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, a professional accountancy body which specialises in the public sector to conduct an external review of the monitoring arrangements between the Department and the other arm's length bodies for which the Department is responsible. As a result of this review, a number of recommendations were made relating to identifiable areas of improvement required to address areas of weakness in DCAL's sponsorship of its Arms Length Bodies. The Department has taken extensive actions in recent years to strengthen its systems of internal control by identifying and incorporating lessons learned. Annex A provides a table of the recommendations and actions taken by the Department.

ANNEX A

Recommendations	Improvements/Actions
Review Sponsor Organisation Structure	Establishment of Governance Support Unit (GSU) within DCAL who provide a central pool of expertise on the issues of finance, governance and accountability to ALBs and sponsor branches; centralisation of ALB drawdown process; development of sponsorship manual and training for sponsor staff; regular accountability meetings held with attendance at the appropriate senior level by the Department and ALB.
Ensuring sound Corporate Governance in sponsored ALBs	Board skills considered in the public appointments process and skills audit completed; attendance at ALB Board and ALB Audit Committee by appropriate Department senior sponsor level; risk assessments completed on ALBs to inform the sponsorship arrangements; completion of quarterly assurance statements by ALBs.
Financial Planning	Review and update of the Corporate plan and business planning procedures
Financial Control and monitoring	Accountability meetings held and attended at appropriate senior level within ALB and Department; centralisation of ALB drawdowns managed by GSU; monthly monitoring of ALB expenditure by sponsor branch and finance and reported to Departmental Board
Audit and Accounts	Tracking system of ALB Internal and External Audit recommendations

Northern Ireland Events Company

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department has changed its procedures in relation to its arm's-length bodies, as a result of the lessons learned from the demise of the Northern Ireland Events Company.

(AQW 13132/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Following the demise of the Northern Ireland Events Company in 2007 independent professional financial advisers KPMG were engaged to carry out a comprehensive and authoritative review of the financial affairs of the company, to advise on meeting the existing liabilities of the NIEC and the most appropriate method of winding-up the Company in an orderly manner; and to carry out a comprehensive review of all the circumstances surrounding the deficit accumulated by the NIEC. Furthermore, the Department commissioned the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, a professional accountancy body which specialises in the public sector to conduct an external review of the monitoring arrangements between the Department and the other arm's length bodies for which the Department is responsible. As a result of this review, a number of recommendations were made relating to identifiable areas of improvement required to address areas of weakness in DCAL's sponsorship of its Arms Length Bodies (ALB). The Department has taken extensive actions in recent years to strengthen its systems of internal control by identifying and incorporating lessons learned from its experiences with the Northern Ireland Events Company. A Governance Support Unit (GSU) was established to increase the level of consistency with which the Department carries out its sponsorship activities in areas which are generic in nature and which requires a level of expertise in the fields of finance, governance and accountability. GSU provide advice and guidance to Sponsor branches who retain primary responsibilities for ALB oversight and are responsible for the ALB drawdown payments process which was centralised following the review. The Dept has also formalised regular accountability meetings with ALBs, attends audit committees and board meetings, and has introduced quarterly assurance statements. The Sponsorship responsibilities have been documented in a Sponsorship Manual which ensures rules and responsibilities are clearly documented and understood. The Dept also introduced a Risk Assessment of its ALBs, which informs the sponsorship arrangements.

Investigation into the Northern Ireland Events Company

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a breakdown of the costs of reviewing, reporting on and investigating the Northern Ireland Events Company.

(AQW 13133/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The costs to my Department of reviewing, reporting on and investigating the Northern Ireland Events Company to date are as follows:

- £123,000.00 -Audit of the financial affairs of the Company and comprehensive review of all the circumstances surrounding the deficit accumulated by it.
- £37,029.20 - Interim support to the management of the NIEC and review of existing contracts and commitments.
- £6,055.00 – Review of financial transactions.

The ongoing Company Inspection is a matter for DETI. DETI have advised that it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the costs incurred by it for the Company Inspection to date as they fall under the Commercial in Confidence category and are therefore exempt under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Cross-Departmental Access for Arts Organisations and Practitioners

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to what extent she encourages cross-departmental access for arts organisations and practitioners, given the proven impact that the arts can have on areas such as literacy, mental health and skills development.

(AQW 13214/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The arts and cultural sector can indeed stimulate new ways of tackling social and economic problems and find innovative solutions to challenges in the economy, education, health, social inclusion and the environment. My Department contributes to cross-cutting government priorities such as sustainability, suicide prevention, commemorations and tourism and advocates creative thinking and engagement by government and other stakeholders with the strengths, insights and social impact of the arts.

In particular, I am keen to see my Department's Arm Lengths Bodies make social interventions which:

- Promote equality;
- Tackle deprivation;
- Build communities;
- Provide youth services;
- Promote positive physical and mental health, in particular by delivering suicide prevention initiatives.

I recently met with the DARD Minister to discuss how the Departments can work together to promote suicide awareness and I am encouraging all parts of my Department including the Arms Length Bodies to become involved.

Another of my priorities is to promote the health benefits of the arts. For example the Arts Council funded ArtsCare Clown Doctors brighten up children's stays in hospital and Kids in Control is an arts programme for those with mental health care needs, including young people, referred by social services.

Library Bonuses

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when the approved library bonuses will be paid to staff.

(AQW 13356/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Libraries NI has informed me that there are no approved bonuses for library staff. Staff within Libraries NI are paid in accordance with agreements reached nationally through negotiation at the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. NJC has not agreed any pay rises in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years due to the two year pay freeze which the Executive introduced to maintain parity with the Westminster Government.

You will be aware that, as part of the pay settlement, staff who earn less than £21,000 per annum are entitled to a one-off payment of £250 (pro-rata and non-consolidated).

Libraries NI has submitted its 2011/12 pay remit to the Department which includes this payment. Discussions between DCAL and Libraries NI are ongoing and are expected to conclude shortly.

Preservation of Craigavon House

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding his Department has provided for the preservation of Craigavon House since 1998.

(AQW 13402/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for the preservation of Craigavon House rests with the Somme Association, who owns the property. My Department has not provided any funding.

Quoile Pondage, Downpatrick

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline any measures her Department is taking to (i) assess how seals are accessing the Quoile Pondage, in Downpatrick above the tidal barrage, and (ii) modify the tidal barrage in light of the falling numbers of pike and rudd upriver.

(AQW 13447/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

- (i) Seals are protected species under the Wildlife Order and the Quoile area is a designated Nature Reserve managed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The NIEA are currently undertaking an investigation to assess how seals are accessing the Quoile Pondage.
- (ii) DCAL officials have requested the Rivers Agency, as owner of the Quoile Barrier, to undertake a survey of the barrage and if necessary carry out remedial work.

2012 Olympics: Legacy Projects

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department will support any Olympic Games legacy projects in South Antrim.

(AQO 2314/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department is actively supporting Olympic legacy projects in South Antrim, and across the North, in a number of ways.

This includes provision of its Inspire programme which is an initiative that formally recognises exceptional non-commercial projects which have been genuinely inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A number of these legacy projects are working right across the North, including in South Antrim. DCAL funds two such projects; Disability Sport NI's 5 Star Disability Sports Challenge and Sport NI's Active8 initiative.

The visit of the Olympic Flame to the constituency on 7 June brought the whole community together in celebration and will inspire local people to get involved in Community events in the future. The area should also enjoy benefits from the 8 pre-games training camps, secured by my Department, to be based at the Antrim Forum.

In addition, my Department supports the 'Get Set' programme which is the official 2012 Games educational programme. Twenty Five schools from South Antrim are participating in the programme which supports local children in the enhancement of their learning and development.

All of these projects, events and initiatives are creating a local legacy through increasing participation in sporting and cultural activities; improving access in sports and the arts for people with disabilities; encouraging healthy lifestyles; facilitating skills development; promoting volunteering and creating good relations and community cohesion.

3G Pitches

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what funding opportunities are available for working class communities to develop 3G pitches in their local areas.

(AQO 2318/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: District Councils are responsible for the provision of local leisure and recreational facilities, including pitches, within their own area. Belfast City Council, for example, has developed a playing pitches strategy which will help the Council to make informed planning decisions and to decide how it will target financial support and investment in facilities. Local communities seeking funding to develop a 3G pitch may therefore wish to contact their local Council to discuss funding opportunities, or visit the grant-tracker website.

In addition Sport NI which is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport in the north of Ireland, has awarded £16,795,911 towards the development of thirty seven 3G pitches in the last five financial

years. Nine of these pitches are based within the top 25% of the most deprived wards in the north, using details from the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Sport NI currently has no capital funding programmes currently open to which new applications to upgrade sports pitches can be made. It is, however, currently working through a call off list of applications to its Sport Matters: Community Capital Programme, a number of which are for the development of 3G pitches. Further awards will be made from this programme once indicative budgets for future years have been confirmed.

DCAL Waters: Eutrophication

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the closure of departmental waters due to eutrophication or other problems such as weed growth.

(AQO 2322/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In recent weeks two DCAL Public Angling Estate waters, Loughbrickland Lake in County Down and Moor Lough in County Tyrone, have been closed to anglers as a result of toxic blue green algal blooms. No waters have been closed this year as a result of excessive weed growth.

Algae are naturally occurring and under certain conditions particular species may produce toxins. Eutrophic lakes are especially vulnerable to algal growth as they contain very high levels of nutrients. This in combination with the other factors, such as very warm, still weather, causes a huge surge in algae growth known as a "bloom".

The presence of toxic blue green algae was detected by analysis of routine water samples by the NI Environment Agency. NIEA then alerted local Environmental Health Officers to the situation.

In light of any potential risk to public health, the Department closed the waters to anglers and as the toxins may accumulate in fish, and advised that fish from the affected waters should not be consumed until further notice.

The Department sought further guidance on how long the toxins may remain in fish and this indicates that the toxins dissipate within a short period of the decline of the algal bloom.

As weather conditions have since changed, the algal blooms have declined and the two waters concerned have been re-opened to anglers.

My officials are continuing to work with colleagues in NIEA and Environmental Health to formalise protocols for this type of incident.

DCAL: Sports Policy

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her policy commitments to sports other than soccer, rugby and gaelic football.

(AQO 2323/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My policy commitments to all sports are set out in my Department's 10-year strategy for sport and physical recreation, Sport Matters. Through Sport Matters, DCAL is seeking to improve participation, performance and places for sport as a whole in the north of Ireland in order to realise the strategy's 10 year vision of '...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport...'. Under Sport Matters, Government is committed to promote sport in general, not just soccer, rugby and Gaelic football, and to support the governing bodies of all recognised sports. This is what I am seeking to do as part of the implementation of Sport Matters.

Ministerial Appointments

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to ministerial appointments, what the respective success rates have been for Protestant and Catholic applicants since May 2011.

(AQO 2324/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The table below sets out information on the appointments, including reappointments for a second term, I have made since May 2011.

	Community Background Catholic	Community Background Protestant	Community Background Neither/Not Known
Applicants	71	70	18
1st Appointment	14	6	8
Reappointment	9	12	2

Sport NI: Review

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the findings of stage one of her Department's review of Sport NI.

(AQO 2325/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The review of Sport NI has identified opportunities for further improvement to the governance and accountability arrangements.

I welcome the commitment by Sport NI and my Department to continuous improvement of our processes and work in on-going between DCAL & Sport NI.

Sport: Upper Bann

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what was the total spend from her Department and its arms-length bodies in the last financial year on soccer, rugby, cricket and gaelic sports within the Upper Bann constituency.

(AQO 2326/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport in the north. In 2011/12, Sport NI provided a total of £6,982 exchequer funding through its Awards for Sport Programme to Annagh United FC. This was the only award to soccer, rugby, cricket and Gaelic sports clubs within the Upper Bann constituency in the last financial year.

Sport NI is however currently considering 11 applications from clubs in the Upper Bann constituency to its Community Capital Programme which will be considered as and when funding becomes available.

Furthermore, Sport NI awarded Craigavon Borough Council £1,308,182 of Lottery funding through the Active Communities Programme over the period 2009 – 2014 to encourage greater participation in sport in the Upper Bann area including soccer, rugby, cricket and gaelic sports.

Department of Education

Residents of the Republic of Ireland Availing of Education Facilities

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education how his statement during Question Time on 11 June 2012 that all costs are covered in respect of cross-border provision of education can be reconciled with his response to AQW 11281/11-15, which states that, no funding is provided or sought from the respective Education Departments.

(AQW 12847/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): There is an understanding with the Department in the South where we meet the costs of educating children from the South attending schools in the North, and they meet the costs of educating children from the North attending schools in the South.

Redburn Primary School, Holywood

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans his Department has for the site of Redburn Primary School, Holywood.

(AQW 12926/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At the time that the original multi-schools project for Holywood was announced in 2006 it was envisaged that Priory Integrated College would relocate to a new build on the Redburn site. However, the enrolment figure for Priory College is currently below the sustainable schools thresholds both in terms of 11-16 and post 16. Given the need to consider the size of the school within the wider area context this project cannot proceed at this time.

In the interim, the South Eastern Education and Library Board has applied to the Department for additional funding for the demolition of Redburn School.

Land for the New Build for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, North Belfast

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education what progress has been made in acquiring land for the new build for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, North Belfast.

(AQW 12928/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In May 2011 a Development Proposal for the establishment of a 26 place statutory nursery unit for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, opening in September 2012, was approved. As a result, the Department has been working with the school and the Belfast City Council on securing and developing a site at the former Cliftonville Cricket Grounds, which is owned by the Belfast City Council. As part of this work, land alongside the nursery unit has been identified for a future new build for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

In my statement to the Assembly on 25 June which outlined my plans for capital investment in the schools' estate I was pleased to announce that the process for building a new school Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin will be advanced. Funding of £2.5m is available to this project.

Area-Based Planning Process

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 12546/11-15, when the Education and Library Boards will commence and complete the work.

(AQW 12964/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Boards Area Plans went out to public consultation on 5 July 2012. I would encourage local communities to respond to that consultation. Where respondents feel that Boards either have or have not proposed cross border solutions then respondents should set that out in their response.

At the end of the public consultation process I will have to ratify the final plans from the Boards. At that stage I will determine compliance with the Terms of Reference.

Area-Based Planning Process

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 12546/11-15, whether the Education and Library Boards have worked within the terms of reference; and what steps he intends to take to ensure that they comply fully with them.

(AQW 12965/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Boards Area Plans went out to public consultation on 5 July 2012. I would encourage local communities to respond to that consultation. Where respondents feel that Boards either have or have not proposed cross border solutions then respondents should set that out in their response.

At the end of the public consultation process I will have to ratify the final plans from the Boards. At that stage I will determine compliance with the Terms of Reference.

Investment Delivery Plan

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 12032/11-15, why Devenish College, Enniskillen, was not mentioned in his response.

(AQW 12992/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Devenish College was not mentioned in my previous response because the school was not assessed as fully compliant in the Review of Major Capital Projects completed in June 2010.

The scheme for Devenish College is now subsumed within the Western Education and Library Board's area planning proposals for the reorganisation of post-primary provision in Fermanagh and no longer a stand alone project.

Area-Based Planning

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education what discussions he has had with staff at primary and post-primary schools in Banbridge in relation to area-based planning.

(AQW 13036/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: To date I have not officially met any staff or representatives from primary or post-primary schools in Banbridge to discuss area-based planning.

The Southern Education and Library Board, in conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, has responsibility for developing the area plan for the Banbridge District Council area.

It is anticipated that area plans will be published for public consultation in early July 2012. This will afford all schools and the general public the opportunity to see the plans and provide their views on them to the relevant Education and Library Board.

Teachers: Suspended or Dismissed

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education how many teachers were (i) suspended; and (ii) dismissed in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13120/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The table below shows the number of teachers suspended in each of the last 5 years. Unfortunately information regarding the number of teachers dismissed cannot be provided as the small number involved could risk possible identification.

Financial Year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Number of Teachers suspended	17	29	42	47	38

Ministerial Appointments

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education to detail the number and percentage of people (i) considered for inclusion; and (ii) successful, in all ministerial appointments since 2007, broken down by perceived community background.

(AQW 13175/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Since May 2007, excluding Board of Governor appointments, 149 people have been considered for ministerial appointments and 109 appointments have been made.

The number and percentage of applications considered is detailed in the following table:

Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Not Known
75	69	2	3
50.3%	46.3%	1.3%	2%

(figures do not total to 100 due to rounding)

The number and percentage of applicants successful is detailed in the following table:

Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Not Known
53	53	2	1
48.6%	48.6%	1.8%	1%

These figures do not include the 135 Board of Governor appointments which included 65 successful Protestant applicants and 53 successful Catholic applicants. There were 8 successful applicants where the community background was 'other community background' and 9 were the community background was 'not known'.

The Department does not hold community background of new applicants for Board of Governor posts. This information is requested on behalf of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, for monitoring purposes, only after the successful applicants have been selected.

Consultation on the Area-Based Plans for Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how the process of consultation on the area-based plans for primary and post-primary schools will be conducted; and how the process will abide by good practice guidelines on consultation, in particular in relation to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

(AQW 13178/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The public consultation on the area based plans will be taken forward by the five Education and Library Boards. Area plans for the post-primary sector will be published by each Board on 5 July 2012 with the consultation period lasting until 26 October 2012— a period of 16 weeks.

This consultation will be taken forward in two phases. Phase one will allow interested parties the opportunity to read and reflect on the proposals. Phase two will be the availability of an online response facility which will run from the end of August 2012 until the closing date on 26 October 2012.

This proposed consultation process will comply with the Equality Commission good practice guidelines for public authorities in that the Boards will be consulting with those directly affected. The consultation process will also exceed the recommended minimum consultation period of 12 weeks.

The Area Planning process does not require a separate Section 75 screening as it is the delivery of Departmental policies that have already been subject to separate individual screening exercises.

The Area Planning Co-Ordination Group met on 8 June and again on 25 June 2012 and discussed the consultation process in the course of these meetings. This group is chaired by a senior Departmental official and includes the Chief Executives of each of the Boards and CCMS together with senior officers responsible for planning.

In addition, the Area Planning Working Group (a sub-group of the Area Planning Co-ordination Group), which is made up of officials from the Department, each of Education and Library Boards and CCMS, who are directly involved in the area planning process, met on 13 June 2012 to discuss the issue of the proposed public consultation. A member from the Boards' Communications Team and the DE Communications Team were also in attendance at this meeting.

Area Plans for the primary sector have only recently been submitted to my Department for initial consideration. Consequently, the process and the timeframe for the public consultation of the primary area plans have not yet been agreed. It is anticipated, however, that the process will be similar to that outlined for the post primary sector.

Public Consultations on the Area-Based Plans

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) who will be responsible for conducting the public consultations on the area-based plans; and (ii) when the consultations will commence and be completed.

(AQW 13179/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The public consultation on the area based plans will be taken forward by the five Education and Library Boards. Area plans for the post-primary sector will be published by each Board on 5 July 2012 with the consultation period lasting until 26 October 2012– a period of 16 weeks.

This consultation will be taken forward in two phases. Phase one will allow interested parties the opportunity to read and reflect on the proposals. Phase two will be the availability of an online response facility which will run from the end of August 2012 until the closing date on 26 October 2012.

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In addition, the Area Planning Working Group (a sub-group of the Area Planning Co-ordination Group), which is made up of officials from the Department, each of Education and Library Boards and CCMS, who are directly involved in the area planning process, met on 13 June 2012 to discuss the issue of the proposed public consultation. A member from the Boards' Communications Team and the DE Communications Team were also in attendance at this meeting.

Area Plans for the primary sector have only recently been submitted to my Department for initial consideration. Consequently, the process and the timeframe for the public consultation of the primary area plans have not yet been agreed. It is anticipated, however, that the process will be similar to that outlined for the post primary sector.

Public Consultations on the Area-Based Plans

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of meetings held by his Department with the Education and Library Boards, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, and other relevant stakeholders in relation to the forthcoming public consultation on the area-based plans; (ii) when the meetings were held; and (iii) who attended the meetings.

(AQW 13180/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The public consultation on the area based plans will be taken forward by the five Education and Library Boards. Area plans for the post-primary sector will be published by each Board on 5 July 2012 with the consultation period lasting until 26 October 2012– a period of 16 weeks.

This consultation will be taken forward in two phases. Phase one will allow interested parties the opportunity to read and reflect on the proposals. Phase two will be the availability of an online response facility which will run from the end of August 2012 until the closing date on 26 October 2012.

This proposed consultation process will comply with the Equality Commission good practice guidelines for public authorities in that the Boards will be consulting with those directly affected. The consultation process will also exceed the recommended minimum consultation period of 12 weeks.

The Area Planning process does not require a separate Section 75 screening as it is the delivery of Departmental policies that have already been subject to separate individual screening exercises.

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Area Plans for the primary sector have only recently been submitted to my Department for initial consideration. Consequently, the process and the timeframe for the public consultation of the primary area plans have not yet been agreed. It is anticipated, however, that the process will be similar to that outlined for the post primary sector.

Scottish Government's Website

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the Scottish Government's (i) Career Management Skills Framework; and (ii) My World of Work website.

(AQW 13191/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am pleased to note the clear correlation between the Scottish Government's Careers strategy and the joint DE DEL "Preparing for Success" careers strategy. I also note the broad consensus between the Scottish Government's Career Management Skills Framework and my Department's "Guide to Developing Effective Career Decision Makers" which is aimed at improving the quality of career learning opportunities in order to better prepare learners for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult and working life.

Both approaches recognise the importance of developing effective career decision makers leading to increased and appropriate participation in education, training and employment.

I understand the Scottish Government has identified the need for a wider blend of services offered including on-line telephone, face to face and partnership working and this has resulted in interactive web based services such as "My World of Work" which is designed to exploit the use of new technologies.

Unfilled Nursery Places 2012/13

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of unfilled nursery places for the 2012/13 academic year, following the initial allocation of nursery placements, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 13195/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is contained in the table below. It provides the number of unfilled places across all pre-school sectors as at the close of the formal pre-school admissions process on 1 June 2012. Please note that these figures are not final and may be subject to change.

Constituency	Number of unfilled pre-school places at 1 June 2012
Belfast East	9
Belfast North	33
Belfast South	48
Belfast West	20
East Antrim	52
East Derry	44
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	29
Foyle	4
Lagan Valley	43
Mid Ulster	31
Newry and Armagh	58
North Antrim	58
North Down	8
South Antrim	17
South Down	43
Strangford	24
Upper Bann	20
West Tyrone	23
Total	564

Refused Requests for Land for Capital Projects from Education and Library Boards

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the requests made by Education and Library Boards to procure land for capital builds which were refused in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13222/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been advised by the Belfast, Western, Southern and South Eastern Education and Library Boards that each of them has not had any purchase of sites for capital builds refused in the last three years.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board had one request to purchase additional land at Camphill Primary School turned down by my Department as the existing site was already above the recommended area.

Potential for Cross-Border Models of Education

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education, excluding the survey which is being undertaken by both Education Departments on the island of Ireland, what work the Western Education and Library Board and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have carried out to explore the potential for cross-

border models of education when considering the future of St Mary's High School, Brollagh, as part of the area planning process.

(AQW 13237/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The WELB and CCMS have advised that they are considering all models of provision within the WELB Strategic Area Plan. The WELB Working Group is currently discussing border provision but has yet to investigate the advantages and desire for such a model.

CCMS have advised that in respect of the future provision in St Mary's Brollagh, CCMS is proposing to consider the potential of a cross-border solution to meet the needs of the pupils residing in the area of the school

Employment Rights of Staff when Schools Merge

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that when two schools merge the employment rights of the staff in the smaller school are protected and that they are treated fairly.

(AQW 13240/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: A proposal to amalgamate two or more schools originates with the relevant managing authorities and requires the publication of a supporting Development Proposal. This is a statutory process which facilitates extensive consultation both with those directly affected by the proposal and with the wider community.

The Collective Agreement was agreed by both the teacher unions and employers at the Teacher Negotiating Committee. A Collective Agreement is drawn up by the Boards of Governors of the schools to be amalgamated. The Collective Agreement seeks to ensure fair and equal treatment of all teachers transferring in the event of an amalgamation. It provides for all permanent teachers in the merging schools to be offered employment in the new school, provided they sign a declaration accepting the conditions of the Agreement.

A teacher may either accept the terms of the Agreement and take up a post at the new school or opt for voluntary redundancy, with compensation terms at the discretion of the employing authority (up to 90 weeks' salary for redundancies at 31 August 2012). There is no compulsory redundancy for those permanent teachers who transfer to the new school in the two years immediately following the date of the amalgamation.

Teachers who held posts of responsibility in the merging schools must apply for posts of responsibility in the new school which are at least equivalent to the level of the responsibility they held. If they suffer a reduction in salary as a result of the amalgamation, they are eligible to apply to the Department for a re-organisation allowance.

St Aidan's High School, Derrylin

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education, excluding the survey which is being undertaken by both Education Departments on the island of Ireland, what work the Western Education and Library Board and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have carried out to explore the potential for cross-border models of education when considering the future of St Aidan's High School, Derrylin, as part of the area planning process.

(AQW 13243/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The WELB and CCMS have advised that they are considering all models of provision within the WELB Strategic Area Plan. The WELB Working Group is currently discussing border provision but has yet to investigate the advantages and desire for such a model.

Statement of Special Educational Needs

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education how many Boards of Governors have refused a child's admission after the school has been named on the child's Statement of Special Educational Needs in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13244/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards have advised that no pupil has failed to gain admission to a school after that school has been named in the child's statement of special educational needs in the academic years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Delay in Placing Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education what action his Department can take to compel a school, which may be perceived as causing an undue delay in placing children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, to proceed with the placement process.

(AQW 13245/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education (DE) can inform the school in question that, under Article 16 (5) (b) of the Education (NI) Order 1996, where a school is named in a statement of special educational needs for a child or young person then the Board of Governors of the school must admit that child or young person.

Should the Board of Governors continue to refuse to admit the child or young person then DE can consider issuing a direction under Article 101(4) of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986.

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education what measures his Department has in place to ensure that schools and Boards of Governors are aware of their statutory duties in relation to children with Statements of Special Educational Needs.

(AQW 13246/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department has an online Board of Governor guide outlining their role and responsibilities in relation to pupils with special educational needs (SEN).

Education & Library Boards also offer training on an annual basis for principals and school governors regarding their statutory duties in relation to children with SEN including those with a statement of SEN.

The quality of the provision for pupils with SEN is evaluated and reported on by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) on all school inspections, informed by the observation of the out-working of the requirements of statements in lessons.

ETI has produced the Together Towards Improvement (SEN) document which supports schools in the process of self evaluation.

Distance from the School as a Criterion for Selection

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of schools which, when using the distance from the school as a criterion for selection when the school is oversubscribed, use (i) distance door to door; (ii) distance from gate to gate; (iii) straight line distance; (iv) google maps; (v) GPS; or (vi) other measurements.

(AQW 13247/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold this information as the drawing up and operation of a school's admissions criteria are entirely the responsibility of individual schools and their Boards of Governors.

System for Comparing a Pupil's Relative Distance from a School

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education which system for comparing a pupil's relative distance from a school his Department considers (i) the most accurate; and (ii) the most appropriate.

(AQW 13248/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The drawing up and operation of a school's admissions criteria are entirely the responsibility of individual schools and their Boards of Governors. Accordingly, the Department does not provide advice to schools in relation to how distance should be measured when used as an admission criterion.

Cost Effective Employment Scheme for Newly Qualified Teachers

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to outline the timescale for the introduction of a cost effective employment scheme for newly qualified teachers.

(AQW 13295/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department is finalising a draft strategy for Teacher Education which will include a proposal for the development of a cost effective employment scheme for newly qualified teachers (NQTs).

The draft strategy will also include an Implementation Plan/Timeframe for the various actions within the strategy. When the draft is finalised, the Minister for Employment and Learning and I will consider its content prior to submitting it to the Education and the Employment and Learning Committees for comment.

Whilst it is not yet possible to provide you with a timescale for the introduction of a cost effective employment scheme for NQTs, I can assure you that once the strategy is published, my Department will commence work on the key priorities within it in accordance with the agreed Implementation Plan.

I am of course mindful of the plight of NQTs in terms of employment opportunities, and I would therefore envisage that the development of such a scheme would be given a high priority in terms of the timescale for its development and implementation.

Funding for the Maintenance of School Buildings

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the criteria used to allocate the recently announced £27 million funding for the maintenance of school buildings.

(AQW 13297/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The methodology used to apportion the £27million funding for the maintenance of school buildings was based on a weighted combination of the most recent data available for the following criteria:

- Floor areas (m²) for each Education and Library Board at December 2011.
- Maintenance backlog for each Education and Library Board at April 2012.

The weighting applied to each criterion was 50%.

Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) what advice he has received from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People in relation to the Review of Special Educational Needs and Inclusion; and (ii) what account he has taken of the advice in the drafting of any policy memorandum.

(AQW 13299/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have received valuable advice and comment from the Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) in relation to the Review. NICCY responded to the original consultation and have written to me about the policy proposals on two occasions since the publication of the Summary report in January 2012. The content of the advice can be accessed on their website.

I and my officials have met with the Commissioner and her representatives during the development of the special educational needs & inclusion policy proposals. I have given careful consideration to the advice received from NICCY and from other statutory and non statutory stakeholders and have made revisions to the policy proposals taking this advice into account. These changes will be reflected in the policy memorandum.

Teachers: Redundancy Packages

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail his Department's policy on offering redundancy packages to teachers who (i) have 40 years' service; or (ii) are over 60 years of age.

(AQW 13300/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors, as the employer, to determine which teaching posts to declare redundant, following the application of open and transparent redundancy criteria, based on the particular needs of the school concerned.

Regarding the compensation to be paid, it is the Employing Authorities' current policy to apply a multiplier of 3 to the statutory redundancy payment, which falls under the exception for provision of enhanced redundancy payments to employees provided by the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006. This Policy is applied to all teachers irrespective of whether or not they (i) have 40 years' service; or (ii) are over 60 years of age.

Early Years (0-6) Strategy

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to outline the timescale for the publication of an Early Years (0-6) Strategy.

(AQW 13316/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have asked officials to engage with a range of key stakeholders including the Early Years Stakeholder Advisory Group and relevant departments over the coming months, after which I will aim to finalise my proposals by November 2012.

Review of the Common Funding Scheme

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 12791/11-15, when commissioning the independent review of the Common Funding Scheme, whether he abandoned the project management methodologies outlined in his letter to the Committee for Education of 22 December 2011.

(AQW 13317/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Review is being carried out by the independent panel. The panel will determine the most appropriate project management methodology to take forward the Review, in line with the Terms of Reference.

New Build for Castle Tower School, Ballymena

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, in light of his statement to the Assembly on 25 June 2012 in relation to capital spend, how the allocation of £21.8 million for a new build for Castle Tower School, Ballymena, will be of benefit to Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School, Ballymena.

(AQW 13318/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My statement to the Assembly on capital investment on 25 June made it clear that the proposals announced in no way imply that other school projects will not be considered at a later stage. However I need assurance that that any project approved for capital investment, including Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School, is consistent with the overall provision in an area.

The department's strategy for capital investment remains area planning. Initial area plans for the primary sector were due with the Department at the end of June, and following scrutiny these will be

subject to public consultation. I recognise that this will take time and investment in the school estate needs to be maintained.

My announcement on 25 June indicated that a process has been established to identify a number of projects for which funding would be provided to planning, and it is my intention to make a further announcement around these in the Autumn. Braidside will be included in the examination of potential projects to be brought forward. New options for the school build, including opportunities arising from the development of a new school for Castle Tower Special School, will be a matter for the economic appraisal.

Applicants for Pre-School Places

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Education to detail, by the council area in which they live (i) the number of applicants for pre-school places in the 2012/13 academic year who were (a) successful; and (b) unsuccessful in obtaining their first choice location; and (ii) of those who were unsuccessful, how many accepted an alternative pre-school place.

(AQW 13332/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Education and Library Boards do not capture applications to pre-school settings broken down into council areas and this information could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Overall, 22,799 applications for places for children in their final pre-school year were received by the closing date and considered during stage 1 of the 2012/13 admissions process. Of these, 84.4% were placed in their first preference setting and 93.65% were offered a place by a setting listed as a preference.

Of the 1,429 unplaced applicants at the end of the first stage of the admissions process, 689 stated further pre-school preferences at stage 2. Of these, all but 24 had received a place when the formal process concluded on 1 June. Fewer than 20 of these children are yet to secure a place.

At stage 2 of the admissions process a further 335 late applications were considered. Of these, 304 had obtained a place by the end of the formal process.

I expect more children to obtain a suitable pre-school place over the coming weeks.

Enrolment Figures

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Education to detail the enrolment figures for each primary school in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13337/11-15)

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

PUPILS AT PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AREA 2007/08 - 2011/12

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Abbots Cross Primary School	287	291	292	292	283
Acorn Integrated Primary School	229	229	230	228	227
Altayeskey Primary School	33	33	35	34	33
Ampertaine Primary School	86	89	100	107	119
Anahorish Primary School	191	177	178	171	168
Antrim Primary School	598	600	595	589	596
Armoy Primary School	50	53	51	47	55

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Ashgrove Primary School	361	348	352	355	353
Ballee Primary school	73	61	40	n.a.	n.a.
Ballycarry Primary School	107	102	92	84	82
Ballycastle Integrated Primary School	125	129	138	154	160
Ballyclare Primary School	484	481	459	442	446
Ballycraigy Primary School	98	97	102	118	119
Ballyhackett Primary School	51	55	51	46	47
Ballyhenry Primary School	186	181	165	151	141
Ballykeel Primary School	319	320	344	350	373
Ballymena Primary School	360	336	330	316	301
Ballymoney Controlled Integrated Primary School	n.a.	n.a.	283	267	284
Ballymoney Primary School	296	253	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ballynure Primary School	124	115	100	106	114
Ballysally Primary School	205	193	198	192	190
Ballytober Primary School	77	73	76	66	71
Balnamore Primary School	89	93	87	104	104
Barnish Primary School	91	85	80	76	70
Bellaghy Primary School	32	36	37	34	43
Braidside Integrated Primary School	357	371	361	358	366
Briad Primary School	23	18	20	16	n.a.
Broughshane Primary School	315	313	326	319	333
Buick Memorial Primary School	375	359	354	356	350
Bushmills Primary School	107	106	112	117	111
Bushvalley Primary School	156	154	152	149	143
Cairncastle Primary School	116	109	116	123	132
Camphill Primary School	352	357	360	375	378
Carhill Integrated Primary School	52	40	32	26	32
Carlane Primary School	31	34	28	28	32
Carnaghts Primary School	106	92	97	102	102
Carnalbanagh Primary School	52	46	52	48	43
Carnalridge Primary School	205	192	187	170	184
Carniny Primary School	245	257	260	269	274

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School	47	45	44	47	40
Carnmoney Primary School	343	333	342	345	360
Carrickfergus Central Primary School	160	150	138	121	108
Carrickfergus Model Primary School	414	410	406	402	404
Carrowreagh Primary School	77	81	75	71	76
Castledawson Primary School	101	100	103	99	106
Castleroe Primary School	69	63	67	74	71
Clough Primary School	152	155	161	168	191
Cloughmills Primary School	44	40	42	33	39
Corran Integrated Primary School	213	208	205	209	212
Creavery Primary School	56	55	62	66	63
Creggan Primary School	103	113	117	119	118
Crossroads Primary School	128	134	134	123	115
Crumlin Controlled Intergrated Primary School	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	171	163
Crumlin Primary School	202	208	194	n.a.	n.a.
Culcrow Primary School	48	54	57	60	66
Cullycapple Primary School	39	34	31	30	25
Culnady Primary School	46	41	36	40	37
D H Christie Memorial Primary School	413	403	394	403	391
Dalriada School Preparatory Department	146	144	125	79	67
Damhead Primary School	162	169	182	180	177
Desertmartin Primary School	36	32	33	31	28
Doagh Primary School	84	77	73	66	66
Drumard Primary School	57	48	40	31	26
Dunclug Primary School	120	108	90	86	89
Duneane Primary School	36	34	42	39	43
Dunseverick Primary School	140	141	137	131	123
Earlview Primary School	141	140	140	146	151
Eden Primary School, Ballymoney	93	83	84	89	85
Eden Primary School, Carrickfergus	200	205	209	210	211

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Fairview Primary School	522	513	511	505	512
Fourtowns Primary School	227	219	218	219	231
Gaelscoil an Chaistil	75	77	82	80	80
Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20	29
Gaelscoil Eanna	12	26	34	50	70
Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach	19	30	54	64	66
Gaelscoil na Spéiríní	23	24	24	26	27
Garryduff Primary School	64	59	66	64	69
Garvagh Primary School	140	128	122	124	122
Glenann Primary School	52	45	44	45	44
Glengormley Integrated Primary School	129	142	179	202	217
Glenravel Primary School	143	143	149	155	163
Glynn Primary School	56	60	73	71	80
Gorran Primary School	108	101	100	90	104
Gracehill Primary School	439	434	431	436	427
Greenisland Primary School	381	379	383	392	391
Greenlough Primary School (St Mary's)	142	149	132	144	156
Greystone Primary School	212	209	203	173	178
Groggan Primary School	95	92	87	87	87
Harpurs Hill Primary School	189	186	197	203	219
Harryville Primary School	129	113	101	122	116
Hazelbank Primary School	100	96	95	96	113
Hezlett Primary School	250	247	249	240	223
Hollybank Primary School	174	181	166	160	157
Holy Family Primary School	549	566	562	561	561
Irish Society's Primary School	400	398	388	382	366
Kells & Connor Primary School	186	177	181	177	176
Kilbride Primary School	121	120	122	121	126
Kilcoan Primary School	66	63	53	43	39
Killowen Primary School	181	170	168	168	182
Kilmoyle Primary School	132	126	118	121	125
Kilrea Primary School	89	82	80	75	73
Kilross Primary School	67	57	56	54	48

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
King's Park Primary School	356	327	326	349	336
Kirkinriola Primary School	89	99	105	93	56
Knockahollet Primary School	81	84	85	98	98
Knockloughrim Primary School	63	67	71	76	90
Knocknagin Primary School	36	29	26	30	30
Landhead Primary School	48	46	51	59	53
Larne and Inver Primary School	200	183	181	184	166
Leaney Primary School	321	318	314	292	303
Linn Primary School	426	401	390	393	403
Lislagan Primary School	94	99	103	102	99
Loanends Primary School	187	186	187	184	196
Longstone Primary School	57	58	49	42	46
Lourdes Primary School	42	45	33	20	n.a.
Macosquin Primary School	168	185	196	195	193
Maghera Primary School	90	80	88	95	93
Magherafelt Controlled Primary School	325	301	283	271	252
Maine Integrated Primary School	88	100	108	109	109
Mallusk Primary School	86	85	80	76	69
Millburn Primary School	416	417	422	413	393
Millquarter Primary School	115	124	139	143	138
Millstrand Integrated Primary School	193	189	190	193	189
Moneynick Primary School	55	53	54	58	54
Moorfields Primary School	216	218	214	204	205
Mossgrove Primary School	259	232	235	237	235
Mossley Primary School	609	613	612	607	606
Mount St Michael's Primary School	409	422	420	414	446
Moyle Primary School	308	310	322	327	345
Mullaghdubh Primary School	45	44	45	58	64
New Row Primary School	165	164	169	170	177
Oakfield Primary School	357	359	369	364	368
Olderfleet Primary School	174	176	185	185	171
Parkgate Primary School	70	71	71	67	77

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Parkhall Primary School	253	254	257	240	208
Portglenone Primary School	151	144	125	119	101
Portrush Primary School	233	225	223	199	191
Portstewart Primary School	279	262	243	254	245
Randalstown Central Primary School	212	196	192	203	203
Rasharkin Primary School	62	63	65	66	64
Rathcoole Primary School	183	167	167	162	150
Rathenraw Integrated Primary School	85	77	82	66	69
Round Tower Integrated Primary School	195	221	242	268	272
Seaview Primary School	80	68	63	57	51
Silverstream Primary School	128	117	119	124	124
Spires Integrated Primary School	201	202	207	201	197
St Anne's Primary School, Ballymena	75	70	75	69	71
St Anthony's Primary School, Larne	105	93	94	90	82
St Bernard's Primary School, Newtownabbey	522	525	513	497	512
St Brigid's Primary School Tirkane	133	145	155	145	161
St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena	308	311	321	326	331
St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymoney	194	188	186	194	193
St Brigid's Primary School, Cloughmills	88	74	73	79	73
St Brigid's Primary School, Knockloughrim	187	188	187	195	211
St Ciaran's Primary School, Cushendun	66	65	60	57	60
St Colmcille's Primary School, Ballymena	327	321	313	316	300
St Columba's Primary School, Draperstown	128	129	127	136	140
St Columba's Primary School, Garvagh	99	104	98	100	94

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
St Columba's Primary School, Kilrea	204	198	191	186	184
St Columb's Primary School (Cullion)	84	94	88	84	93
St Colum's Primary School, Portstewart	186	182	186	192	189
St Comgall's Primary School, antrim	360	366	386	404	447
St Eoghan's Primary School, Draperstown	76	86	96	102	109
St James' Primary School, Newtownabbey	277	278	291	294	305
St John Bosco Primary School Ballynease	90	96	99	105	103
St John's Primary School, Carnlough	186	186	176	174	178
St John's Primary School, Coleraine	184	178	172	159	166
St John's Primary School, Swatragh	171	177	181	180	182
St Joseph's Primary School, Ahoghill	18	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
St Joseph's Primary School, Antrim	217	212	204	207	192
St Joseph's Primary School, Crumlin	833	826	801	787	774
St Joseph's Primary School, Dunloy	305	308	315	323	320
St Macnisius' Primary School, Tannaghmore	73	58	47	37	36
St Macnissi's Primary School, Larne	215	211	213	211	214
St Macnissi's Primary School, Newtownabbey	158	159	172	171	177
St Malachy's Primary School, Coleraine	260	264	242	236	224
St Mary's Primary School	206	201	201	204	204
St Mary's Primary School (Glenview)	304	293	269	251	231
St Mary's Primary School Glenravel	78	75	74	72	66

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
St Mary's Primary School, Cushendall	200	187	179	189	192
St Mary's Primary School, Draperstown	218	207	196	199	206
St Mary's Primary School, Portglenone	217	211	208	208	214
St Mary's Primary School, Rathlin	4	4	6	7	7
St Mary's-on-the-Hill Primary School	286	295	294	328	323
St Nicholas' Primary school, Carrickfergus	107	111	126	134	143
St Olcan's Primary School, Armoy	53	49	50	53	53
St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School, Toomebridge	165	167	178	175	169
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School, Ballycastle	411	411	367	356	365
St Patrick's & St Joseph's Primary School, Garvagh	145	150	158	172	172
St Patrick's Primary School (Glen)	160	158	162	170	170
St Patrick's Primary School, Aughtercloney	5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
St Patrick's Primary School, Loughguile	194	195	195	191	186
St Patrick's Primary School, Portrush	94	95	92	85	90
St Patrick's Primary School, Rasharkin	228	212	207	204	205
St Patrick's Primary School, Waterfoot	120	122	109	106	108
St Paul's Primary School, Ahoghill	n.a.	27	30	32	27
St Trea's Primary School, Ballyronan	92	97	108	111	111
Straid Primary School	91	97	102	91	88
Straidbilly Primary School	87	86	93	97	94
Straidhavern Primary School	56	71	64	47	52
Sunnylands Primary School	152	141	125	115	116
Templepatrick Primary School	415	424	437	430	436

Name	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
The Diamond Primary School	116	119	130	130	133
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Primary School	73	72	73	68	73
Thompson Primary School	156	153	149	151	154
Tildarg Primary School	67	73	69	74	76
Tir-na-Nog Primary School	31	35	33	28	28
Tobermore Primary School	83	87	89	89	84
Toreagh Primary School	82	79	82	93	98
Upper Ballyboley Primary School	54	46	42	40	41
Victoria Primary School	549	512	519	493	498
Whiteabbey Primary School	412	409	414	419	417
Whitehead Primary School	395	400	414	436	430
Whitehouse Primary School	375	384	391	410	413
Woodburn Primary School	194	194	191	193	193
Woodlawn Primary School	281	281	269	275	257

Source: NI school census.

Note:

1 Figures include children in nursery, reception and Year 1 – 7 classes.

'n.a.' means the school was not open in that year.

Administration of Medication in School

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what legal protections are in place for teachers who administer medication in schools.

(AQW 13338/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The legal protections are outlined in paragraph 1.2.3 of the joint Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety/Department of Education policy document "Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs" which states:-

If a member of staff administers medication to a pupil, or undertakes a medical procedure to support a pupil and, as a result, expenses, liability, loss,

claim or proceedings arise, the employer will indemnify the member of staff

provided all of the following conditions apply:

- a) The member of staff is a direct employee;
- b) The medication/procedure is administered by the member of staff in the course of, or ancillary to, their employment;
- c) The member of staff follows:
 - the procedures set out in this guidance;
 - the school's policy;
 - the procedures outlined in the individual pupil's Medication Plan, or written permission from parents and directions received through training in the appropriate procedures.

d) Except as set out in the Note below, the expenses, liability, loss,

claim or proceedings are not directly or indirectly caused by and do not arise from fraud, dishonesty or a criminal offence committed by the member of staff.

Note: Condition d. does not apply in the case of a criminal offence under Health and Safety legislation.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Assembly Library or can be downloaded from my department's website.

Administration of Medication in School

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of a statutory duty on schools to administer essential medication to pupils.

(AQW 13339/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The joint Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety/Department of Education policy document "Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs" provides a robust framework for enabling all children with medication needs to access the necessary support. This policy is based around the voluntary principle that does not compel teachers to undertake a medical procedure and encourages schools and education and library boards to work closely with both health professionals and parents in a flexible way to support pupils with medication needs. I have, therefore, no current plans to introduce a statutory duty in this area.

A copy of the policy document has been placed in the Assembly Library or can be downloaded from my department's website.

Administration of Medication in School

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Education what provision is in place for administering essential medication to children in full-time primary and secondary education.

(AQW 13340/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department's policy on the administration of medication in schools is contained within the document "Supporting pupils with medication needs". A copy has been placed in the Assembly Library or can be downloaded from my department's website.

New Builds for Schools

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new builds for (i) Holy Trinity College, Cookstown; (ii) Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt; and (iii) Edendork Primary School, Dungannon.

(AQW 13347/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Planning on new builds for Holy Trinity College, Cookstown and Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt has not yet commenced. The project for Edendork Primary School is currently at RIBA Stage C (outline sketch plans).

In my statement to the Assembly on 25 June I announced a number of new build school projects which have been approved for investment. While Trinity College, Cookstown, Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt and Edendork Primary School, Dungannon were not included in my announcement and will be disappointed, this in no way implies that they will not be considered for funding at a later stage within the area planning context.

Land Acquisition for the New Build for Edendork Primary School, Dungannon

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education what steps have been taken in relation to the land acquisition for the new build for Edendork Primary School, Dungannon.

(AQW 13348/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The proposed new build school for Edendork Primary School involves the purchase of five plots of land currently in the ownership of three different landowners. The Economic Appraisal for this project which dates back to 2005 will have to be updated to confirm that the five plots of land are still required for the new school building. Progression on site purchase will be subject to the approval of an updated Economic Appraisal.

In my announcement to the Assembly on 25 June regarding my capital investment strategy I stated that it is my intention to announce in the Autumn a number of projects to be advanced through the planning and approval processes. I can confirm that a process has been established to identify a number of projects for which funding will be provided for planning.

While Edendork Primary School was not part of my announcement to the Assembly on the 25 June it in no way implies that it will not be considered for funding at a later date.

Land for the Purposes of Capital Builds

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 12034/11-15, to detail the costs associated with each procurement.

(AQW 13351/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The costs associated with each approval to the procurement of lands for capital projects are detailed in the table below.

Financial Year	School Name	Cost
2009-10	Carrick Primary School, Warrenpoint	£96,000
	Foyle College Ebrington Primary School/, Derry	£14,500,000
	Magherafelt Primary School	£905,000
2010-11	Colaiste Feirste, Belfast	£2,300,000
	Bangor Grammar School	£5,500,000
	Strathearn Grammar School , Belfast	£350,000
	St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle	£16,000
2011-12	St Columba's Primary School, Straw	£424,000

Irish-Medium Schools

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of pupils currently attending each Irish-medium school; and (ii) the annual level of funding allocated to each school.

(AQW 13360/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Information on pupil enrolments and delegated budgets made available to Irish-medium schools under the Common Funding Formula arrangements in the current financial year, are shown on the table below.

PUPIL FTE NUMBERS & CFF DELEGATED FUNDING IN IRISH-MEDIUM SCHOOLS 2012/13

Irish-medium Primary Schools ⁽¹⁾		Pupil FTE	Total CFF Funding £
101-6647	Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	61	257,444
104-6501	Bunscoil Phobal Feirste	280	831,649
104-6571	Gaelscoil na Bhfal	183	598,562

Irish-medium Primary Schools ⁽¹⁾		Pupil FTE	Total CFF Funding £
104-6593	Bunscoil an Tsleibhe Dhuibh	176	571,385
104-6596	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain	114	405,038
104-6641	Scoil an Droichid	143	498,199
104-6671	Gaelscoil na Mona	83	318,502
104-6672	Gaelscoil an Lonnain	41	198,381
203-6574	Bunscoil Cholmcille Primary	126	441,305
204-6638	Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	152	508,893
204-6646	Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir	146	500,562
204-6669	Gaelscoil an Traonaigh	31	154,949
204-6677	Gaelscoil na gCrann	110	382,281
204-6687	Gaelscoil na Daróige	54	231,854
204-6689	Gaelscoil Léim an Mhadaidh	18	121,891
304-6653	Bunscoil an Chastil	80	294,372
304-6678	Gaelscoil na Speirini	27	141,515
304-6684	Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach	66	240,169
304-6685	Gaelscoil Éanna	70	266,310
304-6691	Gaelscoil an tSeanchai	29	146,900
404-6600	Scoil na Fuisioige	107	397,077
404-6648	Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	75	278,606
504-6597	Bunscoil an luir	92	323,822
504-6637	Gaelscoil Ui Neill	172	559,062
504-6695	Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	12	106,548
Total		2,448	8,775,277
Irish-medium Secondary Schools			
124-0291	Colaiste Feirste	550	2,307,569
Total Irish-medium Schools		2,998	11,082,846

Source: Common Funding Formula 2012-13

Note:

- 1 Figures for primary schools include children in nursery classes, reception and Year 1 – 7 classes.

Capital Funding for Belmont House Special School, Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education, in light of his statement to the Assembly on capital projects, whether the capital funding for Belmont House Special School, Derry, incorporates the Woodlands Language Unit.

(AQW 13374/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Western Education and Library Board (WELB) has advised me that the capital planning process for Belmont House Special School is based on the current enrolment figures for Belmont House Special School and does not include Woodlands Language Unit.

I am advised that the proposed relocation of the speech and language classes will be managed through a pre-consultation process that has already been commenced by the Western Education and Library Board with the relevant stakeholders.

Funding Allocated to Schools in the Foyle Constituency

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education, in light of his statement to the Assembly on capital projects, to detail the funding allocated to schools in the Foyle constituency, including all aspects of proposed spending.

(AQW 13375/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In my capital announcement to the Assembly on the 25 June I have approved funding for four schools in the Foyle Constituency. The schools involved are:

Foyle College	£19.6m
Ebrington Primary School	£4.5m
Eglinton Primary School	£2.5m
Belmont Special School	£7.4m

At this current stage of the planning process it is not possible to give definitive details on proposed spending.

Teachers from Northern Ireland Teaching in the Republic of Ireland

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Education whether the objective of facilitating the mobility of teachers from Northern Ireland to teach in the Republic of Ireland will be inhibited if teachers do not hold an Irish language qualification.

(AQW 13376/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The possession of the Irish language requirement (SCG - An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) or Adaptation Period (OCG – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) is advantageous to some teachers from the north of Ireland seeking to teach in the south of Ireland.

In order to teach in the south of Ireland, primary teachers who have completed a programme of teacher education here (with the exception of the Post Graduate Certificate in Education through the medium of Irish or the four year Bachelor of Education Irish academic course at St. Mary's University College Belfast), must complete an Aptitude Test (SCG) or Adaptation Period (OCG), which confirms that the applicant is competent to teach the Irish language and to teach the range of primary school curricular subjects through the medium of Irish.

Conditional Teaching Council registration is granted and a maximum period of three years from date of registration is set for the completion of the Aptitude Test or the Adaptation Period. On attainment of the SCG or OCG, such teachers are then recognised as fully qualified in the south.

In the case of post-primary schools, the Irish language requirement only applies to teachers employed in Gaeltacht schools, in Irish-medium schools, and to teachers who teach any subject through the medium of Irish.

The North South Ministerial Council Teachers' Qualifications Working Group has been working to ensure that barriers to teacher mobility are removed where possible. This includes the possibility of the Irish language qualification requirement An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (SCG) being delivered by one or more of the Higher Education Institutions in the north.

To this end, the University of Ulster (UU) has developed proposals to deliver the qualification within the framework of its Diploma in Irish Language, with assessments being administered by Marino College of Education in Dublin and the required Gaeltacht experience element being provided in the south. Discussions between the UU and Marino College of Education in Dublin, regarding the delivery of the Irish language requirement through the UU's Diploma in Irish, are at an advanced stage.

St Mary's University College (SMUC), Belfast has also expressed an interest in delivering the Irish Language requirement and my Department is currently liaising with St Mary's and Marino College to agree a mutually suitable date to explore the matter further.

Press Leaks

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the impact of information leaks to the press on the future of the schools involved, and the security of jobs for current and prospective teachers at the schools.

(AQW 13392/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As I have previously said, I do not think that the leaking of documents to the press is helpful to the area planning process.

However, the draft area plans prepared by the five Education and Library Boards have now been published for public consultation on the Boards' websites. I would encourage parents, school staff, representative bodies and the wider public to read them, consider them fully and make their views known to the Boards. The consultation period has been extended to take account of the summer holidays, and will run until 26 October 2012.

Promotion of STEM Subjects

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education how his Department intends to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects to ensure that (i) sufficient teaching staff and facilities are available to educate students; and (ii) that there is a steady flow of prospective graduates for the UK research industry.

(AQW 13393/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The promotion of STEM subjects is important to our future economic growth and as Education Minister I am committed to playing my part.

The revised curriculum, which is now in place across all year groups in all grant-aided schools, provides much greater freedom for teachers to explore STEM-related learning with pupils. The full implementation of the Entitlement Framework by September 2015 will guarantee all young people at Key Stage 4 and at Sixth Form regardless of the school which a young person attends or where he/she lives, equality of access to a broad, balanced and more economically relevant pupil-centric curriculum. This increased choice is being supported with improved careers education, information, advice and guidance, with a particular focus on STEM-related career opportunities.

Since the publication of the STEM strategy, my Department has been undertaking a wide range of interventions to encourage an increase in the uptake of STEM subjects. For example; a programme of professional development for teachers has been commissioned, as well as improving the range and quality of STEM resources that are available to teachers and pupils; we are supporting the Institute of Physics in Ireland's establishment of a physics-teacher network here; a web-based resource

'STEMWorks' has been developed to enhance classroom practice and encourage pupils to study STEM related subjects; extensive use is being made of the STEM truck, a state-of-the-art £1.2 million mobile teaching laboratory and workshop; we continue to fund a range of STEM related events to ensure that STEM subjects are seen as exciting, stimulating and fulfilling by our young people e.g. the BT Young Scientist Competition, the Stock Market Challenge, Maths Week and the Irish Science Olympiads.

My Department, when confirming approved annual intakes to initial teacher education (ITE) courses, also actively encourages the two Universities and the two University Colleges here to continue efforts to increase the number of student admissions to the STEM-related subject areas.

Through the delivery of the STEM Strategy my Department contributes to the steady flow of prospective graduates in order to strengthen the economy, including the UK research industry, and will continue to seek and deliver interventions, within available resources, with the aim of increasing uptake in STEM subjects.

Teaching Vacancies in Post-Primary Schools

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of teaching vacancies in post-primary schools in each of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects, broken down by (i) school; and (ii) Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 13395/11-15)

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

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH TEACHER VACANCIES IN THE 2011/12 ACADEMIC YEAR BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD ^{1,2,3}

BELFAST EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

	Mathe- matics ⁴	Information and Technology	Science ⁵	Design and Technology ⁶ (including Engineering)	Total Vacancies
Ashfield Boys' High School	0	0	0	1	1
Malone Integrated College	0	0	1	0	1
Grosvenor Grammar School	1	0	2	0	3

WESTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

	Mathe- matics ⁴	Information and Technology	Science ⁵	Design and Technology ⁶ (including Engineering)	Total Vacancies
Holy Cross College	1	0	0	0	1

NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

	Mathe- matics⁴	Information and Technology	Science⁵	Design and Technology⁶ (including Engineering)	Total Vacancies
Ballymoney High School	0	0	1	0	1
Ballee Community High School	1	0	0	0	1
St Patrick's College	1	1	0	0	2
Cross and Passion College	0	0	1	0	1

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

	Mathe- matics⁴	Information and Technology	Science⁵	Design and Technology⁶ (including Engineering)	Total Vacancies
Laurelhill Community College	0	0	1	0	1
St Patrick's Academy	0	1	0	0	1

SOUTHERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

	Mathe- matics⁴	Information and Technology	Science⁵	Design and Technology⁶ (including Engineering)	Total Vacancies
Drumglass High School	1	0	0	0	1
St Mark's High School	0	1	0	0	1
St Catherine's College	0	0	1	0	1

Source: Annual Teacher Vacancy Survey

Notes:

- 1 All figures refer to vacancies in schools on 7th November 2011.
- 2 Figures include full-time permanent/temporary and part-time permanent/temporary vacancies.
- 3 Number of vacancies is for classroom teachers only.
- 4 Mathematics includes Statistics but excludes special needs provision in Mathematics.
- 5 Science includes Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Integrated or combined science and other science.
- 6 Design and Technology includes woodwork, metalwork, technical drawing and other technical subjects such as building, engineering and motor mechanics.
- 7 Engineering is included within Design and Technology. A breakdown for Engineering and Technology is therefore not feasible.
- 8 The STEM subject classifications are based on those in Annex 2 of the 2009 Report of the STEM review for the Department of Education and the Department for Employment and Learning.

Former Maghera High School Site

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Education to detail the proposals he has received from the North Eastern Education and Library Board in relation to the former Maghera High School site.

(AQW 13406/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department has not received any proposals from the North Eastern Education and Library Board in relation to the site of the former Maghera High School.

The Board has received expressions of interest in the site from Magherafelt Council, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta and Largantogher Enterprise Group. Magherafelt Council subsequently withdrew its interest in the site, however, I understand that their interest may be renewed and that the Board is awaiting correspondence to this effect.

All options for potential future education use of the site are being explored by the North Eastern Education and Library Board.

The former school building has suffered extensive vandalism and theft, which has created Health and Safety concerns due to the presence of asbestos containing materials in the buildings. The Department has recently endorsed a proposal from the North Eastern Education and Library Board to demolish the school following decontamination.

Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education why Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt was not included in his recent new build announcement.

(AQW 13434/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recognise a new school build at Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt, remains a priority for investment. While I would like to be in the position to fund everything that needs doing now, I must work within the budget available.

The process for selecting projects for investment was internal to the Department. The key criteria in determining eligibility for capital investment were major projects, confirmed as viable and core to emerging area plans, which could ensure effective use of capital funds over the remainder of the budget period.

Projects were selected on the basis that they support unmet need; effect rationalisation of the schools estate; address serious accommodation inadequacies, substandard conditions or overcrowding; or address undue reliance on temporary accommodation.

The relative condition and suitability of the current accommodation was used to differentiate between projects. Also, in recognition of the need to utilise capital funds in the period 2013-2015, projects were assessed based on their stage of development and the potential to have the project on site by the final quarter of 2012-13 or the first quarter of 2013-14.

The protocol for selection is available on the Department's website at: http://www.deni.gov.uk/major_works_protocol.pdf.

My statement to the Assembly on capital investment on 25 June made it clear that the proposals announced in no way imply that other school projects will not be considered at a later stage.

My announcement also indicated that a process has been established to identify a number of projects for which funding would be provided to advance them in planning, and it is my intention to make a further announcement around these in the Autumn.

Holy Family Primary School will be included in the examination of potential projects to be brought forward.

Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education (i) how the application for a new build for Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt, was scored and placed on the Department's priority list; (ii) what representations were made for and against the new build; and (iii) what consideration was given to the representations from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools on making the need for a new build a priority.

(AQW 13435/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recognise a new school build at Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt, remains a priority for investment. While I would like to be in the position to fund everything that needs doing now, I must work within the budget available.

The process for selecting projects for investment was internal to the Department. The key criteria in determining eligibility for capital investment were major projects, confirmed as viable and core to emerging area plans, which could ensure effective use of capital funds over the remainder of the budget period.

Projects were selected on the basis that they support unmet need; effect rationalisation of the schools estate; address serious accommodation inadequacies, substandard conditions or overcrowding; or address undue reliance on temporary accommodation.

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Holy Family Primary School will be included in the examination of potential projects to be brought forward.

Eighteen Projects for Capital Investment

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education to outline the interim process his Department used to identify the 18 projects for capital investment, announced on 25 June 2012, and in particular the criteria that were used to determine eligibility.

(AQW 13448/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The key criteria in determining eligibility for capital investment were major projects, confirmed as viable and core to emerging area plans, which could ensure effective use of capital funds over the remainder of the budget period.

The major works were selected on the basis that they support unmet need; effect rationalisation of the schools estate; address serious accommodation inadequacies, substandard conditions or overcrowding; or address undue reliance on temporary accommodation.

The relative condition and suitability of the current accommodation was used to differentiate between projects. Also, in recognition of the need to utilise capital funds in the period 2013-2015, projects were assessed based on their stage of development and the potential to have the project on site by the final quarter of 2012-13 or the first quarter of 2013-14.

The protocol for selection is available on the Department's website at: http://www.deni.gov.uk/major_works_protocol.pdf.

In relation to the Special Schools announced, initial area plans for Special Schools, submitted by the Boards at the end of January, set out the accommodation priorities in this sector.

The Special Schools announced had particular priorities in meeting their area's need to accommodate pupils; tackling serious accommodation inadequacies; and addressing policy priorities for Education.

Religious Background of Teachers

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education what percentage of teachers in (i) controlled; (ii) maintained; (iii) integrated; and (iv) Irish-medium primary schools come from a (a) Catholic; (b) Protestant; or (c) other religious background.

(AQW 13460/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold this information.

Governor Vacancies in Primary Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the current number of Governor vacancies in each post-primary school.

(AQW 13464/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department does not hold the information requested. Much of it will have to be requested from schools via the Education & Library Boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. This will be done but I recognise that schools may not be in a position to respond during the holiday period so it may take some months before the full information is available. I will arrange for the information to be placed in the Assembly Library as soon as it is available.

Capital Spend on Youth Services in the North Down area

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what is his Department's proposed capital spend on youth services in the North Down area in the next two financial years.

(AQW 13465/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The proposed capital spend on youth services in the North Down area in the 2012/13 financial year is £26,000. At this stage it is not possible to say what the proposed spend will be on youth services capital in the North Down area in the 2013/14 financial year.

Capital Spend on Youth Services in the North Down area

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail his Department's capital spend on youth services in the North Down area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13466/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following table shows capital spend on youth services in the North Down area in each of the last five years relating to the controlled sector:

	2007/08 (£000s)	2008/09 (£000s)	2009/10 (£000s)	2010/11 (£000s)	2011/12 (£000s)
Controlled Sector Youth Capital Expenditure	0	121	30	27	0

The Department has also allocated capital funding to some voluntary youth sector organisations in the North Down area during this period. However, this information is not held in the format required by this request and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Area Based Planning

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education whether he will consider extending the consultation period, in relation to Area Based Planning, beyond the end of October 2012 to facilitate meaningful consultation with parents and schools.

(AQW 13498/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards published the draft Post-primary Area Plans on their websites on 5 July. The consultation period will run for 16 full weeks from 5 July to 26 October. The consultation period has been set to take account of the school holidays.

I am confident that this timetable allows ample time for interested and affected parties to consider and respond to the plans. It is important to note that this is a public consultation which will attract comments, not just from schools but from a wider range of stakeholders. I do not believe that the timetable set needs to be extended.

Use of School's Estate after Closure

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education what plans are in place for the utilisation of School Estates after a school has closed.

(AQW 13503/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Education and Library Boards have a responsibility, under Managing Public Money, to dispose of their surplus property. In doing this they adhere to the guidance on the disposal of public sector property issued by DFP's Land and Property Services. If surplus property is not required within the public sector it must be put on the open market.

Schools in other sectors are owned by Trustees. If such schools are declared as surplus, responsibility for their disposal or alternative use is the responsibility of those Trustees.

Investment Delivery Plan

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) why all the existing integrated schools in the Investment Delivery Plan did not meet the interim process criteria; and (ii) the specific criteria that each school did not meet.

(AQW 13526/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The key criteria in determining eligibility for capital investment as announced in my statement to the Assembly on 25 June were major projects, confirmed as viable and core to emerging area plans, which could ensure effective use of capital funds over the remainder of the budget period.

The protocol for selection is available on the Department's website at: http://www.deni.gov.uk/major_works_protocol.pdf.

The integrated schools within the Investment Development Plan are Omagh Integrated Primary School, Parkhall College and Priory College.

Omagh Integrated Primary School was considered for funding but because of issues concerning acquisition of land for the new school as well as the lead times around procurement processes, budget allocations for a new build could not be spent within the budget period.

Parkhall College is the subject of a recently announced consultation issued by NEELB on a plan for post-16 provision for the Antrim / Ballymena area, which considers expansion at the school. Clarity is needed by the Department on the scale and type of provision needed before investment can be made at Parkhall College.

Enrolment at Priory College is currently below the sustainable schools thresholds and the initial area plan from the SEELB indicates that consideration be given to increasing overall enrolment at the school and developing a shared sixth form centre. The school is being considered within a multi-schools capital build project which includes Redburn PS and Holywood PS.

Homophobic Bullying

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education for his Department's assessment of the recent comments made by The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki moon, that homophobic bullying is a moral outrage, a grave violation of human rights and a public health crisis.

(AQW 13544/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department's position on homophobic bullying is a matter of public record.

Bullying, in whatever form and for whatever reason, is unacceptable behaviour and this position is consistent with the views expressed by Ban Ki moon in December 2011.

Addressing the issue is a shared challenge which is why my Department funds and is a member of the local AntiBullying Forum. The Forum is developing a suite of guidance for schools, in consultation with children and young people, around the prevention of, and response to, various types of prejudice based bullying, including homophobic bullying.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Young People in Schools

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education what action his Department is taking to ensure that there is no violation of the human rights of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people in schools.

(AQW 13545/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: All young people have a right to be educated in a safe environment and to be treated with respect and dignity, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

School Boards of Governors as well as principals and teachers have responsibilities to promote human rights, equality, good relations and diversity in schools and the wider community. These responsibilities are driven by the Department's education policies, education and employment legislation and anti-discrimination, human rights and equality legislation.

The teaching of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is an important element within the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (in primary schools) and the Learning for Life and Work (in post-primary) areas of learning in the revised curriculum. Through RSE, the curriculum contains sufficient scope to deal with sexual orientation. Teachers have been trained in all requirements of the curriculum and guidance from the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment makes schools aware of the wide range of RSE resources available. RSE is also inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate.

The Department's Circular 2001/15 advises schools that they should have a policy setting out how they will address RSE within each pupil's curriculum. The policy should be the subject of consultation with parents, and should be endorsed by the school's Board of Governors. In developing or reviewing their RSE policies, schools have been advised by DE Circular 2010/01 to take account of guidance produced by the Equality Commission on Eliminating Sexual Orientation Discrimination.

I take my responsibilities with regard to equality and human rights very seriously and I will ensure that policy makers within the Department take account of the latest Equality Commission guidance on Section 75 responsibilities and the Human Rights Convention.

Schools: Qualifications

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the proposal, by the Education Secretary in England, to scrap GCSE examinations and replace them with re-vamped O level type examinations.

(AQO 2304/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am very concerned that, despite recent meetings with English officials, my Department was not informed of the direction of travel for GCSEs in England.

Decisions on any changes to GCSEs here are a devolved matter and I will ensure that all short term and long term impacts are considered as well as issues of equality.

Only recently I agreed a different policy from England in respect of GCSEs, to emphasise choice for schools, by retaining both linear and unitised assessment here. My Department will remain in regular contact with the Department for Education and will consider any impact on pupils here of potential changes to GCSEs offered in England, should they be adopted. I will also be seeking the views of my Ministerial counterpart in Wales whom I am meeting on Wednesday 4th July and my Scottish counterpart who I plan to meet in the near future.

Crumlin Integrated College

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of Education for an update on the actions that the North Eastern Education and Library Board is taking to resolve the dispute between the parents and the principal of Crumlin Integrated College.

(AQO 2305/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Crumlin Integrated College was inspected in January 2010. In its' report the Education and Training Inspectorate identified unsatisfactory leadership and management. As a result, the Board of Governors, acting on advice from the North Eastern Education and Library Board, placed the Principal on precautionary suspension. This removed her from her normal duties, to enable her to undergo an intensive training programme, to address the performance issues highlighted in the inspection report.

Following the completion of the training programme, the Board of Governors agreed that the Principal should return to the school and resume her duties. This was to provide the Principal with the opportunity to demonstrate her effectiveness as a school leader. This is in line with the current "Procedures for dealing with Principals, teachers and Vice-Principals whose work is unsatisfactory".

The NEELB has advised me that they have engaged with parents on this matter as follows:

- Board Officers met with a group of parents on 14 June to address issues of concern;
- They have responded to parental concerns which came via the telephone; and
- They visited the school on 21 June to provide professional and pastoral support. During this visit the Principal was updated on issues which had developed during her suspension;

On the Principal's return, I understand that the Chair of the Board of Governors wrote to parents and also met with a representative group to discuss their issues and concerns.

The NEELB has advised me that the Principal will continue to receive training and support, as appropriate. Board officers will remain available, as required, to provide support to parents and the wider school community.

The NEELB has advised me that, to date, there have been no further requests from parents to meet. I also understand that there have been no further parental demonstrations following this initial period.

Maghera High School

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Education for an update on the future use of the former Maghera High School.

(AQO 2306/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Expressions of interest in the former Maghera High School site were received from Magherafelt Council, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta and Largentogher Enterprise Group. Magherafelt Council subsequently withdrew its interest in the site, however, I understand that recently their interest may be renewed and that the Board is awaiting correspondence to this effect.

All options for potential future education use of the site are being explored by the North Eastern Education and Library Board in conjunction with my Department.

Schools: Budgets

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Education whether he would consider improving the engagement that the Education and Library Boards must have with school principals before allocating budgets to them.

(AQO 2307/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: School Budgets are determined annually by the Department via the Common Funding Formula, a mechanism to distribute funding in a consistent and equitable way to schools using common measures of identified needs. The main information required to run the formula is gathered from the annual school census, which necessitates considerable engagement between the Boards and their schools to validate the data.

After the funding formula has been run the Department notifies Education and Library Boards of the budgets available for each school within their area before the start of the new financial year. Education and Library Boards then engage with their schools to advise them of their school allocation and any further centre funding to be allocated to their delegated budget.

Regular engagement between schools and Education and Library Boards occurs not only in determining budgets, but in the monthly monitoring of school budgets and the setting of realistic, achievable three year financial plans.

The LMS/management accounts sections are always available to meet mainstream/special schools and provide any information that will assist them in their budget management responsibilities.

I actively encourage Education and Library Boards to work closely with school authorities at all stages of the process to ensure fairness and accountability.

Schools: Holywood

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Education, in light of the decision to close Redburn Primary School, what progress has been made on funding the Holywood Multi-Schools Project, involving Priors Integrated College, Holy Primary School and Holywood Nursery School.

(AQO 2308/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In my statement to the Assembly on 25 June I announced a number of new build school projects which have been approved for investment.

While the Hollywood Schools will be disappointed that they were not included in my announcement, this in no way implies that they will not be considered for funding at a later stage within the area planning context.

Special Education: Speech-generating Devices

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Education how many Special Educational Needs Schools use speech-generating devices as a form of communication for children with autism.

(AQO 2309/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards have informed me that 24 special schools use speech-generating devices to support children and young people with autism.

Primary Schools: Bangor

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to outline his Department's strategy to address the over-subscription and under-provision of primary school places in eastern and central Bangor.

(AQO 2310/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: You will be aware that I commissioned the 5 Education and Library Boards, and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools working with NICIE and CnaG, to undertake strategic area planning

based on each board area. This will align planned provision with the projected need for places in all sectors in all areas, including Bangor, through a network of educationally sustainable schools.

Integrated Schools: Area Planning

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Education whether he can give an assurance that Integrated Schools will not be discriminated against in the Area Planning Process.

(AQO 2311/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have commissioned the Education and Library Boards to draw up plans for education provision in their areas. When doing so, they will work with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. The Boards and CCMS have statutory responsibility for planning in their sectors.

The Terms of Reference for area planning also require the Boards to engage with the NICIE and CnaG when drawing up their plans. This will include the integrated sector.

The Boards will launch their plans on 5 July for public consultation. The consultation period will run until the end of October. In November the Boards will examine the responses and submit final drafts to my Department. I aim to be able to approve the plans by the end of December.

During the planning and consultation periods all sectors and interests will have a chance to give their views.

Academic Selection

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the recent statement by the Catholic Bishops on academic selection.

(AQO 2312/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I welcome the recent statement by the Catholic Bishops on the future of academic selection.

Fear of change is understandable, and confidence building takes time, but we must never lose sight of the need to offer children the benefits of a non-selective education as quickly as possible.

Transporting Pupils to School

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of transporting pupils to school by (i) bus; and (ii) taxi in each of the last five years, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 13594/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The costs for transporting pupils to school by bus and taxi for the last five years for which data are available are:

(I) BUS

Year	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB
2006/07	£4,007,589	£13,405,000	£11,284,872	£13,195,000	£12,318,341
2007/08	£3,904,115	£13,871,000	£11,559,968	£14,261,000	£12,543,684
2008/09	£4,245,390	£14,834,781	£12,212,492	£14,186,000	£13,983,293
2009/10	£4,450,467	£15,239,501	£12,989,351	£14,649,932	£13,847,581
2010/11	£4,271,696	£15,284,881	£13,128,094	£14,242,525	£13,828,982

(II) TAXI

Year	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB
2006/07	£736,104	£1,790,000	£1,797,052	£1,838,000	£1,163,765
2007/08	£853,290	£1,615,000	£1,425,854	£1,917,000	£1,147,641
2008/09	£1,082,816	£1,778,422	£1,403,503	£2,200,000	£1,342,740
2009/10	£908,075	£1,757,306	£1,124,064	£1,998,832	£1,516,725
2010/11	£977,355	£1,663,086	£1,055,732	£1,887,236	£1,630,190

Schools Sustainability

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the six criteria against which schools will be judged on sustainability, including any minimum thresholds for each criterion which may apply.

(AQW 13597/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The six criteria and their associated quantitative and qualitative indicators are set out in detail in Annex A to the Sustainable Schools Policy. The criteria provide a framework for assessing the range of factors which may affect a school's sustainability.

The Policy document is accessible on the DE website at:

http://www.deni.gov.uk/a_policy_for_sustainable_schools-2.pdf

Department for Employment and Learning**Wolf Report**

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the Wolf Report and its implications for further and higher education in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 12950/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): The Wolf Report, entitled "Review of Vocational Education", is a review of vocational education in England for 14 to 19 year olds. It is important to recognise that, as such, the report does not apply to Northern Ireland.

The report's findings are condensed into 27 recommendations which highlight a number of themes, including: the use of vocational qualifications, particularly for school pupils; the concern that schools in England were using vocational qualifications in inappropriate ways to improve their performance in school league tables; the importance of competence in English and mathematics; the need to support low achievers more effectively; funding the learner, rather than qualifications; and the processes for developing vocational qualifications, including the use of national occupational standards.

While the report does not apply to Northern Ireland, and while many of the recommendations have no direct impact here, some of the recommendations could potentially have an indirect impact here, and a small number of recommendations have a direct impact across the UK, and hence in Northern Ireland.

The areas of the report that are UK-wide in nature, and which, consequently, have a direct impact in Northern Ireland, relate to recommendations 24 and 27. Recommendation 24 concerns the use of national occupational standards in education and training for young people, and how national employer bodies (but not only Sector Skills Councils) and local employers can contribute to qualification design. Recommendation 27 concerns how employers can be involved in qualification assessment and awarding processes. It is important to get the right balance between ensuring that qualifications meet the needs of employers in local areas while being sufficiently generic to be recognised by employers across the UK and further afield; and to agree the part that national occupational standards should

play as the basis for vocational qualifications development. These issues are currently under active consideration across the UK, and through a UK-wide VQ Forum on which my Department is represented.

Areas of the report that have the potential to have an indirect impact here relate, primarily, to how the vocational qualification system operates as a market across the UK. As most of the vocational qualifications used in Northern Ireland are developed by the large awarding organisations that are based in England, for example City and Guilds and EdExcel, we need to ensure that the qualifications market is not “skewed” commercially towards new types of vocational qualifications that could be developed by awarding organisations to meet the outcomes of the Wolf Report in England, to the possible detriment of learners in Northern Ireland. It is also worth noting that the Wolf Report makes a number of recommendations regarding apprenticeships in England, for example in the area of contracting. Again, this is an area where Wolf has no direct impact on Northern Ireland, as we have our own contracting arrangements, and arrangements for developing apprenticeship frameworks.

The implications of the Wolf Report for further and higher education in Northern Ireland focus, primarily, on the nature of the vocational qualifications that are produced through the commercial market that I have described briefly above. My Department will continue to fund further education colleges to deliver the bulk of their provision from qualifications that are on the regulated qualifications frameworks, in particular the Qualifications and Credit Framework. We, therefore, have a strong interest in ensuring that such qualifications continue to meet the needs of employers. It is worth noting that our colleges work closely with relevant awarding organisations, and that they, too, can have an impact on the qualifications development process. The implications of the Wolf Report for universities are less direct, although they will, clearly, have an interest in the nature of qualifications that applicants to their courses have acquired.

Underspend in the 2011/12 Financial Year

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail his Department’s underspend in the 2011/12 financial year; and the areas in which the underspend occurred.

(AQW 13003/11-15)

Dr Farry: The final Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budget – including Administration, Programme and Capital expenditure - was £921.2m. The Provisional Outturn (PO) was £919.8m giving an underspend of £1.4m, or 0.15%.

The Department’s four Units of Service (UoS) within DEL comprise the following Divisions:

UoS	Title	Divisions
A01	Employment and Skills	Employment Service (ES)
		Skills and Industry (SID)
		Further Education (FE)
A02	Higher Education	Higher Education (HE)
A03	Student Support	Higher Education (HE)
A04	Labour Market Services	Human Resources and Corporate Services (HRCSD)
		Strategy, European and Employment Rights (SEERD)
		Finance

Administration expenditure was underspent by £397k (1.63%) on a budget of £24.3m.

Programme expenditure was underspent by £977k (0.11%) on a budget of £855.7m. The more significant areas creating this underspend are detailed as follows:

- In AO1, Employment and Skills, underspends in SID and ES were offset by increased expenditure in FE; and
- In AO2/AO3, HE and Student Support, there was an HE underspend of £1.2m which was offset by an overspend in Student Support.

Capital expenditure was underspent by £46k (0.11%) on a budget of £41.2m. In AO1, Employment and Skills, an underspend occurred in SID which was offset by increased expenditure in FE.

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 12468/11-15, (i) whether his predecessor agreed to omit St Mary's University College, Belfast from any proposed merger; (ii) if so, what guarantee was given to St Mary's; and (iii) to provide a copy of the documents relating to the omission and guarantee.

(AQW 13111/11-15)

Dr Farry: I am not in a position to comment on the deliberations of my predecessor as Minister. I repeat that St. Mary's University College did not ask to be part of the proposed merger and was, therefore, not included in the development of the merger proposal nor in the consultation document thereon.

Step Ahead Programme

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQO 2141/11-15, why his Department did not bid for monies in relation to the Step Ahead Programme.

(AQW 13124/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Step Ahead initiative ceased in April and I currently have no plans to re-introduce this strand within the Steps to Work programme.

My primary focus at present is to ensure that sufficient resources are available to me in order to allow for the current level of Steps to Work provision to be maintained for an increasing number of participants.

Steps to Work itself is due to end in March 2013 and my Department is presently working on the development of a new programme of adult return to work assistance. This new employment programme will replace Steps to Work during 2013.

I also intend shortly to bring forward proposals on a youth employment initiative 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.

My Department is also currently assisting in the development of a strategy to address economic inactivity levels in Northern Ireland.

Higher Education: Mid Ulster

Mr Molloy asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what proportion of Regional College Higher Education provision is located within the Mid-Ulster constituency.

(AQO 2338/11-15)

Dr Farry: Higher Education in Further Education provision in the Mid-Ulster catchment area is delivered by South West College at its Cookstown and Dungannon campuses and by Northern Regional College at its Magherafelt campus.

In academic year 2010/11, there were 112 full-time and 146 part-time higher education enrolments across these three college campuses which represented 2.5% of the total higher education enrolments across the six regional colleges.

Since 2007 my Department has increased South West College's allocation of full-time higher education places from 186 to 420 places while Northern Regional College's allocation has been increased from 249 to 266. South West College and Northern Regional College were the only colleges to receive an increased allocation of full-time higher education places for the forthcoming academic year. In addition, my Department does not place a cap on part-time higher education places and therefore expansion of part-time provision within existing budgets offers colleges a way to increase higher education provision.

However, it is the responsibility of each individual college to manage its delivery of higher education in line with local priorities, as well as the priorities set by my Department. Decisions relating to the location of courses, and the allocation of student places across the college's campuses, are matters for the senior management of the individual regional college and not for my Department.

The recently published higher education strategy for Northern Ireland, 'Graduating to Success', details my Department's plans to work with the higher and further education sectors to develop a pilot scheme for the creation of university bases at the further education colleges. The pilot scheme will provide the opportunity for higher education students to undertake distance learning at the further education colleges, with access to the university materials and resources they need on a planned basis, thus improving rural access to higher education across Northern Ireland.

Construction Students: Employment

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what proportion of students who have completed construction-related courses at Further Education Colleges have obtained employment in each of the last three years.

(AQO 2330/11-15)

Dr Farry: Currently, further education colleges do not hold information on the actual destination of students who have completed their courses in a consistent or comprehensive manner.

However, I agree that this would be valuable information, and I can confirm that I had already asked officials, as part of the Department's research agenda, to adopt a similar approach to the Higher Education Statistics Agency to develop a survey to collect comprehensive destination data for students in further education. The Department has had initial discussion with the sector on this issue.

The information that is available on the destinations of qualifiers from full-time professional and technical courses in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment' from the Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges shows that the majority progress into Higher Education, Further Education or training with 70% having chosen those routes in 2010/11.

Specifically in relation to employment, in 2010/11, 19% of full-time qualifiers from these courses who provided destination data were recorded as entering employment. The equivalent proportions in 2009/10 and 2008/09 were 25% and 31% respectively.

NEETs: North Belfast

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the groups and agencies in North Belfast which are trying to improve education and employment prospects for young people who are categorised as NEETs.

(AQO 2327/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department has contracted with a number of organisations, including some in North Belfast, to cater for young unemployed people aged 16 -18, through its Training for Success programme. These organisations currently meet the standards required to deliver high quality training, as assessed by the Education and Training Inspectorate.

In addition, for those young people aged 18-24 there are many opportunities funded through the Steps to Work programme in North Belfast and they too provide participants with access to quality accredited training and resources that will improve their skills and chances of a more sustainable future in employment. It focuses on training to match participants' skills with employers' requirements.

There are currently eight Community and Voluntary Sector providers involved in the delivery of the Department's Steps to Work programme in North Belfast.

Members will be aware that yesterday I made a further statement on "Pathways to Success", the Executive's strategy to address the issue of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training, which recognises the important role of voluntary and community sector organisations, and the sector will be represented on the NEET advisory group taking forward implementation of the strategy. The strategy proposes new programmes, including a community based access programme to engage and mentor young people and a Community Family Support Programme which will focus on the needs of the most disadvantaged families, to enable young people to re-engage with education, training or employment. The success of this strategy is dependent on all Departments playing their part.

Belfast Metropolitan College: Shankill Students

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action the Belfast Metropolitan College is taking to attract students from the Greater Shankill area.

(AQO 2333/11-15)

Dr Farry: Belfast Metropolitan College has informed me that it has used a variety of methods to attract students from the Greater Shankill area. These include:

- Distributing its prospectus in the local area;
- leaflet drops;
- advertising in community centres and local newspapers;
- participation in the Shankill community convention; and liaison with schools, community centres, and the local partnership board.

The College has advised that it will continue to work with local community centres, rebranding the Community Learning Centre and through the opening of the brand new E3 campus at Springvale

- Classes are also provided on the basis of requests from organisations e.g. through schools as part of family learning courses, and extended schools provision.
- In recent years BMC has had classes running in Edenmore Primary School, Blackmountain Primary School, Malvern St Primary School, and Glenwood Primary School amongst others.
- In addition there are 54 Essential Skills and Community Education classes planned for the Greater Shankill area in September 2012. Additional classes are expected when the Learner Access and Engagement programme is mainstreamed in September.
- The New Directions/ Threshold courses, addressing NEETS and long term unemployed, will also increase the college presence in the area.

My Department aims to widen participation in higher education through initiatives such as the Step-Up and Discovering Queens programmes which are delivered through schools in areas with traditionally low levels of participation in higher education.

The Step-Up programme is delivered in the Belfast Model School for Girls and the Belfast Boys' Model, and caters for many of the pupils from the Greater Shankill catchment area.

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Mr Brady asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether the Careers Service is ensuring that students from Counties Armagh and Down are apprised of Higher and Further Education Course options at Dundalk Institute of Technology.

(AQO 2335/11-15)

Dr Farry: Advice and guidance about local, national and international courses is provided to all clients and is dependent on their individual requirements and career goals.

Where the Dundalk Institute of Technology can meet requirements, my careers staff will provide course information and discuss the application process with the student.

In addition to this, careers staff from the Newry area attend open days in Dundalk Institute of Technology, at least once a year to keep abreast of developments.

During the academic year staff from the Dundalk Institute attend careers events in schools in the Newry area. This provides my Department's careers advisers with the opportunity to liaise with the Institute on an ongoing basis.

Earlier this year staff from Dundalk Institute attended the UCAS higher education convention in Belfast. This provided them with the opportunity to meet approximately 8,500 students.

Tuition Fees: Republic of Ireland

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he has considered exempting Northern Ireland students, who are planning to study STEM subjects in the Republic of Ireland, from paying fees under the new arrangements from September 2013.

(AQO 2336/11-15)

Dr Farry: I have no plans to exempt Northern Ireland students who study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - STEM - subjects from the loan arrangement that will be introduced in September 2013 to cover the student contribution charge to study in the Republic of Ireland or in Northern Ireland.

The revised student finance arrangements are being introduced to create a more level playing field for all of our students in terms of entitlement to student support, irrespective of which course they study or whether they study in Northern Ireland, Great Britain or the Republic of Ireland.

I remain committed to ensuring an increase in the number of students undertaking higher education courses in economically relevant subjects. Indeed, in December 2011, I announced an increase in student places in Northern Ireland, over the Comprehensive Spending Review period, targeted at economically relevant STEM subjects.

However, incentivising or targeting funding for individuals studying specific courses, in Northern Ireland or any other jurisdiction, would require an appropriate evidence base to justify the intervention, along with additional resources that are not currently available under my existing budget.

Careers Service

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what work his Department is doing with the Department of Education to improve our Careers Service across all schools and colleges.

(AQO 2337/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department is responsible for the provision of impartial Careers information, advice and guidance. The Department of Education is responsible for the provision of Careers Education which enables young people to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and experience, to manage their career development and make informed choices.

A joint Careers Strategy "Preparing for Success" has been in place between my Department and the Department of Education since January 2009. A Steering Group including officials from my department, the Department of Education, the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment and the Education and Training Inspectorate, as well as representatives from business and education oversees and guides the implementation of the Strategy. The Steering Group also reviews the progress of the Implementation Plan.

Formal partnership agreements are in place between my Department's Careers Service and 99% of all post primary schools, to support the schools' careers education programmes. These agreements also extend to colleges of further education so that students can be referred to the Careers Service.

Work is ongoing between the two departments to ensure that all post primary schools are encouraged to provide pupils with access to impartial careers guidance from careers Advisers and to ensure effective and appropriate sharing of information.

Corporation Tax

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the report 'Preparing for a Lower Corporation Tax Environment' commissioned by his Department.

(AQO 2339/11-15)

Dr Farry: The report shows that others have secured economic success in a low tax environment by having a clear understanding of the demand for skills, responding quickly to market changes and increasing the quantum, quality and relevance of skills available.

This report undoubtedly puts Northern Ireland in a stronger position to understand, plan for and take advantage of the full benefits of a lower Corporation Tax environment. The findings will help us build on our current skills development work and ensure we are continuing to support the region's future economic success.

The report sets out the importance of developing our skills base and the employability of our people. It highlights in particular the importance of strong skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; management and leadership; and literacy, numeracy and employability skills.

These are areas that my Department is already focused on and they are central to the overarching 'Success through Skills – Transforming Futures' strategy.

However, while we are on the right path, the research shows that we will need to go even further to address the quantum of skills required under a lower Corporation Tax scenario. As a consequence, I have asked my officials to identify the further actions that would be required to prepare for a lower corporation tax environment.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Ms Brown asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his Department's assessment of the workplace policy on Domestic Violence and Abuse, including any steps taken to safeguard victims since its introduction.

(AQO 2340/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department for Employment and Learning adheres to the NICS guidance on Domestic Violence and Abuse, which was issued in 2006 and is included in the NICS Human Resources Handbook. The policy applies to all staff and includes guidance for line managers in dealing with staff who may be victims of domestic violence as well as providing information on the help and support available to victims. In individual cases where additional Human Resources support is required, the Department takes appropriate action in line with the NICS guidance and within the parameters of its role as an employer. The Department of Finance and Personnel has an overarching responsibility for maintaining and, where appropriate, assessing the policy.

Tuition Fees: Republic of Ireland

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why his Department has revised the financial arrangements for students commencing Higher Education in the Republic of Ireland from September 2013.

(AQO 2341/11-15)

Dr Farry: The changes being introduced for Northern Ireland students entering higher education in the Republic of Ireland from 2013/14 mean they will be entitled to a loan to cover the student contribution charge as well as an enhanced maintenance support package. The maximum maintenance grant will increase by more than 70% from £2,000 to £3,475.

The thresholds for entitlement to maintenance grant will also increase. The lower threshold at which there is entitlement to full grant will increase from £11,805 to £19,203, while the upper threshold at which entitlement to partial grant ends will increase from £23,605 to £41,065. Consequently, in 2013/14, a new entrant from a household with an income of £20,000 would be entitled to a maintenance grant of £3,300 compared with £675 under the current system.

The changes will align the levels of support and the thresholds with those that apply for Northern Ireland students throughout the United Kingdom. They are consistent with recommendations in the independent student finance review by Joanne Stuart and the report on undergraduate mobility by the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and the Confederation of British Industry.

The student contribution charge in the Republic of Ireland has increased significantly in recent years. In 2006, when variable tuition fees of £3,000 were introduced here, the student contribution charge was €800 - around £650. In September 2012, this charge will have almost tripled to €2,250 and is expected to increase in each of the next three years.

It is inconsistent to continue to provide a non-repayable grant to cover this charge when our students at home and in Great Britain are expected to cover the cost of their tuition fees, with the majority applying for student loans for this purpose.

Overall, the new arrangements will provide a more level playing field in terms of the student finance package for local students regardless of where they choose to study in Northern Ireland, Great Britain or Republic of Ireland.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assistance is being given to the George Best Belfast City Airport in sourcing new airlines to replace the routes vacated by BMI Baby.
(AQW 12886/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Tourism Ireland works with airports, airlines, ferry operators and other tourism interests to drive demand for services from key markets to Northern Ireland and to help maintain our vital network of routes. Tourism Ireland is currently working with George Best Belfast City Airport on the introduction of potential new routes, however discussions with the airport, and with airlines, are of a commercial and confidential nature.

Visitors from Mainland UK

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of visitors from mainland UK on (i) day, weekend and short-stay trips; and (ii) holidays of more than a week, in each quarter of the last five years.
(AQW 12958/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There was no growth in the number of mainland UK visitors to Northern Ireland in 2011 compared with 2010 and prior to this there has been a general decline in visitors from this important market.

- I. The number of visitors from mainland United Kingdom (UK) on trips of 1-7 nights to Northern Ireland in each quarter of the last five years is presented in column (c) in Table 1. Figures presented relate to trips for any purpose (holiday, business, visiting friends/relatives and other). Data on day and weekend trips are not available.
- II. The number of visitors from mainland UK on trips of more than a week, visiting for any purpose, is presented for each quarter of the last five years in column (d) in Table 1. Data for the number of mainland UK visitors on holiday for more than a week, in each quarter of the last five years, cannot be disaggregated at this level.

- III. The mainland UK trips presented in Table 1 are based on mainland UK visitors who exited via a Northern Ireland air or sea port. Mainland UK visitors who exited via a port in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) but overnighed in Northern Ireland are not included.

TABLE 1: MAINLAND UK VISITORS TO NORTHERN IRELAND WHO EXITED VIA A NORTHERN IRELAND AIR OR SEA PORT*

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Year	Quarter	1-7 night trips (total)	8 or more night trips (total)
2011	1	149,500	25,000
2011	2	194,600	23,200
2011	3	208,100	32,200
2011	4	169,000	14,500
2010	1	146,500	18,700
2010	2	207,500	26,200
2010	3	220,800	37,500
2010†	4	188,600	19,400
2009	1	175,100	17,400
2009	2	218,700	17,700
2009	3	254,800	33,000
2009	4	183,300	12,000
2008	1	219,300	23,200
2008	2	255,400	21,000
2008	3	295,600	33,600
2008	4	206,400	11,100
2007	1	225,200	25,100
2007	2	281,800	18,700
2007	3	305,700	35,400
2007	4	238,800	18,800

Sources: 2007-2009 Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NITB) & 2010-2011 Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NISRA)

* The mainland UK trips presented in Table 1 are based on mainland UK visitors who exited via a Northern Ireland air or sea port. Mainland UK visitors who exited via a port in the ROI but overnighed in Northern Ireland are not included

† Due to methodological changes in 2010, data from 2010 onwards cannot be directly compared with data pre 2010

Geothermal Energy

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has any plans to give geothermal energy its own dedicated tariff, under the Renewable Heat Incentive, as the Department of Energy and Climate Change has done in Britain.

(AQW 12959/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Under the Great Britain Renewable Heat Incentive, introduced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, there is currently no dedicated tariff for deep geothermal energy. Those wishing to install deep geothermal applications can however avail of the tariff available to large commercial ground source heat pumps.

DETI consulted on a proposed Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive in July 2011. As part of these proposals a similar position was outlined whereby from the outset of the scheme there would not be a dedicated tariff for deep geothermal but support would be available through the large ground source heat pump tariff. At that time my Department carried out a call for evidence into deep geothermal to help inform a future specific tariff for the technology.

My Department is currently finalising proposals for the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive and I hope to reveal details of the scheme shortly.

Tourist Board: Surveys and Opinion Questionnaires

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many surveys and opinion questionnaires have been commissioned by the Tourist Board, in the last six years; and to detail the cost of each questionnaire.

(AQW 12966/11-15)

Mrs Foster: One of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB's) key roles is to undertake research and evaluation to guide effective decision making and inform policy and strategy development. Research includes measuring tourism performance and monitoring visitor attitudes to better understand their needs. Evaluation includes the measurement of the Return on Investment for NITB's marketing in the Domestic and ROI markets.

The number of surveys commissioned by NITB in the last six years and the cost of each commissioned survey are detailed in Table 1 and Table 2 below

TABLE 1: THE NUMBER OF SURVEYS COMMISSIONED BY NITB 2005/06 TO 20011/12

Financial Year	Number of commissioned surveys
2011/12	18
2010/11	15
2009/10	16
2008/09	10
2007/08	6
2006/07	5

TABLE 2: COST OF SURVEYS COMMISSIONED BY NITB 2005/06 TO 2011/12

Financial Year	Survey	Cost (Inc.VAT)
2011/12	NISRA Official Tourism Statistical Surveys to measure domestic tourism performance and GB and overseas visitor performance. Also conducted on behalf of NITB serviced accommodation occupancy survey, self-catering accommodation survey and Northern Ireland visitor attraction survey. Five surveys in total	£529,675
2011/12	Evaluation of NITB Advertising Campaigns 2011	£74,968
2011/12	Northern Ireland Tourism Barometer 2011	£19,782
2011/12	Evaluation of 2011/12 Events Fund	£69,000
2011/12	Potential for Forest Related Tourism	£36,900
2011/12	ROI Perceptions Omnibus Survey	£3,617
2011/12	Northern Ireland Perceptions Omnibus Survey	£3,360
2011/12	Northern Ireland Titanic Baseline Survey	£2,880
2011/12	ROI Titanic Baseline Survey	£2,753
2011/12	ROI December 2011 Omnibus Survey	£5,769
2011/12	Value of Northern Ireland Built Heritage Study	£12,000
2011/12	Evaluation of Next Level Programme	£25,170
2011/12	Segmentation Survey	£90,000
2011/12	Consumer Research for Booking Engines	£9,400
2011/12	Political Audit for NITB	£3,000
	Total	£888,274
2010/11	NISRA Official Tourism Statistical Surveys to measure domestic tourism performance and GB and overseas visitor performance. Also conduct on behalf of NITB serviced accommodation occupancy survey, self-catering accommodation survey and Northern Ireland visitor attraction survey. Five surveys in total	£495,931
2010/11	ROI Business Tourism Potential Study	£23,500
2010/11	Business Tourism Barometer	£23,426
2010/11	United Kingdom Tourism Survey	£73,629
2010/11	Industry Stakeholder Attitude Survey 2011	£19,200
2010/11	Tourism Barometer 2010	£19,290
2010/11	Evaluation of NITB's Advertising Campaigns 2010	£93,354
2010/11	Impact of Volcanic Ash Cloud Survey	£836
2010/11	Northern Ireland Accommodation Review	£23,100
2010/11	Organisational Cultural Inventory Survey	£9,000

Financial Year	Survey	Cost (Inc.VAT)
2010/11	Tourist Information Centre Research	£5,075
	Total	£786,341
2009/10	United Kingdom Tourism Survey	£80,989
2009/10	Pilot NI Passenger Survey 2009	£161,000
2009/10	Business Tourism Barometer 2009	£11,750
2009/10	Business Visitor Attitude Survey 2009	£23,000
2009/10	Domestic Tourism Omnibus Survey	£38,775
2009/10	Northern Ireland Spring Advertising Tracking Survey	£6,314
2009/10	ROI Spring Advertising Tracking Survey	£10,125
2009/10	Evaluation of NITB Advertising Campaigns 2009	£67,275
2009/10	Northern Ireland Brand Tracking Survey	£12,075
2009/10	Day Trips Omnibus Survey	£15,220
2009/10	Visitor Attitude Survey 2009	£92,684
2009/10	Visitor Experience Survey	£48,233
2009/10	Tourism Barometer 2009	£19,306
2009/10	Industry Stakeholder Attitudes Survey	£20,000
2009/10	Gateway Visitor Survey	£49,000
2009/10	Visitor Information Plan Research	£15,000
	Total	£670,746
2008/09	United Kingdom Tourism Survey	£80,220
2008/09	Northern Ireland Brand Tracking Baseline Development	£37,249
2008/09	Northern Ireland Brand Tracking	£32,470
2008/09	Tourism Barometer	£25,516
2008/09	Northern Ireland Spring Advertising Tracking Survey	£1,974
2008/09	Northern Ireland Autumn Advertising Tracking Survey	£4,208
2008/09	ROI Spring Advertising Tracking Survey	£8,371
2008/09	ROI Autumn Advertising Tracking Survey	£9,243
2008/09	Destination Web Watch	£1,500
2008/09	Northern Ireland and ROI market review	£47,000
2008/09	Political Audit for NITB	£2,940
	Total	£250,691
2007/08	United Kingdom Tourism Survey	£80,220
2007/08	Northern Ireland Brand Tracking	£36,678
2007/08	Tourism Barometer	£25,516

Financial Year	Survey	Cost (Inc.VAT)
2007/08	Northern Ireland Spring Advertising Tracking	£2,857
2007/08	Northern Ireland Autumn Advertising Tracking	£4,208
2007/08	ROI Spring Advertising Tracking	£8,371
	Total	£157,850
2006/07	United Kingdom Tourism Survey	£76,912
2006/07	Visitor Attitude Survey 2007	£49,377
2006/07	Tourism Barometer	£21,552
2006/07	Windfarm Survey	£9,731
2006/07	Northern Ireland Brand Tracking	£19,975
	Total	£177,547

Departmental Functions: Transfer to Local Government

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment which departmental functions she will seek to transfer to local government from 2015.

(AQW 12986/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I refer the Member to the reply given to AQW 12061 on 30 May 2012.

Tonnes of Shale Produced by Quarries

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many tonnes of shale have been produced by quarries in each of the last five years.

(AQW 12999/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Quarries in Northern Ireland are obliged to provide information concerning their output to my Department under the Quarries (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

Shale is grouped with clay for reporting purposes and no further disaggregation is available.

The most recent information available relates to 2010. The following tonnage has been reported, based on the returns made:

Year	Annual Tonnage Reported for Clay and Shale Combined
2006	1,164,445 tonnes
2007	1,399,616 tonnes
2008	869,225 tonnes
2009	1,004,517 tonnes
2010	726,727 tonnes

Tonnes of Shale Produced by Quarries

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many tonnes of shale have been produced by quarries since the increase in the Aggregates Levy from 40 pence to £2.00 a tonne.

(AQW 13001/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Aggregates Levy Scheme was withdrawn in December 2010 and since then, Northern Ireland quarries have been liable to pay £2.00 per tonne extracted.

Quarries in Northern Ireland are obliged to provide information concerning their output to my Department under the Quarries (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. However figures for shale are grouped with clay for reporting purposes and no further disaggregation is available.

The most recent information available relates to 2010 thus no information is available on the tonnage produced since the change in the Aggregates Levy occurred.

Greenhouse Gas Emission and EU Climate Protection Targets

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department has taken through the North-South Ministerial Council in relation to Greenhouse Gas emission and EU climate protection targets.

(AQW 13048/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Overall policy responsibility for matters relating to Greenhouse Gas emissions and climate protection targets rest with the Department of the Environment and, as such, my Department has not taken anything through the North-South Ministerial Council in this regard.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the unanimous support in the Assembly on 12 June 2012 for an Arms Trade Treaty, whether she can give an assurance that no financial or other support will be provided to companies that are engaged in the trade of arms to countries where there are concerns over their human rights records.

(AQW 13103/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department would not wish to see arms sold into countries where there are concerns over their human rights records.

As a result of UK foreign policy commitments and the implementation of European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN) sanctions and embargoes, companies in the UK are prevented from selling arms to a number of countries where, for example, the supply of equipment could be used for human rights abuses. Northern Ireland companies active in the defense sector are therefore subject to these restrictions.

Neither the Department nor its agencies can prevent companies active in the defense sector from seeking the financial or other support that is available to industry in general.

Former Shackleton Army Base at Ballykelly

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions her Department has had with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the future use of the former Shackleton army base at Ballykelly.

(AQW 13114/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There has been no change to the answer given to AQW 7450/11-15.

Financial Capability Strategy

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the development of a Financial Capability Strategy.

(AQW 13141/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI has commenced a process of engagement with a range of stakeholders to identify the scope and potential requirements for the new Financial Capability Strategy, in line with its commitment to develop a Strategy by 31st March 2013.

Public Contract Tenders for Construction

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of (i) her Department's elements criteria used to determine public contract tenders for construction; and (ii) whether the criteria, such as turnover thresholds, might prohibit small-to-medium sized local businesses from making applications,

(AQW 13155/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All my Department's construction contracts are awarded through DFP's Central Procurement Directorate. We rely on their advice to ensure that appropriate criteria and financial thresholds are adopted and that small and medium sized businesses are not disadvantaged.

Proposed Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the targets for visitor numbers to the proposed Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort.

(AQW 13158/11-15)

Mrs Foster: As this is a private sector-led development visitor numbers are not available to my Department.

Giant's Causeway Designation as a World Heritage Site

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her Department's assessment of the possible impact of losing the Giant's Causeway designation as a World Heritage Site on (i) tourist numbers; and (ii) tourism revenue.

(AQW 13211/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has not undertaken any research to assess the possible impact of losing the Giant's Causeway designation as a World Heritage Site.

Professor Richard Davis' Recommendation on the Minimum Depth Between a Petroleum Extraction Target Zone and Aquifers

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why Professor Richard Davis' recommendation on the minimum depth between a petroleum extraction target zone and aquifers will not be followed by the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland.

(AQW 13212/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland has not made any decision as to whether to recommend that a minimum vertical separation between a shale gas extraction zone and aquifer bodies should be specified and, if it were to be, what that distance should be. The answer to AQW10864/11-15 gives further explanation. Any recommendation by GSNI will be made after consideration of relevant available evidence and after consultation with other regulatory bodies and external experts.

Car Parks at Belfast International Airport

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what are the health and safety implications for car parks at Belfast International Airport that are operating without planning permission.

(AQW 13250/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Operators of car parks at Belfast International Airport are subject to the full requirements of health and safety at work legislation whether the car park has planning permission or not.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the current position of former savers with the Presbyterian Mutual Society and the repayment of any monies which are outstanding.

(AQW 13270/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Following the package of financial assistance made available to the Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) in July 2011, the Joint Supervisors have issued total payments in excess of £232 million in accordance with the terms of the approved Scheme of Arrangement to PMS members.

The Joint Supervisors are required to repay the DETI secured loan of £175 million, over a period of up to 10 years, and then to make repayments of any excess cash in the following order:

- (i) the repayment to the relevant members holding PMS Loan Capital in respect of the Voluntary Deferred Loans;
- (ii) the repayment to the relevant members holding PMS Loan Capital in respect of the Mandatory Deferred Loans
- (iii) the repayment of any amounts due and unpaid to any member of the Society holding PMS Share Capital; and
- (iv) the repayment of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Loan and the DETI Unsecured Loan.
- (v) Any surplus to be paid to DETINI

Jobs Created by InvestNI

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 11022/11-15, which company was responsible for creating the only job by a first time international investor in Foyle in 2011/12; and why only one job was created in Foyle out of the total of 601 jobs created by first time international investors.

(AQW 13357/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In addition to the one job the member refers to in his question, the original response to AQW 11022 also highlighted an additional 24 jobs promoted in the Foyle constituency by first time international investors offered support through the Jobs Fund. The company that promoted both these 24 jobs and the 1 job referred to in this question was One Stop Data Ltd. In addition to these 25 jobs, there were 324 jobs promoted by both local businesses and follow-on projects by externally-owned businesses in the constituency during the year. Furthermore, Invest NI promoted more inward investment jobs per head of population in Foyle than the Northern Ireland average.

Invest NI has limited scope for 'directing' investment to specific Parliamentary Constituency Areas. Although it may be able to influence the location decisions of some inward-investment projects, assistance patterns are demand-led by businesses wishing to improve their competitiveness and gain a larger share of international markets. In the case of established businesses, reinvestment patterns will usually be determined by the existing location of the business.

It should also be noted that areas such as Parliamentary Constituency Areas (PCAs) are not self-contained labour markets. A project assisted in a particular location has the potential to create benefits across a much wider area. Northern Ireland is a relatively small place and evidence indicates that many investments draw their workforce from areas beyond constituency area boundaries.

Gas Network

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of households in Greater Belfast and the 12 towns area are connected to the gas network.

(AQW 13372/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not hold the information requested, however Phoenix Natural Gas has advised the Department that by the end of 2011, some 51% of the properties the company had made gas available to within its Greater Belfast licensed area had connected to natural gas.

firmus energy has advised that of the properties which their gas networks pass in their 12 towns licensed area, some 28% are connected to natural gas.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Pay Anomalies in the Civil Service

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when pay anomalies in the Civil Service will be resolved; and whether any settlement payments will be backdated.

(AQW 13128/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): I am currently considering proposals submitted by officials relating to the pay and grading review which seek to address a number of anomalies in the current pay system. They concern a very significant issue which requires due consideration and it is not therefore possible to give an indication of the potential outcome at this stage. As a result, it would not be appropriate to comment on any potential element of the proposals.

Public Contract Tenders for Construction

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of (i) his Department's elements criteria used to determine public contract tenders for construction; and (ii) whether the criteria, such as turnover thresholds, might prohibit small-to-medium sized local businesses from making applications,

(AQW 13156/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The tendering of construction contracts by my department is undertaken by Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). The process typically involves the selection of suitable contractors to be invited to tender, followed by the assessment of the tenders received and the award of the contract to the successful tenderer.

The criteria used at the selection stage include having adequate financial standing, which is proportionate and relevant to the contract in question. CPD sets financial thresholds, which are based on the annual expenditure on the contract. CPD relies on Constructionline for the financial assessment of individual firms. (Constructionline is the UK's register of construction related contractors and consultants pre-qualified to work for public sector clients.) The selection process has also been developed with Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in mind. Where a firm does not have the financial standing to tender for a contract in its own right, the process allows the contractor or consultant to apply as part of a consortium of two or more firms.

Once selected, firms can be invited to tender on the basis of lowest price or a combination of quality and price. Many SMEs feel that the latter puts them at a disadvantage compared to larger contractors. In response to this, CPD has recently developed simplified procedures for contracts which are valued under the relevant European threshold for works, services or supplies. These procedures promote the use of lowest acceptable price for straightforward construction related contracts and have been approved by the Procurement Board. They are set out in a new Procurement Guidance Note which was published on 21 May 2012.

Vacant Non-Domestic Properties in Bangor Town Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of vacant non-domestic properties in Bangor Town Centre in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13194/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the number of vacant non-domestic properties in the Bangor Town Centre area in each of the last five years is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only.

The following table indicates the number of vacant non-domestic properties in each ward within the North Down District Council Area as at 24th June 2012 (the latest date for which information is available), 31st March 2012, 31st March 2011 and 31st March 2010 (the earliest date for which comparable information is available).

NUMBER OF VACANT NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES IN EACH WARD IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

Ward/District Council	31st March 2010	31st March 2011	31st March 2012	24th June 2012
Ballycrochan	*	*	*	*
Ballyholme	8	7	*	*
Ballymacconnell	*	*	*	*
Ballymagee	*	*	*	*
Bangor Castle	33	40	39	41
Bloomfield	14	22	28	27
Broadway	6	7	*	*
Bryansburn	*	10	8	8
Churchill	*	*	*	*
Clandeboyne	9	11	14	13
Conlig	50	75	80	72
Craigavad	*	*	*	*
Crawfordsburn	*	6	6	6
Cultra	*	6	*	*
Dufferin	*	*	*	*
Groomsport	10	19	19	22
Harbour	108	124	117	108
Hollywood Demesne	44	45	41	43
Hollywood Priory	26	32	29	29
Loughview	*	7	7	7
Princetown	*	6	*	*
Rathgael	14	14	15	15
Silverstream	9	10	8	8
Spring Hill	*	*	*	*
Whitehill	*	*	*	*
Ward Not Known	*	*	*	*
North Down DC	363	453	448	433

* 5 properties or less

Review of the Civil Service E02 Grade

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) why 45.29 percent of Executive Officer II staff in the Civil Service are paid less than the highest paid Administrative Officer staff; and (ii) what action he intends to take to address this matter.

(AQW 13208/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The situation of Executive Officer II staff earning less than the highest paid Administrative Officer is caused by overlapping payscales. This overlap was created as a result of the alignment of the Administrative Officer pay scale with the comparable Technical Grade scale, which was implemented as part of the equal pay settlement. The AA and AO pay scale maxima now exceed almost all comparable pay scales across various UK departments and devolved administrations surveyed. I am currently considering proposals which will address this position.

Zero Carbon Homes Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many applications and inquiries his Department has received about the zero carbon homes scheme since it closed, given that it is still advertised on the departmental website and was originally intended to expire in 2015.

(AQW 13266/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Since the closure of the Low/Zero Carbon Homes (L/ZCH) scheme at 31st March 2012, Land & Property Services have received no applications for the scheme. There have been two enquiries from an MP/MLA and an MLA regarding a mutual constituent.

Low Carbon Homes Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether there are any plans to compensate individuals who have built homes with the expectation of availing of the low carbon homes scheme, but are not yet registered, given that it is still advertised on the departmental website and was originally intended to expire in 2015.

(AQW 13267/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There is no basis to enable acceptance of application for Low/Zero Carbon Homes rate relief after the final closure date of 31st March 2012. The closure of the scheme, with all the relevant dates and procedures was widely publicised at the time. The existence of unedited historic literature on one webpage, contrary to all other available information, does not constitute the basis for compensation.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Domiciliary Care Packages

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether Health and Social Care Trusts will be putting their domiciliary care packages out to tender in 2013/14.

(AQW 12812/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The Western trust had completed a retendering of domiciliary care contracts recently, but following a legal challenge, has decided to recommence that process. The Southern, South Eastern and Belfast Trusts are in the process of preparing to tender /retender their services working collaboratively with the Procurement and Logistics Service of the BSO, and the Northern Trust is also collaborating in that process.

We are already aware of the need for reform and modernization in our health and social care services due to much the publicized demographic situation. Transforming Your Care has given renewed impetus to this reform and my Department, in partnership with the HSC, will continue to develop and expand a range of flexible, responsive and person centred domiciliary care services.

Domiciliary Care

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans there are for domiciliary care in each Health and Social Care Trust area beyond 2012/13.

(AQW 12813/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Western trust had completed a retendering of domiciliary care contracts recently, but following a legal challenge, has decided to recommence that process. The Southern, South Eastern and Belfast Trusts are in the process of preparing to tender /retender their services working collaboratively with the Procurement and Logistics Service of the BSO, and the Northern Trust is also collaborating in that process.

We are already aware of the need for reform and modernization in our health and social care services due to much the publicized demographic situation. Transforming Your Care has given renewed impetus to this reform and my Department, in partnership with the HSC, will continue to develop and expand a range of flexible, responsive and person centred domiciliary care services.

Health Service Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Services

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) capital; and (ii) resource funding allocated to Health Service drug and alcohol detoxification services in each of the last five years.

(AQW 13181/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is not possible to disaggregate capital funding specifically allocated for detoxification services.

Financial returns provided by Trusts to the Health and Social Care Board indicate that expenditure on addiction detoxification services in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£m
2006/07	£2.49
2007/08	£2.83
2008/09	£3.30
2009/10	£3.38
2010/11	£3.29

The allocation of funding to detox services over the three years to 2014/15 is not known at this time but will take account of the outcome of the population planning process within the context of Transforming Your Care."

Health Service Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Services

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the projected allocation of (i) capital; and (ii) resource funding for drug and alcohol detoxification services until the end of this Assembly mandate.

(AQW 13183/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is not possible to disaggregate capital funding specifically allocated for detoxification services.

Financial returns provided by Trusts to the Health and Social Care Board indicate that expenditure on addiction detoxification services in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£m
2006/07	£2.49
2007/08	£2.83
2008/09	£3.30
2009/10	£3.38
2010/11	£3.29

The allocation of funding to detox services over the three years to 2014/15 is not known at this time but will take account of the outcome of the population planning process within the context of Transforming Your Care.”

Doctors: Industrial Action on 21 June

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the industrial action taken by doctors on 21 June 2012, to detail (i) how many individuals took part; and (ii) for his assessment of the effect on the public.

(AQW 13207/11-15)

Mr Poots: Health and Social Care (HSC) organisations are currently collating information on the numbers of doctors employed in the health service who took part in the industrial action.

For General Practitioners (GPs), the HSC Board, which manages the performers list of GPs entitled to provide services in N Ireland, received returns from all 353 GP practices of which 180(51%) advised they were supporting the industrial action while 173(49%) of practices were providing a normal service. For those patients whose GPs took industrial action and that required urgent appoints, they were seen on the day. Those patients that were considered non-urgent will receive rescheduled appointments.

In terms of the impact on services Trusts are also seeking to establish the full picture in terms of the cancellation of outpatient appointments, inpatient day cases, surgical procedures etc. but provisional estimates would indicate that the overall effect of the industrial action on the public was not the level of disruption expected and therefore the impact on the public was limited. All emergency and urgent work proceeded as normal. Trusts are working to establish the impact of postponed treatment but there was disruption to services through the cancellation of appointments and procedures that were considered non urgent. Trusts are now working to reschedule those patients who had treatment or care postponed through the BMA's industrial action.

Fire and Rescue Service: Wildfires

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what engagement the Fire and Rescue Service has had, to date, with the stakeholder groups in relation to wildfires; and (ii) what steps he is taking to ensure that the Service commits to full co-operation with any future wildfires forum.

(AQW 13209/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) has engaged with a wide range of organisations on the issue of wildfire prevention in the countryside, including, among others, the Belfast Hills Partnership, the Safer Mournes Partnership, Mourne Heritage Trust, the Forestry Service, PSNI and local Councils. It has worked with key stakeholders to develop site specific risk assessments and prepare annotated wildfire maps for all areas of risk.

I can confirm that NIFRS welcomes the development of, and would fully participate in, a Wildfire Forum. It has already engaged at a strategic level with Government Departments and stakeholder groups about the possible establishment of such a forum.

Marian Price

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety given that Marian Price has been moved from Hydebank Wood Prison to hospital, whether an assessment has been made of any comparisons between her current medical condition and the medical condition she was suffering from prior to her release in 1980.

(AQW 13242/11-15)

Mr Poots: Ms Price was transferred from HMP Hydebank Wood to a hospital on 22 June. It is not the policy of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to disclose any information on a patient's past or present condition without the patient's consent.

Ambulance and Emergency Day Crew Staff in the Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the ambulance and emergency day crew staff in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area received (i) two meal breaks; and (ii) one meal break in each shift, in the last six months, broken down by ambulance service station.

(AQW 13263/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Classification Under Agenda for Change

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many staff are still awaiting classification, under Agenda for Change, broken down by the year their employment commenced; and (ii) when all classifications will be completed.

(AQW 13310/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) There are 1,702 (of the 65,000 staff) that are subject to the Agenda for Change arrangement that have yet to receive an Agenda for Change grading. These staff are employed in one of the 257 job descriptions that require full job evaluation. Where Agenda for Change applies, all other staff have been job graded. Details of the year in which any member of HSC staff commenced employment is not held centrally by my Department and could only be obtained from individual HSC employers at a disproportionate cost.
- (ii) HSC employers are carrying out the Agenda for Change evaluation process in partnership with Trade Union representatives and are at varying stages in this process. There is no deadline for the completion of this job evaluation exercise.

Umbilical Cord Blood Donation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) how maternity units inform expectant mothers that blood from the umbilical cord may be donated; and (ii) what policies are in place to promote umbilical cord blood donation.

(AQW 13311/11-15)

Mr Poots: Cord Blood donation is licensed by the Human Tissue Authority. Umbilical cord blood donations for public cord banking are only collected at the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital or at the Mater Hospital.

The matter of public cord blood donation is discussed at the antenatal stage in the Belfast Trust. In the case of directed donations, the consultant of the relative who may benefit from being treated with the cord blood and the obstetric team will discuss the donation.

Beds in Accident and Emergency Departments Used by Patients as a Result of Alcohol Abuse

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his Department's assessment of the percentage of beds in Accident and Emergency Departments that are used by patients as a result of alcohol abuse.

(AQW 13334/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not available.

Occupational Therapists in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust Area

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many occupational therapists are employed in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area; and (ii) what is the average waiting time to be seen by an occupational therapist.

(AQW 13335/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) As at 31st March 2012, there were 174¹ (152.78 Whole-time equivalent) occupational therapists employed within the Southern HSC Trust.

¹ Source: Human Resource Management System

- (ii) Table 1 below details the number of people waiting from referral to treatment by an occupational therapist, by aggregate time band, in the Southern HSC Trust at 18th June 2012.

TABLE 1

	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Occupational Therapy (by weeks waiting) ²					Total
	0 to 3	>3 to 6	>6 to 9	>9 to 13	>13	
Number of people waiting	371	259	175	138	157	1,100

² 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 Southern HSC Trust was ">3 to 6" weeks.

Newry Occupational Health Department

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Newry Occupational Health department, which has been temporarily relocated to hospitals in Armagh and Craigavon due to staff shortages, will be returned to Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry.

(AQW 13336/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that the Southern Trust Occupational Health (OH) Service normally operates from three locations; Daisy Hill, St Luke's and Craigavon Area hospitals.

After working closely with staff and trade unions at Daisy Hill Hospital, it was agreed that the OH Department would temporarily relocate for a period of nine months beginning at the end of April 2012. This relocation was deemed necessary due to difficulty in recruiting specialist OH staff to provide full time maternity leave cover.

A limited OH service is still offered at Daisy Hill and arrangements are in place to provide urgent OH attention if required.

Foyle Search and Rescue: Funding

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the funding his Department currently provides to Foyle Search and Rescue; and (ii) what additional funding he can provide to cover the estimated running costs of £90,000 per annum.

(AQW 13350/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department does not provide funding for the Foyle Search and Rescue.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre at the Antrim Area Hospital

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for an update on the planned development of a sexual assault referral centre at the Antrim Area Hospital; and (ii) the timescale for its completion.

(AQW 13377/11-15)

Mr Poots: A key initiative in the effort to raise the standards of care for all victims of sexual violence in Northern Ireland is the establishment of a regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) which is being built within the grounds of Antrim Area Hospital and will be managed by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT).

The building work is due to be completed by December 2012 and the SARC is expected to open in February 2013.

Department of Justice

Temporary Release of Martin Corey

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether he was approached by the Minister of Education, or any other MLA or Sinn Fein representative, requesting the release of Martin Corey for his brother's funeral; (ii) if so, on what dates; (iii) why he allowed the temporary release of Mr Corey; and (iv) what assurances were given that he would be accompanied throughout the service before being returned to HMP Maghaberry.

(AQW 12407/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): An MLA contacted me on Tuesday 22 May 2012 and the Minister of Education contacted me on Wednesday 23 May 2012 to state their support for Martin Corey's application for compassionate temporary release to attend his brother's funeral.

I took the decision to grant Mr. Corey compassionate temporary release after considering the particular individual circumstances of the case including the humanitarian aspects.

I sought and received assurances from the Minister of Education that he would collect Mr. Corey from HMP Maghaberry, accompany him to and throughout the funeral mass, and return him to the prison immediately after the conclusion of the service.

In addition, assurances were sought and received from Mr. Corey who agreed to remain in the company of the Minister of Education at all times, restrict contact to members of the immediate family circle and return to prison immediately after the conclusion of the funeral mass.

Cases of Death in Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12016/11-15, in relation to the two members of Prison Service staff involved in the investigation or disciplinary process following the death in custody of John Deery, for his assessment of whether this was (i) appropriate; and (ii) met the criteria of best practice and Labour Relations Agency guidelines.

(AQW 12906/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am content that it was appropriate for both members of staff to have been involved in the investigation or disciplinary process following the death of Mr Deery. They were carrying out their duties in accordance with the current Code of Conduct and Discipline, the content of which was agreed with relevant staff associations.

Charge of Knowingly Engaging the Services of a Prostitute

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he will amend legislation to upgrade the charge of knowingly engaging the services of a prostitute who has been coerced from a summary offence, to ensure more severe penalties on conviction and the removal of the current statutory time barring.

(AQW 12907/11-15)

Mr Ford: The current summary offence of paying for the services of a prostitute subjected to force is a strict liability offence, as it is in England and Wales. This means that the question of whether or not the individual knew that the prostitute was being subjected to force is irrelevant to that particular offence.

If a person knowingly paid for sex with a person who was not freely consenting, the charge would be for a non-consensual offence such as rape, which is indictable.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether the Criminal Justice Inspectorate regulates the Central Investigation Service, attached to the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development, and, if not, to outline the reasons why.

(AQW 12912/11-15)

Mr Ford: Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) does not regulate the Central Investigation Service, attached to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. CJINI is not a regulatory body. The list of organisations which CJINI has a statutory mandate to inspect can be found at Section 46 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002.

Owen Roe and James McDermott

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why a supervising officer, rather than a designated risk manager, was assigned to Owen Roe and James McDermott, given that they were subject to Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and were both regarded as a potential risk.

(AQW 12984/11-15)

Mr Ford: In this case, the court made a supervision and treatment order which requires the person in respect of whom it is made to be under the supervision of a social worker or probation officer for a period specified in the order. A social worker employed by the Western Health and Social Care Trust was nominated by the court to fulfil that role.

A sexual offences prevention order does not require the appointment of a designated risk manager. The police were, however, responsible for the enforcement of the conditions in the order and worked alongside the nominated social worker to manage risk.

Case of Prison Officer Zoe Crowe

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he will order an investigation into the Northern Ireland Prison Service's handling of the case of prison officer Zoe Crowe, including who was responsible for the action taken against her; and whether he has any plans to instigate disciplinary proceedings against those involved.

(AQW 13005/11-15)

Mr Ford: It would be inappropriate to comment on this individual case as it is the subject of a complaint to the Office of Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal (Northern Ireland).

Thomas Ward

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in light of his statement that the relevant agencies involved with Thomas Ward have examined the matter and do not believe that there are sufficient issues in the Public Protection Arrangements process which need to be addressed through the serious case review procedure, (i) why this stance has now been changed and reviews undertaken; (ii) whether he ordered the reviews; and (iii) whether the reviews will constitute a serious case review.

(AQW 13008/11-15)

Mr Ford: Despite the fact that the case does not fall within the current guidelines for a serious case review as defined in the current PPANI guidance, the PPANI Strategic Management Board, representing the relevant agencies, decided to undertake a review of this case.

I have asked to see the conclusions of the review.

Security Industry Authority (SIA) Licence

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether a Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence is required by a firm that has been hired to clamp vehicles on private property; and whether the SIA licence number should be displayed on the signage prohibiting parking on the private property.

(AQW 13011/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are two types of SIA licence currently used for vehicle immobilisation (wheel clamping) on private land in Northern Ireland.

- 1 A **front line** licence is required by individuals if they undertake wheel clamping.
- 2 A non-front line licence is required for those who manage, supervise and/or employ individuals who engage in this activity.

There is no requirement for an SIA licence number to be displayed on signage however, if an individual collects a release fee, they must provide a receipt which includes their unique licence number.

Prison Officers: Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice why prison officers included in Tranche One of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme had their requests to continue their employment refused, whilst those in Tranches Two and Three were permitted to withdraw from the scheme and remain in the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

(AQW 13012/11-15)

Mr Ford: There were no requests to withdraw from the scheme from staff in tranche one. However, there was a small number of verbal requests to defer dates of leaving, but this was not possible as staff were released on a least cost basis.

When staff are selected and given a leaving date, the terms of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme become binding and cannot be revoked.

As the Northern Ireland Prison Service was unable to provide staff who received letters two and three with a leaving date, they were not legally bound to leave and were given the option to withdraw from the Scheme. A decision to withdraw from the Scheme is final and staff cannot reverse this decision or reapply to this Scheme at a later date.

Roe House: Prison Population

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12384/11-15, whether an extension of the built facilities is being considered as a means of addressing the growth of prisoner numbers.

(AQW 13013/11-15)

Mr Ford: As part of the ongoing NIPS Estate Strategy a new 120 bed residential unit and a 20 bed special protection unit are due to open in Maghaberry Prison at the end of August 2012. These new

facilities will provide sufficient, modern accommodation for the general population and will be called Quoile and Shimna Houses.

The Estate Strategy also identifies plans to bring forward proposals for a further 240 bed residential block to be built at Maghaberry by 2012.

Case of Brian Brendan Lynch at Londonderry Magistrates' Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the case of Brian Brendan Lynch at Londonderry Magistrates' Court, (i) the dates on which the offences were allegedly committed; (ii) the date of the first appearance at the Magistrates' Court; (iii) how many times the case has been listed at court and for what reasons; and (iv) the total cost of this case to date, including the cost of legal aid. **(AQW 13022/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Brian Brendan Lynch first appeared in court on 22 September 2011 charged with a range of offences which were allegedly committed on 13 August 2011. His case has been listed at court on 24 occasions, the reasons for listing are predominantly for case management and the variation of bail.

The estimated cost of the case to date is outlined in the table below:

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
PPS Prosecution ¹	N/A
Defence (Legal Aid Costs) ²	N/A
Police ³	£0
Court Costs - Judiciary and Staff Costs, Jury and Facilities	£1,133
Total	£1,133

- 1 It is not possible to provide details of internal costs for individual PPS cases. There are no external costs as yet.
- 2 As the case is on-going no legal aid fees have as yet been paid.
- 3 No additional costs have been incurred by PSNI. All court appearances attended by PSNI have been part of the Investigating Officers regular duties.

Relocation of DARD Headquarters

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice what discussions he has had with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in relation to the relocation of DARD headquarters from Dundonald House, given that 174 of his departmental staff are based in the building.

(AQW 13043/11-15)

Mr Ford: My officials keep in contact with their DARD colleagues about their plans. At this time, there are no plans to relocate Prison Service staff from Dundonald House.

Prisoner's Request for Compassionate Leave

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the occasions when he has intervened in, or over-ruled, a decision to refuse a prisoner's request for compassionate leave.

(AQW 13067/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have intervened in one case relating to a prisoner's request for compassionate leave and refer the member to the details set out in my answer to AQW 12473/11-15.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline, on how many occasions has accepted practice, rather than procedural or standard practice been used (i) as a defence against disciplinary charges by staff who were under investigation; and (ii) by investigating governors in disciplinary procedures; and for his assessment of whether policies and procedures need to be amended.

(AQW 13068/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

I would however, refer the member to the replies I provided to AQWs 12222/11-15 and 12364/11-15 when the member was advised that the Northern Ireland Prison Service is currently developing a new Professional Code of Conduct to replace the current COCD; and that staff involved in the application of the current Code of Conduct and Discipline (COCD), do so in accordance with agreed guidelines.

Recruiting Independent Members to the Policing and Safety Partnerships

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how the cost of recruiting independent members to the Policing and Safety Partnerships compares to the cost of recruiting such members to the previous District Policing Partnerships.

(AQW 13071/11-15)

Mr Ford: The process of appointing independent members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs) is a restricted function of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. However I understand that, based on figures relating to the initial recruitment round, costs have been significantly reduced.

The Policing Board has advised that the cost stands at approximately £226,000; this does not include the cost of the further recruitment process, which is not yet complete. The cost of the last recruitment round for District Policing Partnerships, which took place in 2007/08, was approximately £510,000.

Location and Timing of Speed Detection Cameras

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice whether he has held any discussions with the Chief Constable regarding the current criteria that is used, and any potential changes to the criteria, for the location and timing of speed detection cameras.

(AQW 13074/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have not had any discussions with the Chief Constable on this matter. Enforcement of speed limits is an operational matter for the Chief Constable while lead responsibility for road safety policy rests with the Minister for the Environment.

Damage Caused by Prisoners Detained in Maghaberry Prison and Magilligan Prison

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice for an estimate of the total cost to the public purse of damage caused by deliberate actions on the part of prisoners detained in (i) Maghaberry Prison; and (ii) Magilligan Prison, over the last ten years.

(AQW 13077/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained/compiled at disproportionate cost.

Revenue Raised Through the Offenders Levy

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how the revenue which is raised through the Offenders Levy will be allocated.

(AQW 13084/11-15)

Mr Ford: Revenue collected from the Offender Levy will be used solely to resource a dedicated Victims of Crime Fund. The Fund will pay for projects which support victims and witnesses in the justice process, as well as for local initiatives taken forward by groups working with victims in the community.

It is expected that up to £500,000 per annum will be generated from the Levy once it has been rolled out in full across all relevant sentences and penalties.

However, during this first phase of the Levy's introduction, it is expected that up to £250,000 will be accrued annually.

Revenue Raised Through the Offenders Levy

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how much revenue he anticipates will be raised through the Offenders Levy.

(AQW 13085/11-15)

Mr Ford: Revenue collected from the Offender Levy will be used solely to resource a dedicated Victims of Crime Fund. The Fund will pay for projects which support victims and witnesses in the justice process, as well as for local initiatives taken forward by groups working with victims in the community.

It is expected that up to £500,000 per annum will be generated from the Levy once it has been rolled out in full across all relevant sentences and penalties.

However, during this first phase of the Levy's introduction, it is expected that up to £250,000 will be accrued annually.

Serious Case Reviews

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12823/11-15, on what dates did each agency commence its review into the handling of the case of Thomas Ward; and if, and when, these reviews will be published.

(AQW 13110/11-15)

Mr Ford: The reviews were commenced in June 2012.

The reviews will be presented to the September meeting of the PPANI Strategic Management Board (SMB) and decisions on publication will be taken then, with due regard to data protection and other sensitivities.

Drugs Culture within Prisons

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans to instigate additional measures to address the drugs culture within prisons, both in relation to illegal drugs and the misuse of prescription drugs.

(AQW 13112/11-15)

Mr Ford: I can confirm that Prison Service officials are in the process of initiating a review of the effectiveness of the range of measures currently in place to minimise the availability and use of illegal drugs in our prisons. In addition, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Prison Service are committed to addressing recent concerns in relation to 'in possession' medication, in particular to consider 'supervised swallow' arrangements for certain categories of drugs.

Historical Inquest into the 1990 Deaths of Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total cost of the historical inquest into the 1990 deaths of Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey.

(AQW 13143/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total costs associated with the Coroner's investigation into the deaths of Desmond Grew and Martin McCaughey would require a manual trawl of records which would incur disproportionate cost.

However estimated costs from September 2009 are set out in the table below.

Cost Type	Amount (£)
Preliminary & Inquest Hearing Costs	455,994
Other Costs	193,514
Total Current Estimated Costs	649,508

The preliminary and inquest hearing costs include:

- estimated legal costs incurred by the Coroner;
- estimated payments for legal aid under the Statutory Exceptional Grant Power;
- judicial, staff, IT and accommodation costs;
- estimated witness expenses; and
- estimated jury costs.

The other costs relate to legal challenges and satellite litigation which span a considerable timeframe and to identify all costs would require an extensive manual exercise. The estimates provided include:

- legal costs incurred by the Coroner between March 2009 and April 2012 and paid to date;
- estimated costs awarded against the Coroner in respect of a recent Supreme Court action; and
- interim civil legal aid payments in respect of the legal challenges however no bills have yet been received and will be subject to assessment when submitted.

There are currently 34 inquests relating to 51 deaths classified as 'legacy' or historical inquests (a list is attached at Annex A).

There is no statutory right of appeal in Coroners' cases.

Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights imposes a procedural obligation to carry out an effective investigation into the circumstances of any death which involves state agents. In its submission to the Council of Ministers, the UK Government stated that in the absence of a criminal investigation or public inquiry, the Coroner's inquest will play a central role in ensuring there is an Article 2 compliant investigation in relation to the historical inquest cases.

It is not possible to estimate the total cost of each inquest as this will depend on the individual circumstances of each case and factors such as:

- the legacy caseload;
- the volume of documentary evidence and number of witnesses;
- the duration of preparatory work and inquest hearings; and
- the nature and complexity of any satellite litigation.

My Department is currently reviewing the resource requirement for historical inquests. The costs of historical inquests are currently being met from the NI Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) budget, part of my total Departmental budget.

ANNEX A
LIST OF LEGACY CASES AT JUNE 2012

	Name of Deceased	Date of Death
1	Bernard Watt	06/02/71
2	Edward John Doherty	10/08/71
3	Father Hugh Mullan & Francis Joseph Quinn	09/08/71
4	John James McKerr	20/08/71
5	Joseph Corr & John Laverty	27/08/71 11/08/71
6	Joan Connolly, Noel Phillips, Daniel Teggart & Joseph Murphy	09/08/71 10/08/71 09/08/71 22/08/71
7	Francis Rowntree	20/04/72
8	Manus Deery	19/05/72
9	John Quinn, Allan McCloy, Paul Hamilton	27/10/82
10	Michael Tighe	24/11/82
11	Gervaise McKerr, Eugene Toman, John Frederick Burns	11/11/82
12	Peter James Martin Grew, Roderick Carroll	12/12/82
13	Daniel Eugene Doherty & William Fleming	06/12/84
14	Francis Bradley	18/02/86
15	Gerard Slane	23/09/88
16	Gerard Casey	04/04/89
17	Samuel James Marshall	07/03/90
18	Michael James Ryan, Anthony Patrick Doris, Laurence McNally	03/06/91
19	Patrick Daniel Vincent, Sean O'Farrell, Peter Paul Clancy, Kevin Barry McDonnell	16/02/92
20	John McKearney & Kevin McKearney	04/04/92 03/01/92
21	Patrick Pearse Jordan	25/11/92
22	Liam Paul Thompson	27/04/94
23	Roseanne Mallon	08/05/94
24	James Carlisle McDonnell	30/03/96
25	Sean Patrick Brown	12/05/97
26	Raymond McCord	09/11/97
27	Seamus Dillon	28/12/97
28	Patrick Joseph James Ward	18/10/99
29	Richard Jameson	10/01/00

	Name of Deceased	Date of Death
30	Daniel Stephen Osvaldo McColgan	12/01/02
31	Gerard Lawlor	22/07/02
32	Neil John McConville	29/04/03
33	Kevin Anthony McAlorum	03/06/04
34	Gareth Paul O'Connor	11/06/05

Historical Inquests

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice to list the potential historical inquests that his Department, or the Coroner, have identified; and for an estimate of the total cost of hearing each inquest.

(AQW 13146/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total costs associated with the Coroner's investigation into the deaths of Desmond Grew and Martin McCaughey would require a manual trawl of records which would incur disproportionate cost.

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- the legacy caseload;
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Annex A

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33	Kevin Anthony McAlorum	03/06/04
34	Gareth Paul O'Connor	11/06/05

Historical Inquest into the Deaths of Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice, given the reported families' rejection of the verdict of the historical inquest into the deaths of Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey, for his assessment of the decision to hold more historical inquests.

(AQW 13147/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total costs associated with the Coroner's investigation into the deaths of Desmond Grew and Martin McCaughey would require a manual trawl of records which would incur disproportionate cost.

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It is not possible to estimate the total cost of each inquest as this will depend on the individual circumstances of each case and factors such as:

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Historical Inquests

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice what further judicial steps will be open to families of the deceased, should they not be satisfied with the outcome of an historical inquest.

(AQW 13148/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total costs associated with the Coroner's investigation into the deaths of Desmond Grew and Martin McCaughey would require a manual trawl of records which would incur disproportionate cost.

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17	Samuel James Marshall	07/03/90
18	Michael James Ryan, Anthony Patrick Doris, Laurence McNally	03/06/91
19	Patrick Daniel Vincent, Sean O'Farrell, Peter Paul Clancy, Kevin Barry McDonnell	16/02/92
20	John McKearney & Kevin McKearney	04/04/92 03/01/92
21	Patrick Pearse Jordan	25/11/92
22	Liam Paul Thompson	27/04/94
23	Roseanne Mallon	08/05/94
24	James Carlisle McDonnell	30/03/96
25	Sean Patrick Brown	12/05/97
26	Raymond McCord	09/11/97
27	Seamus Dillon	28/12/97
28	Patrick Joseph James Ward	18/10/99
29	Richard Jameson	10/01/00
30	Daniel Stephen Osvaldo McColgan	12/01/02
31	Gerard Lawlor	22/07/02
32	Neil John McConville	29/04/03

	Name of Deceased	Date of Death
33	Kevin Anthony McAlorum	03/06/04
34	Gareth Paul O'Connor	11/06/05

Historical Inquests

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice how the cost of the historical inquests will be met, and from which budget this funding will be provided.

(AQW 13149/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total costs associated with the Coroner's investigation into the deaths of Desmond Grew and Martin McCaughey would require a manual trawl of records which would incur disproportionate cost.

However estimated costs from September 2009 are set out in the table below.

Cost Type	Amount (£)
Preliminary & Inquest Hearing Costs	455,994
Other Costs	193,514
Total Current Estimated Costs	649,508

The preliminary and inquest hearing costs include:

- estimated legal costs incurred by the Coroner;
- estimated payments for legal aid under the Statutory Exceptional Grant Power;
- judicial, staff, IT and accommodation costs;
- estimated witness expenses; and
- estimated jury costs.

The other costs relate to legal challenges and satellite litigation which span a considerable timeframe and to identify all costs would require an extensive manual exercise. The estimates provided include:

- legal costs incurred by the Coroner between March 2009 and April 2012 and paid to date;
- estimated costs awarded against the Coroner in respect of a recent Supreme Court action; and
- interim civil legal aid payments in respect of the legal challenges however no bills have yet been received and will be subject to assessment when submitted.

There are currently 34 inquests relating to 51 deaths classified as 'legacy' or historical inquests (a list is attached at Annex A).

There is no statutory right of appeal in Coroners' cases.

Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights imposes a procedural obligation to carry out an effective investigation into the circumstances of any death which involves state agents. In its submission to the Council of Ministers, the UK Government stated that in the absence of a criminal investigation or public inquiry, the Coroner's inquest will play a central role in ensuring there is an Article 2 compliant investigation in relation to the historical inquest cases.

It is not possible to estimate the total cost of each inquest as this will depend on the individual circumstances of each case and factors such as:

- the legacy caseload;
- the volume of documentary evidence and number of witnesses;
- the duration of preparatory work and inquest hearings; and

- the nature and complexity of any satellite litigation.

My Department is currently reviewing the resource requirement for historical inquests. The costs of historical inquests are currently being met from the NI Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) budget, part of my total Departmental budget.

ANNEX A
LIST OF LEGACY CASES AT JUNE 2012

	Name of Deceased	Date of Death
1	Bernard Watt	06/02/71
2	Edward John Doherty	10/08/71
3	Father Hugh Mullan & Francis Joseph Quinn	09/08/71
4	John James McKerr	20/08/71
5	Joseph Corr & John Laverty	27/08/71 11/08/71
6	Joan Connolly, Noel Phillips, Daniel Teggart & Joseph Murphy	09/08/71 10/08/71 09/08/71 22/08/71
7	Francis Rowntree	20/04/72
8	Manus Deery	19/05/72
9	John Quinn, Allan McCloy, Paul Hamilton	27/10/82
10	Michael Tighe	24/11/82
11	Gervaise McKerr, Eugene Toman, John Frederick Burns	11/11/82
12	Peter James Martin Grew, Roderick Carroll	12/12/82
13	Daniel Eugene Doherty & William Fleming	06/12/84
14	Francis Bradley	18/02/86
15	Gerard Slane	23/09/88
16	Gerard Casey	04/04/89
17	Samuel James Marshall	07/03/90
18	Michael James Ryan, Anthony Patrick Doris, Laurence McNally	03/06/91
19	Patrick Daniel Vincent, Sean O'Farrell, Peter Paul Clancy, Kevin Barry McDonnell	16/02/92
20	John McKearney & Kevin McKearney	04/04/92 03/01/92
21	Patrick Pearse Jordan	25/11/92
22	Liam Paul Thompson	27/04/94
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24	James Carlisle McDonnell	30/03/96
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29	Richard Jameson	10/01/00
30	Daniel Stephen Osvaldo McColgan	12/01/02
31	Gerard Lawlor	22/07/02
32	Neil John McConville	29/04/03
33	Kevin Anthony McAlorum	03/06/04
34	Gareth Paul O'Connor	11/06/05

Improper Use of a Telecoms Network

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the improper use of a telecoms network to make nuisance, obscene or harassing phone calls or texts is a criminal offence; and what is the current penalty. **(AQW 13188/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 it is an offence to send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. The maximum penalty on summary conviction of this offence is six months' imprisonment and / or a Level 5 fine (currently £5,000).

Crimes Connected with Human Trafficking

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department intends to take to combat crimes connected with human trafficking. **(AQW 13197/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Amendments to the legislation on human trafficking, in relation to both sexual and labour exploitation, are included in the Criminal Justice Bill which I introduced in the Assembly on 25 June. These will ensure that Northern Ireland complies with the criminal aspects of the EU Directive on trafficking in human beings.

The first amendment will create an offence where a person has been trafficked outside the United Kingdom for sexual exploitation. The second will allow for the prosecution of a person who has trafficked someone anywhere outside the United Kingdom for labour or other exploitation. These amendments mean that an offence is committed where a United Kingdom resident (who has not previously been trafficked into the United Kingdom) is trafficked within the United Kingdom e.g. from London to Belfast, and will provide for the prosecution of a United Kingdom national who has trafficked someone anywhere outside the United Kingdom e.g. if a United Kingdom national trafficked a person from Mexico to Brazil. These offences will complement the legislation already in place to deal with human trafficking, with associated penalties of up to 14 years imprisonment.

I can also confirm that I intend adding trafficking for non-sexual exploitation to the schedule of offences referable to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of unduly lenient sentence.

In addition, I am also considering suggestions for further legislative change arising from the recent consultation on the EU Directive and from Lord Morrow's Private Members Bill.

In relation to prostitution, which can be a consequence of human trafficking, there is a strict liability offence of using the services of paying for sex with someone who has been forced into prostitution, with a penalty of up to £1000 fine.

The Public Prosecution Service is currently consulting on a draft policy on prosecuting cases of human trafficking. The Policy explains the role of the PPS and the way in which it deals with cases involving human trafficking and the wide range of other crimes associated with it.

It provides guidance about how decisions relating to prosecutions are taken and also outlines the services available to victims and witnesses of trafficking. The consultation was launched on Friday 8 June 2012 and ends on 3 September 2012.

Hoax Calls to the Emergency Services

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the figures showing that 26,000 hoax calls cost the emergency services £3.16m a year for the past three years, how many people have been (i) prosecuted; and (ii) convicted of making hoax calls in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13215/11-15)

Mr Ford: I understand that the figures quoted included hoax and possible hoax calls. There is no specific offence of making hoax calls, however related offences may be prosecuted under a range of statutes including Article 3(2) of the Criminal Law (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977, Article 20 of the Fire Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1984, Article 9(1) of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and Article 23(1) of the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

[It is important when a criminal offence may have been committed that any information is passed to police so the matter can be investigated.]

The table below gives the number of prosecutions and convictions for hoax call related offences for the calendar year 2006 and the number of convictions for the calendar years 2007 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available). It is not possible to provide prosecution data for 2007 and 2008.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED FOR HOAX CALL RELATED OFFENCES 2006 TO 2008

Year	Prosecutions	Convictions
2006	7	5
2007	Not available	3
2008	Not available	5

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Data for 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Separated Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why prisoners, who refuse to sign the required compact, are permitted to enter, and be housed in, separate conditions.

(AQW 13233/11-15)

Mr Ford: All those prisoners held in separated conditions are expected to conform to the compact whether they have signed it or not. The Governor has determined that all those prisoners who meet the criteria and apply for separated conditions will be housed as such. This is for reasons of safety, control and discipline.

Education Services at HMP Magilligan

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether the education services at HMP Magilligan were classed as outstanding by the Inspector of Prisons.

(AQW 13275/11-15)

Mr Ford: Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) carried out an announced inspection of Magilligan prison in March 2010 and reported on the education services as follows:

Chapter 6, Activities, page 40, paragraph 6.3 stated that:

“The quality of education, skills and work was satisfactory. There were positive working relationships between staff and prisoners and staff provided good support and encouragement. The quality of teaching and learning was good or better in most classes and in a few cases was outstanding...”

Chapter 6, Activities, page 40, paragraph 6.8 stated:

“There were good or excellent standards of work in the production workshops for furniture making, and metal fabrication and the printing workshops. The teaching, training and learning in the furniture making and metal fabrication workshops was particularly good...”

The report also highlighted some areas for improvement in Learning and Skills and work activities which are contained in the Recommendations, Page 42, paragraphs 6.18 to 6.23.

This published report is available to view or download from the CJINI Website at www.cjini.org

Provisions of the Aarhus Convention

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice what steps he has taken to implement the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, which deals with access to justice.

(AQW 13282/11-15)

Mr Ford: In respect of those aspects of the Aarhus Convention for which my Department is responsible, a number of steps are being taken. Firstly, my Department consulted on outline proposals for court rules for costs in environmental judicial reviews under the Convention. The responses to this consultation exercise are presently being considered. Secondly, we are reviewing the allocation of costs in judicial reviews within the scope of the Convention. This will be done as part of the programme of work (set out in my Department's Action Plan) being taken forward in response to the Access to Justice Review Report.

Gerry McGeough's High Court Legal Action

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for an estimate of the total legal aid costs of Gerry McGeough's High Court legal action to challenge the ruling of the Judicial Review of the refusal to grant him a Royal Prerogative of Mercy, including his solicitor fees, QC fees and subsistence and travel expenses.

(AQW 13285/11-15)

Mr Ford: Total interim legal aid costs of £2,410 plus VAT of £300 have been paid in respect of Gerry McGeough's High Court legal action to challenge the ruling of the Judicial Review of the refusal to grant him a Royal Prerogative of Mercy. Legal aid paid to date is as follows:

- solicitor profit costs of £1,500 plus VAT of £300; and
- court fees of £910.

No legal aid costs have yet been claimed in respect of counsel.

People Charged with Drug Offences

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to issue guidance on requests from Judges for anonymity for, or to have the press withhold the addresses of, people charged with drug offences, due the fear of attacks on those charged by Republican Action Against Drugs.

(AQW 13294/11-15)

Mr Ford: The decision to issue guidance to members of the Judiciary on any topic is a matter for the Lord Chief Justice and not something upon which I can comment.

Report into the Closure of the Prisoner Assessment Unit

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 11378/11-15, why his instruction on this matter has not been acted upon by the Northern Ireland Prison Service; and whether he plans to order an investigation or disciplinary proceedings over the non-compliance.

(AQW 13452/11-15)

Mr Ford: NIPS Headquarters had to decant from Dundonald House on early morning Thursday, 28 June, following severe flooding. Staff working on the publication of the report were diverted to manage document recovery and retention following the decant. Additionally, NIPS website was also affected.

I am satisfied that staff dealt correctly with priorities following the flood and any suggestion of an investigation or disciplinary proceedings would be completely inappropriate.

Roe House: Prison Population

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 13013/11-15, whether Quoile House or Shimna House will be used, at any time, to house separated prisoners, should further pressure be put on population accommodation in separated facilities.

(AQW 13552/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are currently no plans to use Shimna House or Quoile House to accommodate separated prisoners.

Department for Regional Development

Departmental Signage and Street Lighting

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister for Regional Development what percentage of departmental signage and street lighting is powered by on-site green energy generators.

(AQW 13050/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not hold or record the information you are seeking in the format requested. However, I can confirm that no street lighting is powered by on-site green energy generators.

Officials have further advised that in recent years, Roads Service has provided improved electronic signage in the vicinity of many schools, as well as vehicle-activated signs at key locations across the road network that are suitable for stand-alone green energy generators. I can advise the Member that 55% of such signs are presently powered by green energy.

Volume of Traffic at Glenmachan Street, South Belfast

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the volume of traffic at Glenmachan Street, south Belfast.

(AQW 13063/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service collects data from approximately 300 automatic traffic counting sites located throughout the Northern Ireland road network. Unfortunately, none of these counters are located in Glenmachan Street, Belfast. However, details of the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) traffic flow on Boucher Road, collected from a permanent counter, recorded from 1 January to 26 October 2011 are provided in the table below:

Census point No.	Location	AADT (7 Day)	AADT (5 Day)
369	Boucher Road, at Balmoral Avenue (All Directions)	25,065	22,698
369	Boucher Road, at Balmoral Avenue (to Broadway)	12,224	11,066

Single Lane from Glenmachan Street to the Tates Avenue and Boucher Road Mini-Roundabout

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Regional Development, given the volume of traffic, for his assessment of the adequacy of the single lane from Glenmachan Street to the Tates Avenue and Boucher Road mini-roundabout.

(AQW 13064/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that Glenmachan Street is currently wide enough to accommodate three traffic lanes, the layout of which has been optimised to maximise traffic capacity. As the main constraints on traffic flow along Glenmachan Street occur at the junctions at either end, namely with Tate's Avenue/Boucher Road and at Broadway/Donagall Road, this optimisation has been achieved by designating two of the three available lanes for traffic approaching these junctions. This means that a single lane of traffic in each direction develops into two lanes prior to both junctions. Officials in Roads Service consider this to be the most efficient arrangement available within a very confined site.

Roads Service currently has no plans to further increase the traffic capacity of Glenmachan Street. However, Roads Service will continue to monitor traffic flows across Belfast and adjust traffic signal timings, as appropriate.

Traffic Flow from Glenmachan Street to the Westlink in South Belfast

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Regional Development what priorities he attaches to supporting the traffic flow from Glenmachan Street to the Westlink in south Belfast.

(AQW 13065/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service advises that the intersection of Broadway / Westlink / M1 / Glenmachan Street / Donegall Road junction is extremely complex in its operation.

The intersection comprises 5 junctions that are controlled by traffic signals. The traffic signals operate under an advanced adaptive form of control called SCOOT (Split, Cycle, Offset Optimisation Technique). This allows the green time at the Glenmachan Street Junction, and the relative green start times between all the junctions, to be automatically determined and amended in real-time to suit the prevailing traffic conditions and also to fulfil the objective of minimising queues on each approach.

The green times on all of the approaches to the intersection are constrained by the overall capacity of the central gyratory.

Traffic Control Operators in the Roads Service Traffic Information and Control Centre (TICC) also monitor the area using real-time CCTV and have the facility to override the SCOOT system, in response to significantly abnormal traffic flows, and ensure the continued efficiency of the junction without comprising road safety.

Glenmachan Street Junction at the Broadway Roundabout

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to improve the Glenmachan Street junction at the Broadway Roundabout, given the traffic congestion at the junction.
(AQW 13066/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 13064/11-15.

Residents Parking Schemes

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on residents parking schemes; and what criteria are used when considering new applications for these schemes.
(AQW 13082/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the proposed Residents' Parking Schemes will be the first for Northern Ireland, and as such, it is important that all the issues relating to the operation and enforcement of such schemes are fully addressed and accurately included in the legislation before moving to implementation.

While the underlying aim for each scheme is the same, with parking being controlled for the benefit of residents, there will be slight differences in the operation of each scheme to reflect local needs and consequently each scheme will need to be legislated for differently.

Schemes are intended to resolve parking difficulties in residential areas where parking generated by nearby businesses, sports facilities, hospitals, schools, universities, theatres, shopping areas, etc. penetrates the residential streets and prevents residents from parking in reasonably close proximity to their homes. Parking surveys are used to gauge the extent of the parking difficulties and the extent to which this is caused by non-resident vehicles. Residents also have to be in favour of a scheme and, based on a minimum return rate of one-third of all households to a scheme questionnaire, two-thirds of households must be in favour.

Finally, schemes will only be taken forward to implementation stage when sufficient funding is available.

Since residents' parking was first proposed by Roads Service, there have been a number of technological advancements, for example, the potential for the automation of permits and their enforcement, which will have an impact on how the schemes will operate and Roads Service is currently assessing the legislative requirements for these aspects.

Roads Service will continue to progress the Residents' Parking Schemes and the associated legislation required as quickly as possible, and envisages that schemes will be delivered mid-late 2013.

Roads Service: Requests for Repair Works

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Regional Development how many requests for repair works Roads Service carried out in (i) North Belfast; (ii) South Belfast; (iii) West Belfast; and (iv) East Belfast, in each of the past three years.
(AQW 13136/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not record the number of requests for repair works by constituency area. However, I can confirm that the number of defects identified for repair in the Belfast North, Belfast South and Lisburn Section Office areas, which encompass the Belfast area, are as follows:

NUMBER OF DEFECTS REPAIRED BY SECTION OFFICE 2009-2012

Section Office	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast North	22,105	25,820	24,767
Belfast South	16,977	12,310	13,471
Lisburn	16,676	16,286	15,605

Roads Service: Requests for Repair Works

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Regional Development how many requests for repair works Roads Service received for (i) North Belfast; (ii) South Belfast; (iii) West Belfast; and (iv) East Belfast, in each of the past three years.

(AQW 13137/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised me that it does not record the number of requests for repairs received separately. However, I can confirm that the number of defects identified for repair in the Belfast North, Belfast South and Lisburn Section Office areas, which encompass the Belfast area, are as follows:

NUMBER OF DEFECTS REPAIRED BY SECTION OFFICE 2009-2012

Section Office	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast North	22,105	25,820	24,767
Belfast South	16,977	12,310	13,471
Lisburn	16,676	16,286	15,605

Officials have indicated that the vast majority of defects are identified through the routine inspection process.

Public Contract Tenders for Construction

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of (i) his Department's elements criteria used to determine public contract tenders for construction; and (ii) whether the criteria, such as turnover thresholds, might prohibit small-to-medium sized local businesses from making applications,

(AQW 13167/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is satisfied that the criteria, including financial, used for assessment purposes, at both the prequalification and tender stages of procurement competitions for construction contracts, are justified and appropriate and do not prohibit small and medium size enterprises from making applications.

Findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department for Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department for Regional Development, what steps have been taken to review appointments to ensure that there was no material bias against the appointment of applicants from a Protestant background.

(AQW 13170/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have noted with concern the Tribunal's decision which relates to an appointment process before I assumed responsibility as Minister.

I want to take some time to examine the implications of the decision with my officials and legal advisers. Any issues for follow up action will be considered after that as appropriate.

Cost of Defending the Fair Employment Tribunal Proceedings in Lennon-v-the Department for Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the cost of defending the Fair Employment Tribunal proceedings in Lennon-v-the Department for Regional Development; and what steps will be taken to recover the costs from the then Minister.

(AQW 13171/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department is continuing to consult with its legal advisors following the Tribunal's decision. As the process has not been concluded it is too early for me to comment further or to provide estimates in relation to the costs associated with this case.

Findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department of Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department of Regional Development, what steps have been taken to ensure that there is no longer a material bias against the appointment of applicants from a Protestant background.

(AQW 13217/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have noted with concern the Tribunal's decision which relates to an appointment process before I assumed responsibility as Minister

I want to take some time to examine the implications of the decision with my officials and legal advisers.

As Minister for the Department for Regional Development, I am very conscious of the responsibilities under the Ministerial Code that "in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, holders of public office should make choices on merit".

Findings by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department of Regional Development

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps are being taken in light of the findings, by the Fair Employment Tribunal in Lennon-v-the Department of Regional Development, of religious discrimination and material bias against the appointment of applicants from a Protestant background.

(AQW 13218/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have noted with concern the Tribunal's decision which relates to an appointment process before I assumed responsibility as Minister.

I want to take some time to examine the implications of the decision with my officials and legal advisers. Any issues for follow up action will be considered after that as appropriate.

Ministerial Appointments

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development in respect of ministerial appointments made (i) by the Minister since coming into office; and (ii) between May 2007 and May 2011, what is the respective success rate of Protestant and Catholic applicants.

(AQW 13219/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Since coming into office I have made 17 ministerial appointments from a total candidate pool of 198. Six of these appointees were Protestant, six were Catholic and the community background of five of the appointees was either not known or neither Protestant or Catholic.

Between May 2007 and May 2011 17 ministerial appointments were made from a total candidate pool of 194. Seven of these appointees were Protestant and ten were Catholic; none of the appointees declared a community background of neither or not known.

The figures are based on first appointments of non-executive board members and board Chairs made during the periods specified. They do not include councillor appointments.

20mph Zones

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of 20mph zones that have been enforced in the each of the last five years; and the average cost of each.

(AQW 13221/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I understand that your Question relates to the number of 20 mph zones implemented in the last five years, rather than enforced. In this regard, I can advise that from 2007/08, my Department's Roads Service has implemented the following number of 20 mph zones:

Year	No. of Zones Implemented
2007/08	2
2008/09	6
2009/10	3
2010/11	14
2011/12	0

The average cost of the implementation of each zone was approximately £1,200.

In addition, my Department has also implemented three pilot part time speed limits at school schemes.

Amount Spent on Traffic Calming Measures

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total amount spent on traffic calming measures in (i) North Belfast; (ii) South Belfast; (iii) West Belfast; and (iv) East Belfast, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13249/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service maintains details of traffic calming measures by council area rather than on a parliamentary constituency basis.

The approximate expenditure on traffic calming measures in the Belfast, Lisburn, Castlereagh and Newtownabbey Council areas, in the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years is provided in the table below:

Year	Traffic Calming Expenditure By Council Area			
	Belfast	Lisburn	Castlereagh	Newtownabbey
2009/10	£177,000	£118,000	£102,000	£41,000
2010/11	£81,000	£61,000	£45,000	£36,000
2011/12	£214,000	£15,000	£23,000	£45,000

SmartPasses

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Smartpasses can be used by passengers travelling on the Aircoach service from Belfast to Dublin Airport.

(AQW 13257/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Aircoach do not participate in the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme (the scheme) and therefore SmartPasses cannot be used to obtain concessionary travel on the Belfast to Dublin Airport route.

Aircoach can make an application to join the scheme at any time.

Fair Employment Tribunal Findings on the Appointment of the Chair of NI Water

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the Fair Employment Tribunal findings on the appointment of the Chair of NI Water, (i) what review of the appointments process will take place to ensure that such discrimination does not occur in future appointments; and (ii) what discussions his Department has had with the Commissioner for Public Appointments in regard to the Tribunal findings.

(AQW 13258/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have noted with concern the Tribunal's decision which relates to an appointment process before I assumed responsibility as Minister.

I want to take some time to examine the implications of the decision with my officials and legal advisers. Any issues for follow up action will be considered after that as appropriate.

60 Plus SmartPasses

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost to Translink of the use of 60 plus SmartPasses on journeys from Belfast Central depot to (i) Ballymena; and (ii) Portrush, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13296/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: There is no cost to Translink. The overriding, legislative principle is that operators should be reimbursed for delivering the public policy by providing concessionary travel, so that they are 'no better and no worse off' than they would have been if the policy did not exist. To try to calculate what the Department reimburses in respect of those two specific routes would only be possible at disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares scheme represents a subsidy to the passenger, not the Passenger Transport Undertaking.

Concessionary Bus and Rail Passes for Pensioners

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average time taken by Translink to process Concessionary Bus and Rail Passes for pensioners; and what steps will be taken to reduce the time taken.

(AQW 13306/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink have informed me that in the past year they have fully processed 97.18% of applications within 5 days of receipt of the application at the Card Bureau service. Remaining applications for SmartPasses may take up to 4 weeks to process due to information contained on the applications forms needing to be verified with the applicant. There are regular meetings between Translink and the card producers where processing times are monitored.

Belfast to Dublin Rail Service

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions have taken place between Translink and Irish Rail to address the issue of some passengers having to stand, whilst travelling on the Belfast to Dublin rail service.

(AQW 13307/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advise that, in conjunction with Iarnród Éireann, they continuously monitor passenger loadings on all Belfast-Dublin services to maintain quality of service. Standing on an Enterprise Service tends to occur when major events are happening in Dublin such as concerts or sports fixtures. On such occasions Translink liaises with Iarnród Éireann to plan for additional special charter trains and/or assist trains. This generally works effectively, ensuring that increased demand is catered for. Nevertheless, there will invariably be occasions when passenger demand does not exactly match capacity offered resulting in some passengers having to stand.

Water Bills

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development how many water bills generated by Northern Ireland Water over the last year are for water supplied (i) between five and nine years ago: (ii) between ten and fourteen years ago: (iii) between fifteen and nineteen years ago: (iv) twenty or more years ago.

(AQW 13312/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the issue of bills (either in terms of refund or recalculated charges) is limited by 'The Limitations (Northern Ireland) Order 1989' to a maximum of 6 years. On this basis, 126 water bills were issued to customers in the past year for water supplied between five and six years ago.

Passing Loop at Castlerock

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the passing loop at Castlerock will be retained as an integral part of the railway relaying project.

(AQW 13324/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advise that the passing loop at Castlerock will remain after the current works in Phase 1 are completed. It is planned to remove it as part of Phase 2 works in 2014/15 as it will no longer be required.

2012 Roadside Grass Cutting in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development when the 2012 roadside grass cutting in North Down is due for completion.

(AQW 13326/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that grass cutting in the North Down area is programmed for completion by the end of September 2012.

2012 Roadside Grass Cutting in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what arrangements are place for roadside grass cutting in North Down in 2012.

(AQW 13327/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, in line with its environmental maintenance policy, grass cutting in North Down area is carried out, 5 times per season in urban areas and 2 times per season in rural areas.

The 2012 grass cutting operations are being carried out by Roads Service Direct.

Road Improvement Schemes: West Tyrone Constituency

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the road improvement schemes which are planned for the West Tyrone constituency over the next two years.

(AQW 13328/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service does not hold details of planned road improvement schemes on a constituency basis. However, schemes within Roads Service's Local Transport and Safety Measures Draft Programmes for the Omagh and Strabane council areas, which were presented to the councils in November 2011, cover the constituency area.

The reports can be viewed online via the following links: <http://applications.drdni.gov.uk/publications/document.asp?docid=23465> and <http://applications.drdni.gov.uk/publications/document.asp?docid=23468>

In addition, the Western Divisional Roads Manager's Annual Reports presented to both councils in June 2012, lists the programmes of work for the current 2012/2013 financial year.

The reports can be viewed online via the following links:

<http://applications.drdni.gov.uk/publications/document.asp?docid=24695>

<http://applications.drdni.gov.uk/publications/document.asp?docid=24689>

Parking Tickets issued in Ballymena, Ballymoney and Ballycastle

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development how many parking tickets were issued in (i) Ballymena; (ii) Ballymoney; and (iii) Ballycastle, in the last two financial years; and how the revenue raised was reinvested.

(AQW 13330/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued on behalf of my Department's Roads Service in Ballymena, Ballymoney and Ballycastle in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years are set out in the table below:

Year	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Ballycastle
2010/11	4,555	1,166	306
2011/12	6,557	1,341	230

The revenue raised from car park enforcement and car park management is used to supplement the overall financing of Roads Service by Central Government.

Lagan Valley Rural Transport

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Regional Development why Lagan Valley Rural Transport has not yet received its funding allocation for 2012/2013 while it still provides a service to the community.

(AQW 13437/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: All of the Rural Transport Fund operational areas were advised on 10 May 2012 of the level of funding they would receive for 2012/13 to enable each of the Rural Community Transport organisations to plan for the year ahead based on the level of funding available.

Lagan Valley Rural Transport is working in partnership with South Antrim Community Transport to provide services in their joint operational area. As part of this 'partnership arrangement' the two organisations must decide which one is going to be the 'nominated partnership' that will receive the funding for the entire operational area and they must draw up and agree a document setting out how the funding will be allocated between them.

Agreement between the two organisations was only reached on 2 July 2012 and my Department immediately issued the formal Letter Of Offer and the process for issuing grant is progressing.

Department for Social Development

Review of the Housing Executive's Specification for the Supply and Fitting of Double-Glazing

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on his Department's Review of the Housing Executive's specification for the supply and fitting of double-glazing.

(AQW 13015/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): I have been informed by the Housing Executive that the review has been completed. However, I have asked Professional staff in the Department to look at these revised specifications to ensure that value for money is achieved without compromising tenant safety. When this is completed I will return to the Housing Executive with any queries.

People in Housing Stress and Registered as Homeless

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of people who are (i) in housing stress; and (ii) registered as homeless.

(AQW 13032/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The number of applicants in housing stress and the number registered as homeless at 1 June 2012 were as follows:-

Applicants in housing stress	20,839
Registered as Homeless (Full Duty Applicant)	10,656

Funding Allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the level of funding allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants, broken down by the electoral wards in (i) East Antrim; and (ii) North Antrim, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 13061/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not maintain grants records by Parliamentary Constituency. However, the table below provides details of the level of Disabled Facilities Grants expenditure in the Council areas which are part of the North Antrim and East Antrim constituencies in each of the last three years. The expenditure pattern reflects applications and Occupational Therapist's approvals.

Council	2009-10 £	2010-11 £	2011-12 £	Totals £
North Antrim				
Ballymena	520,596	386,782	437,588	1,344,966
Ballymoney	445,858	304,545	203,571	953,974
Moyle	153,259	202,035	116,006	471,300
Total	1,119,713	893,362	757,165	2,770,240

Council	2009-10 £	2010-11 £	2011-12 £	Totals £
East Antrim				
Carrickfergus	317,433	253,018	123,541	693,992
Larne	417,021	240,089	66,252	723,362
Newtownabbey	1,230,027	448,727	300,523	1,979,277
Total	1,964,481	941,834	490,316	3,396,631
Grand Total	£3,084,194	£1,835,196	£1,247,481	£6,166,871

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.

Black and Minority Ethnic Network ‘BME Link’

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Black and Minority Ethnic Network ‘BME Link’ set up by the Department of Justice, what consideration he has given to introducing a similar network within his Department.

(AQW 13096/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has a range of support services that are available to all staff. There are no plans to set up a similar network to the BME Link.

Employment and Support Allowance Claims

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to Employment and Support Allowance claims, to detail the number of (i) appeals; and (ii) appeals upheld, in each Social Security Agency district, in the last 12 months.

(AQW 13113/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Any appeal lodged with the Social Security Agency is subject to reconsideration and may therefore not progress to The Appeals Service (TAS). Appeals may not be dealt with in the same year that they are received.

The Chairman of the Tribunal records whether the decision made on appeal was either more or less advantageous than a previous decision. A more advantageous decision may increase the allowance or direct that a new award be made. A less advantageous decision may reduce the allowance or make no change to the original determination.

The number of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) appeals received by TAS and the outcome of ESA appeals heard in the last twelve months is set out in the table below. The information cannot be provided in the format as sought. TAS arranges ESA appeals to be heard at locations throughout Northern Ireland. Statistical data is therefore provided based on where each case was heard.

EMPLOYMENT & SUPPORT ALLOWANCE APPEALS (JUNE’11 TO MAY’12)

Appeal Hearing Location	Final Outcomes At Hearing			Total Outcomes
	No. Appeals Received	More Advantageous	Less Advantageous	
Armagh	221	47	117	164
Ballymena	591	124	294	418

Appeal Hearing Location	Final Outcomes At Hearing			
	No. Appeals Received	More Advantageous	Less Advantageous	Total Outcomes
Ballymoney	98	35	46	81
Banbridge	161	32	79	111
Belfast	3054	761	1451	2212
Coleraine	378	72	207	279
Cookstown	108	28	59	87
Craigavon	647	179	334	513
Downpatrick	358	73	174	247
Dungannon	319	96	190	286
Enniskillen	357	136	185	321
Limavady	157	56	66	122
Londonderry	667	252	281	533
Magherafelt	208	59	130	189
Newry	518	90	281	371
Newtownards	505	119	256	375
Omagh	322	120	174	294
Strabane	194	73	84	157
Grand Total	8863	2352	4408	6760

Disability Living Allowance Claims

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to Disability Living Allowance claims, to detail the number of (i) appeals; and (ii) appeals upheld, in each Social Security Agency district, in the last 12 months.

(AQW 13115/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Any appeal lodged with the Social Security Agency is subject to reconsideration and may therefore not progress to The Appeals Service (TAS). Appeals may not be dealt with in the same year that they are received.

The Chairman of the Tribunal records whether the decision made on appeal was either more or less advantageous than a previous decision. A more advantageous decision may increase the allowance or direct that a new award be made. A less advantageous decision may reduce the allowance or make no change to the original determination.

The number of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) appeals received by TAS and the outcome of DLA appeals heard in the last twelve months is set out in the table below. The information cannot be provided in the format as sought. TAS arranges DLA appeals to be heard at locations throughout Northern Ireland. Statistical data is therefore provided based on where each case was heard.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE APPEALS (JUNE'11 TO MAY'12)

Appeal Hearing Location	Final Outcomes At Hearing			
	No. Appeals Received	More Advantageous	Less Advantageous	Total Outcomes
Armagh	107	25	60	85
Ballymena	250	65	138	203
Ballymoney	58	14	37	51
Banbridge	81	19	37	56
Belfast	1607	407	810	1217
Coleraine	240	70	108	178
Cookstown	86	30	45	75
Craigavon	319	93	145	238
Downpatrick	186	42	99	141
Dungannon	149	44	68	112
Enniskillen	201	65	79	144
Limavady	114	38	40	78
Londonderry	459	281	199	480
Magherafelt	99	43	48	91
Newry	233	65	113	178
Newtownards	319	91	164	255
Omagh	100	46	72	118
Strabane	102	48	62	110
Grand Total	4710	1486	2324	3810

Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Cohesion Unit

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the work of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Cohesion unit.

(AQW 13129/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There is no doubt that community division exerts a high price which, in terms of housing, can prevent the best use being made of existing housing and land. There is undoubtedly good work being taken forward at community level by the Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Unit and through my Department's Regeneration and Neighbourhood Renewal initiatives. However, I believe that increased value could be added by adopting a more joined-up approach to ensure that the benefits derived from such community interventions are maximised.

As part of the fundamental review of the Housing Executive, I will be looking to ensure that the Community Cohesion Unit concentrates its efforts within its landlord areas to ensure there is no duplication of effort with the work of my Department's Voluntary & Community and Neighbourhood Renewal initiatives which are more appropriately and more effectively delivered at a strategic level within central government.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Double-Glazing Scheme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's double-glazing scheme, to detail the number of restoration grants (i) applied for; and (ii) paid.

(AQW 13134/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I assume the Member is referring to redecoration grants. The Housing Executive's policy regarding the payment of redecoration allowances does not require tenants to make an application for payment. These payments are, where appropriate, automatically processed by the Housing Executive. An onsite inspection by a clerk of works determines the number of rooms that have been disrupted as a result of the works carried out. The number of redecoration allowances that have been paid since 12 March 2012 to date is 673. These payments have been processed where schemes have commenced on site from January to March 2012.

Work Capability Assessments for Employment and Support Allowance

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Work Capability Assessments for Employment and Support Allowance (i) what processes are in place to obtain additional medical evidence from a claimant's GP or other medical professional, when the existence of such evidence is identified by a claimant; (ii) whether the onus to obtain the information lies with ATOS Healthcare or the Social Security decision maker; (iii) what guidance is given on when further evidence should be sought; and (iv) what assessment has been made on the numbers appeal cases involving this situation.

(AQW 13259/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) Employment and Support Allowance customers are given a number of opportunities to supply medical evidence in support of their claim. At the initial claim stage customers are advised of the importance of supplying all relevant medical evidence in support of their claim. In completing a limited capability for work questionnaire, customers are again advised to submit all relevant medical evidence when returning the questionnaire. Customers can also supply medical evidence when attending a medical examination. As a result of Professor Harrington's ongoing review of the Work Capability Assessment process, Social Security Agency Decision Makers now contact customers before making a disallowance decision if the existing medical evidence does not support an award of Employment and Support Allowance, in order to give the customer the opportunity to supply additional medical evidence. The decision maker will take this new evidence into account before making a final decision. In addition, upon receipt of an appeal, the Social Security Agency will contact the customer to ask if they can supply any additional medical evidence to allow the disallowance to be reconsidered. The appeal will lapse if, as a result of the reconsideration, the decision can be revised to the customer's advantage.
- (ii) The responsibility remains with the customer to provide Employment and Support Allowance with all relevant medical evidence in support of their claim to the benefit. However, in some cases where there is conflicting medical information, the decision maker is at liberty to seek further clarification from Atos Healthcare who in turn may approach the customer's GP.
- (iii) The requirement to seek GP and/or further medical evidence is dependant on the circumstances of each individual case. The Atos healthcare professional will seek further medical evidence where it is likely that the evidence may allow them to advise either that significant disability is likely or that Support Group criteria are likely to apply. It is also usual for the Atos healthcare professional to request further medical evidence in cases where the available evidence suggests the customer is particularly vulnerable (for example, where there is noted to be an appointee, or where there is a diagnosis of a severe and enduring mental health condition).
- (iv) According to the President of the Appeals Service most recent report into the standard of Decision Making in the Social Security Agency, 88% of Employment and Support Allowance appeals found in the customers favour are the result of evidence being made available to the Appeals Tribunal that was not previously available to the Social Security Agency Decision Maker.

Granting Powers of Entry to Housing Associations

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development whether any consideration has been given to granting powers of entry to housing associations.

(AQW 13260/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I assume that the Member is referring to Housing Association housing stock.

Article 41 of the Housing (NI) Order 1983 enables housing associations to enter houses let under secure tenancies which appear to have been abandoned and Article 19A of the Housing (NI) Order 2003 gives housing associations similar powers in respect of houses let under introductory tenancies. There are no plans at present to review the current powers of entry.

Registration as a House in Multiple Occupation

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will consider the inclusion of student accommodation within the requirements for registration as a House in Multiple Occupation.

(AQW 13261/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The statutory definition of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is set out in Article 75 of the Housing (NI) Order 1992. This definition applies to all houses, which are occupied by more than 2 unrelated people, including those occupied by students. I will be commencing consultation proposals regarding the regulation of HMOs this month.

Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of successful applications to date for the Boiler Replacement Scheme in the North Down constituency,

(AQW 13278/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A total of 45 boilers were replaced under the pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme in North Down.

Housing Benefit to People Aged Under 25

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether he can offer any assurance that proposals to stop paying housing benefit to people aged under 25 will not be introduced in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 13305/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In a speech by the Prime Minister on welfare reform on 25 June 2012, a number of potential ideas were floated for discussion. At present these are not firm government proposals and would be unlikely to be considered in advance of the next UK general election.

Boiler Replacement Scheme: Phoenix Gas

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how much his Department has agreed to pay Phoenix Gas to administer the Boiler Replacement Scheme; and (ii) for his Department's assessment of the total revenue value of the contract for Phoenix Gas.

(AQW 13308/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My department has not agreed to pay Phoenix Gas to administer the Boiler Replacement Scheme. The Boiler Replacement Scheme which I announced on the 25th May 2012 will be administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Housing Benefit

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in the Foyle constituency, under the age of 25, are in receipt of Housing Benefit.

(AQW 13359/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not collate Housing Benefit data by Parliamentary constituency. However, there are currently 1,538 Housing Benefit claimants under the age of 25 within the Housing Executive's Waterside, Waterloo Place and Collon Terrace District Office areas.

Former Dunluce Family Centre Site in Ballymagroarty, Derry

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the action his Department intends to take in relation to the former Dunluce Family Centre site in Ballymagroarty, Derry.

(AQW 13380/11-15)

Mr McCausland: An Appraisal which considers a number of potential uses for this site is currently being considered by the Housing Executive and the Department.

I shall be pleased to update the member when this exercise has been completed.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Items of Art and Artefacts in Storage

Mr Allister asked the Assembly Commission whether it is possible for an MLA to view the items of art and artefacts which belong to the Assembly and which are currently in storage.

(AQW 12974/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): I can confirm that the Assembly Commission would be content for an MLA to view the art and artefacts that are currently in storage. It should be noted that the works of art have been carefully wrapped to ensure that they are not damaged while in secure storage therefore making them difficult to view. Only in specific circumstances would the artwork be available for viewing due to these circumstances. Images of the paintings can, however be provided for MLAs to view all of the artwork.

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.

Youth Assembly

Mr A Maginness asked the Assembly Commission for an update on the Northern Ireland Youth Assembly.
(AQO 2344/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): One of the key commitments of the Assembly's Engagement Strategy is to establish a youth forum to consider, debate and make recommendations on issues of particular importance to young people. A number of organisations have lobbied for the development of a youth assembly for the North.

Initial proposals for the development of a youth assembly were presented to stakeholders in October 2009. Informal discussions were also held with a range of stakeholders including officials from OFMDFM, Department of Education, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY), the Youth Forum and Public Achievement. A youth-led approach to the development of proposals for a youth assembly was strongly advocated and this approach was endorsed by the Assembly Commission. As a result a Youth Panel was recruited to develop the proposals for a youth assembly.

The Youth Panel, comprising 30 young people aged 16-18, worked to develop the proposals between March 2010 and February 2011. It undertook a range of research and evidence gathering activities, with additional research also provided by the Assembly's Research and Library Service.

The Youth Panel developed draft proposals which were presented to the OFMDFM Junior Ministers and the Minister for Education in March 2011. The Ministers supported the establishment of a youth assembly. The proposals were then presented to the Assembly Commission which approved, in principle, the establishment of a youth assembly. A public consultation on the proposals took place from May - September 2011. The consultation responses overwhelmingly supported the Youth Panel's proposal to establish a youth assembly.

The results from of the Youth Panel's proposals, the public consultation responses and organisational factors such as value for money and staffing capacity are now being considered and a set of options and proposals for the establishment of a pilot youth assembly are nearing completion and will be presented to the Commission for consideration by the end of the year.

Ormiston House, Belfast

Mr Lyttle asked the Assembly Commission for an update on the sale of Ormiston House.
(AQO 2353/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Ormiston House has been for sale on the open market since January 2011 and there has been considerable interest in the property for a range of development opportunities. Although some offers were made, to date the Commission has been unable to agree a sale.

The Commission has now been successful in obtaining planning approval for a limited amount of residential development on the site and plans now to re-launch the sale on that basis.

Stormont Estate

Mr McNarry asked the Assembly Commission whether there has been any discussion about transferring responsibility for, and control of, the Stormont Estate to the Assembly.
(AQO 2355/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission has not been involved in any discussions in relation to transferring responsibility for, and control of, the Stormont Estate to the Assembly.

Ormiston House, Belfast

Mr Hussey asked the Assembly Commission for an update on the sale of Ormiston House, Belfast.
(AQO 2356/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Ormiston House has been for sale on the open market since January 2011 and there has been considerable interest in the property for a range of development opportunities. Although some offers were made, to date the Commission has been unable to agree a sale.

The Commission has now been successful in obtaining planning approval for a limited amount of residential development on the site and plans now to re-launch the sale on that basis.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 6 July 2012

(AQW 13051/11-15)

The answer to this question is outlined in the attached table.

HSC Trust	(i) water testing ¹		(ii) environmental swabs ⁴	
	(a) matter of concern ²	(b) failed ³	(a) matter of concern	(a) failed
South Eastern	0	8	0	0
Southern	0	7	0	0
Belfast	0	6	0	0
Western	0	5	1	0
Northern	0	4	0	0

Notes:

- 1 Water testing for legionella in neonatal units in each of the last three years gave no matter for concern or failed acceptable microbiological standards in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive Approved Code of Practice L8 and Health Technical Memorandum O4-01.
 - 2 Prior to the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outbreak, there were no established national acceptable levels of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in water sources in neonatal units that would have provided a guide to an appropriate level of concern.
 - 3 Subsequent to the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outbreak, DHSSPS guidance HSS(MD)4/2012 issued on 28th January 2012 established levels of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in pre and post flush water samples which would indicate that remedial action was required and the data provided relates to the number of taps tested in the Trust neonatal units in which the water sample test results proved positive. Although 30 taps were initially identified with high counts and are indicated as “failed” in the table for the purposes of this answer, HSC Trusts replaced 137 taps in total in the 7 neonatal units as a further precautionary measure. Once replaced, each tap was tested on a daily basis until 7 consecutive tests proved negative, moving to weekly testing for 4 weeks and then monthly testing (further guidance on this subsequent testing was provided in HSS (MD) 6/2012 issued on 9th February). This testing protocol has since been superseded by HSS(MD)16/2012. Given the scale of tap replacement, the testing regime has been extensive with pre and post flush samples required for both hot and cold tap supplies.
 - 4 The data for the Western Trust indicates the single positive environmental sample taken from the tap at the neonatal unit following the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outbreak. Testing environmental surfaces in neonatal units involves qualitative sampling of surfaces to indicate either the presence or absence of a pathogen rather than an acceptable level of microbiological contamination therefore detection of a pathogen may “give concern” rather be designated as “fail”, depending on the pathogen under consideration. The other four HSC Trusts have indicated that when environmental samples have been taken for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* following the outbreak, they have returned negative results.
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