

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 23 November 2012**

**Volume 79, No WA4**



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

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

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

# Assembly Members

Agnew, Steven (North Down)  
Allister, Jim (North Antrim)  
Anderson, Sydney (Upper Bann)  
Attwood, Alex (West Belfast)  
Beggs, Roy (East Antrim)  
Bell, Jonathan (Strangford)  
Boylan, Cathal (Newry and Armagh)  
Boyle, Ms Michaela (West Tyrone)  
Bradley, Dominic (Newry and Armagh)  
Bradley, Ms Paula (North Belfast)  
Brady, Mickey (Newry and Armagh)  
Brown, Ms Pam (South Antrim)  
Buchanan, Thomas (West Tyrone)  
Byrne, Joe (West Tyrone)  
Campbell, Gregory (East Londonderry)  
Clarke, Trevor (South Antrim)  
Cochrane, Mrs Judith (East Belfast)  
Copeland, Michael (East Belfast)  
Craig, Jonathan (Lagan Valley)  
Cree, Leslie (North Down)  
Dallat, John (East Londonderry)  
Dickson, Stewart (East Antrim)  
Dobson, Mrs Jo-Anne (Upper Bann)  
Douglas, Sammy (East Belfast)  
Dunne, Gordon (North Down)  
Durkan, Mark H (Foyle)  
Easton, Alex (North Down)  
Eastwood, Colum (Foyle)  
Elliott, Tom (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Farry, Dr Stephen (North Down)  
Fearon, Ms Megan (Newry and Armagh)  
Flanagan, Phil (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Ford, David (South Antrim)  
Foster, Mrs Arlene (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Frew, Paul (North Antrim)  
Gardiner, Samuel (Upper Bann)  
Girvan, Paul (South Antrim)  
Givan, Paul (Lagan Valley)  
Hale, Mrs Brenda (Lagan Valley)  
Hamilton, Simon (Strangford)  
Hay, William (Speaker)  
Hazzard, Christopher (South Down)  
Hilditch, David (East Antrim)  
Humphrey, William (North Belfast)  
Hussey, Ross (West Tyrone)  
Irwin, William (Newry and Armagh)  
Kelly, Mrs Dolores (Upper Bann)  
Kelly, Gerry (North Belfast)  
Kennedy, Danny (Newry and Armagh)  
Kinahan, Danny (South Antrim)  
Lo, Ms Anna (South Belfast)  
Lunn, Trevor (Lagan Valley)  
Lynch, Seán (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Lyttle, Chris (East Belfast)  
McAleer, Declan (West Tyrone)  
McCallister, John (South Down)  
McCann, Fra (West Belfast)  
McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)  
McCarthy, Kieran (Strangford)  
McCartney, Raymond (Foyle)  
McCausland, Nelson (North Belfast)  
McClarty, David (East Londonderry)  
McCorley, Ms Rosaleen (West Belfast)  
McCrea, Basil (Lagan Valley)  
McCrea, Ian (Mid Ulster)  
McDevitt, Conall (South Belfast)  
McDonnell, Dr Alasdair (South Belfast)  
McElduff, Barry (West Tyrone)  
McGahan, Ms Bronwyn (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
McGimpsey, Michael (South Belfast)  
McGlone, Patsy (Mid Ulster)  
McGuinness, Martin (Mid Ulster)  
McIlveen, David (North Antrim)  
McIlveen, Miss Michelle (Strangford)  
McKay, Daithí (North Antrim)  
McKevitt, Mrs Karen (South Down)  
McLaughlin, Ms Maeve (Foyle)  
McLaughlin, Mitchel (South Antrim)  
McMullan, Oliver (East Antrim)  
McNarry, David (Strangford)  
McQuillan, Adrian (East Londonderry)  
Maginness, Alban (North Belfast)  
Maskey, Alex (South Belfast)  
Molloy, Francie (Mid Ulster)  
Morrow, The Lord (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Moutray, Stephen (Upper Bann)  
Nesbitt, Mike (Strangford)  
Newton, Robin (East Belfast)  
Ní Chuilín, Ms Carál (North Belfast)  
Ó hOisín, Cathal (East Londonderry)  
O'Dowd, John (Upper Bann)  
O'Neill, Mrs Michelle (Mid Ulster)  
Overend, Mrs Sandra (Mid Ulster)  
Poots, Edwin (Lagan Valley)  
Ramsey, Pat (Foyle)  
Ramsey, Ms Sue (West Belfast)  
Robinson, George (East Londonderry)  
Robinson, Peter (East Belfast)  
Rogers, Sean (South Down)  
Ross, Alastair (East Antrim)  
Ruane, Ms Caitríona (South Down)  
Sheehan, Pat (West Belfast)  
Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)  
Storey, Mervyn (North Antrim)  
Swann, Robin (North Antrim)  
Weir, Peter (North Down)  
Wells, Jim (South Down)  
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 23 November 2012

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### QUANGOs

**Mr Beggs** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many QUANGOs were attached to each Department at 1 July 2009; and how many are currently attached to each Department.

**(AQW 13786/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** Information on the number of public bodies sponsored by departments during the 2009/10 financial year is contained in the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report 2009/10 which is available from the Assembly Library (reference number NI 8346) or from our Department's website - [http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/microsoft\\_word\\_-\\_of1\\_10\\_0152180\\_public\\_bodies\\_\\_annual\\_report\\_-\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/microsoft_word_-_of1_10_0152180_public_bodies__annual_report_-_pdf.pdf) .

The most recent Report covers the 2010/11 financial year and is available from the OFMDFM website at [www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/public-appointments-annual-report-2010-2011.pdf](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/public-appointments-annual-report-2010-2011.pdf) or from the Assembly Library (reference number R351.41609 NOR). Annual Reports for previous years going back as far as the 1996/97 financial year are also available on our Department's website.

We hope to publish the Report for 2011/12 later this year. A copy will be placed in the Assembly Library and on the OFMDFM website.

#### Inter-Ministerial Group

**Mr Swann** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 11354/11-15, to list (i) the dates of each individual meeting; (ii) the attendees at each meeting; and (iii) the duration of each meeting.

**(AQW 13845/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The information requested is set out in the table below. Since our response to AQ11354/11-15 some of the groups have held further meetings and the information has been updated to reflect this.

Title of Group	Meeting dates	Attendees	Duration of meeting
Programme for Government	12/04/12	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel	Information not held

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
Budget Review Group	30/09/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	28/10/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	04/11/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	11/11/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	17/11/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	01/12/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	14/12/10	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	18/01/11	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	25/01/11	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	15/02/11	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Departmental Officials	Information not held

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	24/02/11	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	15/06/11	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	11/10/11	First Minister John O'Dowd – Acting Deputy First Minister Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister for Social Development Minister of the Environment Departmental Officials	Information not held
	31/01/12	First Minister deputy First Minister Minister for Employment & Learning Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister of the Environment Minister for Regional Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	01/03/12	First Minister deputy First Minister Minister for Employment & Learning Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister of the Environment Minister for Regional Development Departmental Officials	Information not held



<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	15/05/12	First Minister deputy First Minister Minister for Employment & Learning Minister of the Environment Minister for Regional Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	27/09/12	First Minister Deputy First Minister Minister of Finance and Personnel Minister of Regional Development Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of the Environment Departmental Officials	Information not held
Poverty and Social Inclusion	26/03/09	First Minister deputy First Minister Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister for Social Development Minister for Employment and Learning Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	Information not held
	21/05/09	First Minister deputy First Minister Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Education Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	Information not held
	29/03/10	First Minister Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Mr Robin Newton – JM OFMDFM Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Departmental Officials	Information not held

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	03/10/12	Mr Jonathan Bell – JM OFMDFM Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister of Education Minister of the Environment Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister of Justice Minister for Social Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
Children and Young People	13/03/08	Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister for Regional Development Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister of Education Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister for Employment and Learning Departmental Officials	Information not held
	24/06/08	Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister for Social Development Minister for Employment and Learning Departmental Officials	Information not held
	11/09/08	Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Education Departmental Officials	Information not held

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	18/06/09	Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Education Minister for Social Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	19/11/09	Mr Robin Newton – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister of Education Departmental Officials	Information not held
	29/06/10	Mr Jeffrey Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	Information not held
	02/03/11	Mr Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Departmental Officials	Information not held
	11/01/12	Mr Jonathan Bell – JM OFMDFM Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister of Education Departmental Officials	Information not held
	20/06/12	Mr Jonathan Bell – JM OFMDFM Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Minister for Social Development Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister of Justice Minister for Employment and Learning Departmental Officials	Information not held

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
Welfare Reform	16/01/12	Minister for Social Development Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister of the Environment Minister for Regional Development Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	Meetings are not timed, however the average duration for these meetings has been between 1½ - 2 hours
	06/02/12	Minister for Social Development Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	
	20/02/12	Minister for Social Development Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of the Environment Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	
	27/02/12	Minister for Social Development Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of the Environment Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister of Education Departmental Officials	
	02/04/12	Minister for Social Development Minister of Finance & Personnel Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of the Environment Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Minister of Justice Minister of Education Minster for Regional Development Departmental Officials	

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	14/05/12	Minister for Social Development Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of the Environment Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Minster for Regional Development Departmental Officials	
	18/06/12	Minister for Social Development Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of the Environment Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Minster for Regional Development Departmental Officials	
	02/07/12	Minister for Social Development Minister for Employment and Learning Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Minister of Finance and Personnel Departmental Officials	
	10/09/12	Minister for Social Development Minister for Employment and Learning Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of the Environment Departmental Officials	
	22/10/12	Minister for Social Development Minister of Finance and Personnel Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of the Environment Departmental Officials	
Ministerial Road Safety Group	30/01/08	Minister of the Environment Departmental Officials	1- 2 hours

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	10/03/08	Minister of the Environment Minister for Regional Development Departmental Officials	1 – 2 hours
	15/12/11	Minister of the Environment Minister for Regional Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	1 hour
	09/05/12	Minister of the Environment Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	1 hour
	17/10/12	Minister of the Environment Minister of Justice Minister for Regional Development Departmental Officials	1 hour
Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence	21/05/08	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister for Employment and Learning Mr. Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	2 hours
	30/09/09	Mr. Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Mr. Robin Newton – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	2 hours
	29/06/10	Minister of Justice Minister of Education Minister for Social Development Departmental Officials	1 hour 30 minutes
	24/05/12	Minister of Justice Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	1 hour 25 minutes
Ministerial Group on Mental Health and Learning Disability	22/10/07	Not available	1 hour

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
	26/01/09	Mr. Jeffery Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister for Employment and Learning Departmental Officials	1 hour
	23/11/09	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister for Employment and Learning Departmental Officials	1 hour
	14/06/10	Minister for Social Development Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	1hour 30 minutes
	01/12/10	Minister of Justice Departmental Officials	1 hour 30 minutes
Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention	16/10/07	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister of Education Mr. Ian Paisley – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	1 hour 30 minutes
	23/06/08	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Mr. Jeffery Donaldson – JM OFMDFM Mr. Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	2 hours
	20/01/11	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Mr. Gerry Kelly – JM OFMDFM Mr. Robin Newton – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	2 hours
	28/06/12	Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister of Education Minister for Employment and Learning Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Departmental Officials	2 hours

<b>Title of Group</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Duration of meeting</b>
Sub-Committee on the Economy	20/05/10	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel Mr. Robin Newton – JM OFMDFM	1 hour
	08/07/10	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel Mr. Robin Newton – JM OFMDFM	1 hour
	27/09/10	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel	1 hour
	27/06/11	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Mr. J Bell – JM OFMDFM	1 hour
	12/09/11	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel Mr. J Bell – JM OFMDFM Minister of the Environment Minister of Social Development	1 hour



Title of Group	Meeting dates	Attendees	Duration of meeting
	18/10/11	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Mr. J Bell – JM OFMDFM Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development	1 hour
	23/01/12	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Mr. J Bell – JM OFMDFM	1 hour
	07/06/12	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister for Regional Development Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel Ms Martina Anderson – JM OFMDFM Mr. J Bell – JM OFMDFM Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	1 hour
	11/09/12	Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister for Employment and Learning Minister of Education Minister of Finance and Personnel Ms Jennifer McCann – JM OFMDFM Mr. J Bell – JM OFMDFM	1 hour 30minutes

### Maze Regeneration Board

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the remuneration arrangements for the members of the Maze Regeneration Board.

**(AQW 14065/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** This matter is under consideration.

## Quangos

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the number of QUANGOs linked to their Department (i) at 8 May 2007; and (ii) at the date of this question; and how many people served on the QUANGOs on these respective dates.

**(AQW 14782/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The table below gives details of the public bodies linked to OFMDFM.

Please note that some of the bodies outlined as existing on 27 September 2012 were also in existence on 8 May 2007, but have since been reclassified as “public bodies”.

<b>Public Body</b>	<b>No of Appointees</b>	
8 May 2007	Advisory Council on Infrastructure Investment	17
	Commissioner for Children and Young People	1
	Commission for Victims and Survivors	0
	Economic Research Institute of NI Ltd	14
	Equality Commission	17
	Ilex Urban Regeneration Co Ltd	8
	Planning and Water Appeals Commissions	23
	Strategic Investment Board Ltd	5
	Statute Law Committee	9
	<b>Total = 9</b>	<b>Total = 94</b>
27 September 2012	Commissioner for Children and Young People	1
	Commission for Victims and Survivors	1
	Commissioner for Older People	1
	Community Relations Council	16
	Equality Commission	16
	Ilex Urban Regeneration Co Ltd	9
	Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation	11
	NI Judicial Appointments Commission	10
	NI Memorial Fund	14

Public Body		No of Appointees
27 September 2012 (continued)	Planning and Water Appeals Commissions	22
	Strategic Investment Board Ltd	7
	Victims and Survivors Service	0
	<b>Total =12</b>	<b>Total = 108</b>

### Former Ministry of Defence Lands

**Mr Campbell** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 15452/11-15, whether any such costs are associated with the Fort George site in Londonderry.

**(AQW 16221/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The costs referred to in AQW 15452/11-15 related to the annual maintenance, security and other associated costs for the Ebrington site and are not associated with the Fort George site.

### Delivering Social Change

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 15434/11-15, whether the Delivering Social Change signature projects will be rolled out according to the Investment Zones identified by the Social Investment Fund.

**(AQW 16383/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The aim is to have interventions across all the Social Investment Fund Investment Zones.

### Redevelopment of Ebrington

**Mr Eastwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether all monies allocated for the redevelopment of Ebrington for 2012/13 will be spent in this financial year.

**(AQW 16409/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The budget allocated to Ilex for the redevelopment of Ebrington is monitored at various points in the year to ensure any identified funding easement can be re-allocated in year. This process identified funding easements in 2012/13 and Ilex has declared this easement to the Department through the monitoring process. Ilex has provided assurance that the remaining budget will be fully utilised during this year.

### Devolving Powers for Corporation Tax

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the negotiations on devolving powers for Corporation Tax.

**(AQO 2763/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Joint Ministerial Working Group which examined the issues involved in devolving responsibility for the rate of Corporation Tax to the Executive, met for the last time on 18 October.

We have completed our work and addressed the Terms of Reference. We are currently considering the joint report from the Group which should be passed to the Prime Minister by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury soon. This will highlight findings on the costs, administrative changes and the potential legislative vehicle for transferring Corporation Tax powers.

We are pressing for a meeting with the Prime Minister to make our case and pushing for a decision by the end of the year.

### **Report into the Role of the Attorney General of Northern Ireland**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they will publish the report carried out by the former Scottish Lord Advocate, Dame Elish Angiolini, into the role of the Attorney General of Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 16447/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Executive agreed in 2010 that the newly appointed Attorney General, in addition to his wider constitutional and legal functions, should act as chief legal adviser to the Executive and departments. It was decided at that time that aspects of this legal adviser role would be reviewed after a period of operation.

Earlier this year, in our capacity as joint chairmen of the Executive, we invited the Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC, who has particular experience as a Law Officer in a devolved administration, to carry out this limited review of the Attorney General's legal adviser relationship with the Executive and departments. We have recently received her report on an 'in confidence' basis, and we are currently considering it.

We have no plans to publish this report.

### **Childcare Strategy Group**

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) how many times the Childcare Strategy Group has met; (ii) which Departments are represented on the Group; and (iii) to outline the Group's workplan and priorities.

**(AQW 16452/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** To date, there have been six meetings of the Childcare Strategy Group. The membership of the Group is currently comprised of senior representatives from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Education. Other departments may from time to time be invited to attend meetings of the Group.

In developing the Childcare Strategy, the Group has identified three main priority work areas: better information and advice for parents and those looking for childcare; capacity building and improved provision within the childcare sector; and establishing a research programme to inform the development of the Strategy. The Group's work plan includes overseeing the development of a draft consultation document on the Strategy and identifying, with departments, proposals for projects to be funded through the Executive's Childcare Fund.

### **Ministerial Directions**

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, since May 2007, how many decisions with spending implications have been made as a result of ministerial directions.

**(AQW 16624/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Since May 2007 there has been one Ministerial Direction issued within the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister which has had spending implications.

## Increase in Administration Costs

**Mr Allister** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why there has been a 16.5 percent increase in administration costs in 6 months in 2012/13, as revealed in Table H of the Minister of Finance and Personnel's statement of 12 November 2012.

**(AQW 16759/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The entire increase of 16.5% relates to technical changes agreed as part of June 2012 Monitoring, incorporating the reclassification of costs from resource to administration and budget transfers from other departments for services provided centrally by OFMDFM.

These are:

- Technical transfers into the Department for Government Advertising Unit costs (£0.9m).
- Reclassification of Attorney General for Northern Ireland (AGNI) costs (£1.7m) from resource to admin as it is not a frontline body.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### Department's Headquarters

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on what date it was decided that the site in Ballykelly would be the location of her Department's new headquarters.

**(AQW 15735/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** I made the decision to relocate my Departmental Headquarters to Ballykelly following an Executive meeting on 3rd September 2012.

### Schmallenberg Virus

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the detection of the schmallenberg virus, whether the affected herd, or any herd in neighbouring areas, consists of imported stock from the rest of the UK, or elsewhere.

**(AQW 16236/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I can confirm that the affected herd has not imported stock since Schmallenberg virus was first detected in 2011. I am not in a position to comment on other herds.

Investigations are ongoing on farm but it is considered that the likely source of infection is midges. The investigation has not extended to neighbouring farms as this is unlikely to give us useful information.

My officials had a meeting with key industry stakeholders on 5 November at which they outlined our approach to surveillance. Stakeholders were supportive of the current level of surveillance undertaken which is proportionate to the risk.

### Microchip Scanners

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Minister for her assessment of PSNI personnel using microchip scanners to assist them in investigating criminal activity, such as the theft of dogs.

**(AQW 16250/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I understand that the PSNI do not use microchip scanners at this time.

Dog control is legislated for here by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. In April this year provisions in the 2011 Act amended the Dogs Order by making microchipping a condition of a dog licence. Compulsory microchipping was introduced as one of a range of new dog

control measures to help tackle the problems of dog attacks, straying and unwanted dogs; protect the public; promote responsible dog ownership; and penalise irresponsible owners.

By making microchipping a requirement of the dog licence, the Act makes it easier to identify stray dogs and return them to their owners, therefore reducing the number of dogs humanely destroyed each year. It also makes the identification of problem dogs and tracing their owners easier therefore helping to promote responsible dog ownership.

### **Dog Breeding Establishments**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given that there are no dog breeding establishments registered in Belfast; to detail (i) how many stray dogs, on average annually, are picked up in Belfast; and (ii) where the dogs are kept.

**(AQW 16252/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Dog control is legislated for here by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. The Councils enforce this legislation and provide statistics to my Department regarding its operation.

- (i) Based on information provided by Belfast City Council, over the last 5 calendar years, there have been on average around 860 stray dogs impounded each year.
- (ii) I understand that stray dogs seized in Belfast are held at a dog pound operated by Carrickfergus Borough Council.

### **Licence for a Fish Hatchery**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the process within her Department, or its arm's-length bodies, by which an individual or organisation can obtain a licence for a fish hatchery.

**(AQW 16280/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The legislative provisions governing the licensing of fish farms, which may incorporate a hatchery, for the commercial production of fish and shellfish, is contained in sections 11 and 11A of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, as amended ("the 1966 Act").

Under section 11 of the 1966 Act it is an offence to operate a fish farm other than under the authority of a fish culture licence granted by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and in accordance with any conditions attached to the licence.

Section 11A(5A) of the 1966 Act (as inserted by regulation 16 of the Aquatic Animal Health Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 provides that, where an authorisation is required for the operation of a fish farm under the 2009 Regulations, a fish culture licence shall not be issued for that operation until an authorisation is granted.

An application for a fish culture licence must be supported by all relevant supporting documentation including proof of ownership or lease of the site, a business plan and, if appropriate, other statutory consents i.e. planning permission, a water discharge consent and a licence to abstract water.

If, after having considered the potential environmental impact of the proposed development, the Department is minded to grant a fish culture licence, it is required to publish, at the applicant's expense, notice of the application in at least two newspapers in order to give local interests and the public an opportunity to express their views on the proposal.

The Department will allow a period of at least one month for receipt of written objections. After this period if no objections are received or if the objections received are deemed vexatious, frivolous or insubstantial, the Department will make a decision. Where an objection causes genuine grounds for concern, and it is not possible to resolve the concern by compromise, the Department will not grant a fish culture licence without the holding of a local public inquiry by the Water Appeals Commission for NI to consider the objections.

In relation to arm's-length bodies, the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC), through powers conferred on it by the Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (and parallel Southern legislation), will, on commencement of the necessary provisions, be responsible for the licensing of aquaculture, including hatcheries, in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas. The commencement of these provisions will occur once the necessary arrangements to facilitate such a roll-out take place, which will include the FCILC, the Crown Estate and the southern Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine signing off on a management agreement in respect of the seabed in Lough Foyle.

## NI Horse Board

**Mr Molloy** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to what extent her Department subsidises the NI Horse Board.

**(AQW 16324/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department does not subsidise the NI Horse Board.

## Grants for Creating New Woodlands or Parks

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department has spent on grants for creating new woodlands or parks in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16352/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department supports creating new woodlands including community woodland, through the Woodland Grant Scheme and Agri - Environment Schemes. Over the past five years a total of £12.2M has been spent to support this. A breakdown of the expenditure is detailed in table 1 below.

**TABLE 1 – DARD EXPENDITURE TO SUPPORT CREATING NEW WOODLAND**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Agri-Environment Scheme Expenditure (£M)</b>	<b>Woodland Grant Scheme Expenditure (£M)</b>	<b>Total (£M)</b>
2011	0.7	1.7	2.4
2010	0.7	1.4	2.1
2009	0.7	2.0	2.7
2008	0.7	1.2	1.9
2007	0.7	2.4	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>

## New Woodlands and Parks

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the new woodlands and parks created in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16353/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department provides support for land owners to create new woodland through Agri-Environment Schemes and the Woodland Grant Scheme. Over the past 5 years, 4,771ha of new woodland has been supported with these schemes. New woodlands supported by DARD are predominantly native woodlands and are widely distributed across the whole of the north on land that is suitable for planting. The details of these newly planted areas in each of the last five years by schemes are shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 1 – AREAS OF NEW WOODLAND SUPPORTED BY DARD**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Agri-Environment Scheme (ha)</b>	<b>Woodland Grant Scheme (ha)</b>	<b>Total Area (ha)</b>
2011	602	337	939
2010	626	262	888
2009	628	251	879
2008	615	289	904
2007	624	537	1,161
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>4,771</b>

### **Gamma Interferon Tests for Bovine TB**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in light of the cost of gamma interferon tests for bovine TB, what work has been carried out, or commenced, to produce a test within his Department or the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute; and what timescales are in place for completion.

**(AQW 16382/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) undertakes gamma interferon tests on approximately 17,000 animals per year on behalf of DARD as part of the bovine TB eradication programme. The gamma interferon blood test is EU Commission approved as a complementary test to the mandatory tuberculin skin test.

This gamma interferon testing is undertaken using a commercial assay (test kit), which until recently was protected under patent. With the expiry of the test's patent protection, AFBI has been undertaking a preliminary scoping exercise to assess the feasibility of developing an equivalent "in-house" test.

While such a development may offer potential cost savings in the longer term, a number of scientific and technical issues would need to be overcome in order to develop a sufficiently robust test and resources secured to allow test development to proceed. AFBI has been provided with information in respect of a possible avenue of funding for what is a commercially orientated project.

AFBI have received DARD funding to conduct an evaluation of the use my Department currently makes of the gamma interferon blood test to detect TB in cattle. This is a three year project and the outcomes will better inform the way the test is used in the TB eradication programme.

### **Stray Dogs**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many stray dogs have been put down in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16422/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Dog control is legislated for here by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. The Councils enforce this legislation and provide statistics to my Department regarding its operation.

The table below details the number of stray dogs humanely destroyed in each of the calendar years 2007 – 2011.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Stray dogs destroyed	2595	2060	1346	1115	905



## Stray Dogs

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many stray dogs have been picked up in each of the last five years, broken down by council area.

**(AQW 16423/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Dog control is legislated for here by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. The Councils enforce this legislation and provide statistics to my Department regarding its operation.

The table below details the number of stray dogs impounded, by Council area, for the calendar years 2007 – 2011.

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Antrim	244	241	244	296	264
Ards	315	263	234	222	236
Armagh	670	603	436	372	456
Ballymena	199	181	173	207	201
Ballymoney	127	105	97	99	99
Banbridge	188	190	113	118	119
Belfast	1037	939	668	771	896
Carrickfergus	163	162	158	164	163
Castlereagh	214	197	215	149	115
Coleraine	209	215	201	197	197
Cookstown	136	164	144	139	155
Craigavon	756	789	654	677	584
Derry	444	404	327	287	329
Down	726	686	622	682	657
Dungannon	447	515	502	450	497
Fermanagh	183	221	149	144	182
Larne	176	146	108	150	102
Limavady	101	110	80	70	62
Lisburn	466	380	309	387	437
Magherafelt	143	142	126	104	136
Moyle	71	50	56	38	30
Newry	724	506	380	422	489
Newtownabbey	374	299	311	290	333
North Down	101	96	112	132	242
Omagh	379	159	166	185	162
Strabane	174	167	160	132	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>8735</b>	<b>7930</b>	<b>6745</b>	<b>6884</b>	<b>7276</b>

## Pay Increase for Civil Servants

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the percentage pay increase for civil servants in her Department that are due to take effect in August 2013, broken down by each grade.

**(AQW 16441/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The average percentage pay increase that takes effect from 1st August 2013 is estimated at 2.58% for DARD staff. This includes both pay progression and revalorisation of the pay scales. The total estimated percentage increase for each grade level is set out in the attached annex.

### ANNEX

#### PERCENTAGE PAY INCREASE IN DARD BY GRADE

Grade 6 and equivalent	1.80%
Grade 7 and equivalent	2.38%
DP and equivalent	1.80%
SO and equivalent	3.21%
EOI and equivalent	2.67%
EOII and equivalent	3.13%
AO and equivalent	2.39%
AA and equivalent	1.62%

## Public Appointments

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail all the public appointments made (i) during the current Assembly mandate; and (ii) the previous mandate, broken down by community background.

**(AQW 16445/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** During the current Assembly mandate 45 public appointments, including re-appointments, were made to DARD - sponsored Public Bodies of which 24 declared community background as Protestant, 17 as Roman Catholic, 2 as Neither and 2 were unknown. Included in these figures are 9 appointments to the Agri-Food Strategy Board which were made jointly with the DETI Minister.

Details of public appointments are provided in the Public Bodies & Public Appointments Annual Report published each year by OFMDFM's Central Appointments Unit. The Report for 2011/12 has not yet been published.

<b>Assembly Mandate 8 May 2007</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Total appointments	46	26	15	5	0
<b>Current Assembly Mandate 17 May 2011 to date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Total appointments	45**	24	17	2	2
Total all appointments	91	50	32	7	2

\*\* Includes 9 appointments to the Agri-Food Strategy Board made jointly with the DETI Minister

## Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department, or any other Department, is advised of public health risks that the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute identifies whilst carrying out analytical research on behalf of the private sector.

**(AQW 16464/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I would direct the Member to my response of 6 November 2012 to his question referenced AQW15936/11-15. That response included not only work on AFBI's headquarters site at Newforge Lane, Belfast but across the whole organisation.

## EU Protected Food Status

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the impact the award of EU protected food status has had on the marketing and price of each food type.

**(AQW 16478/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department's strategy is to raise the profile of the EU Protected Food Names Scheme and generate awareness of the benefits to producer groups. While marketing and price information for individual products is outside the remit of DARD and would be commercially sensitive information held directly by the products in question, it is fair to say that the awarding of a PFN status to Armagh Bramleys, Comber Earlies and Lough Neagh Eels, can only further support the marketing effort of each produce, as it provides a mark of quality and distinction.

The specific role of DARD is to assist and facilitate applications and my officials support producer groups at all stages of application. However, I appreciate that there needs to be a better understanding of the scheme among food companies and so I am pleased to report that my Department recently hosted a Protected Food Name (PFN) seminar in Greenmount. The seminar, which was well attended by interested producer groups and key industry representatives, outlined how they could benefit from being awarded a PFN Designation and the theme of the presentations focused on the objective of how best to utilise a PFN award as well as the benefits of being involved in such a scheme.

I hope that building on the success of our first three food products to achieve a PFN status, coupled with further information about the benefits of the scheme, we will see further successful applications for local produce.

## Delivery of Training to The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council and Countryside Services

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the level of funding provided for the administration and delivery of training to (i) The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council; and (ii) Countryside Services, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16494/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The following tables list the funding provided for administration and delivery of training by:

- (i) The N I Rural Development Council (RDC) and
  - (ii) Countryside Services Ltd (CSL) in each of the last three years.
- (i) N I Rural Development Council (RDC)

<b>RDC</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
Admin Only	£97,128	£237,296	£141,455
Delivery	Nil*	Nil*	Nil*

\* All Delivery payments made direct to the applicant (beneficiary) by DARD

- (ii) Countryside Services Ltd (CSL)

<b>CSL</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
Admin Only	£259,008	£271,382	£328,575
Delivery	£4,537	£74,415	£203,337

## **Rural Development Programme**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what constitutes a strategic project under Measure 3.4 of the Rural Development Programme; and whether playgrounds, 3G sports pitches or multi-use games areas fall into this category.

**(AQW 16495/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** All strategic projects under the Rural Development Programme must provide long term impact in the rural area and have a more strategic impact than a standard Axis 3 project. They must be eligible within the current Operating Rules and fit with the overall objectives of the respective measure and meet a need/gap identified within the Local Rural Development Strategy. Specific criteria had to be met as per the advertisements in the press as follows:-

- 1 Local authorities, NGO's and the community sector including social economy enterprises will be eligible to apply for strategic projects.
- 2 Planning Permission (and other Statutory Requirements) applied for or already in place;
- 3 The proposed start date is no later than 1st April 2013;
- 4 The planned end date is no later than 31st December 2014;
- 5 The project grant requirement is above £250k but less than £1m;
- 6 The Project must be Capital or Infrastructure;
- 7 The Project Promoter/s matched funding must be at least 15%;
- 8 Robust project delivery costings must be in place at application stage;
- 9 A full business case or a recent (within last 12 months) independent Economic Appraisal to 'Green Book' standard must be in place; and
10. All applications must have consulted the appropriate Local Council as a key informant.

It is not the nature of the individual items eg playground, 3G pitch or multi use gaming area within a project which make it strategic but rather the impact that the project will have across the community. This is within the context of providing the infrastructure to enable rural dwellers to benefit from and participate in strategies of local and central government aimed at healthier lifestyle, sports participation and constructive youth pursuits.

## **Operations of Forest Service**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how local communities have directly benefited from the operations of Forest Service in the last three years.

**(AQW 16499/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Our forests provide significant recreational and social benefits for local communities by providing informal recreation access opportunities and this benefit was augmented by new legislation in 2010 (Forestry Act 2010) which provided for a statutory right of pedestrian access to forestry land.

As well as informal access for local communities, a wide range of activities and events have also been facilitated through permission agreements. These activities and events are mainly organised by community based organisations and range from sponsored walks to events as diverse as Santa trails or poultry fairs.

My officials in Forest Service have also developed improved partnership working arrangements with local Government and other bodies to make sure forests play as full a role as possible in supporting local and regional recreation and tourism agendas.

In County Fermanagh, this approach has proven beneficial in allowing Fermanagh District Council to develop the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark by encompassing many Forest Service properties and enhancing Fermanagh's reputation as an attractive tourist destination.

### **Caravan Parks Within Government-Owned Forest Parks in Fermanagh**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the caravan parks within government-owned forest parks in Fermanagh; (ii) the cost of upgrading each park to 5 star status; and (iii) how many construction jobs would be created by this work.

**(AQW 16579/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Forest Service manages two small caravan sites within the forest estate in County Fermanagh.

The future development of facilities in forests, including caravan parks, will be in line with the Forest Recreation Strategy and my vision for improved partnership working with local government and other bodies to make sure that forests play as full a role as possible in supporting regional and local recreational and tourism agendas.

This will ensure that development within forests supports the needs of local tourism destination areas and the evaluation of prioritised projects including costs involved with construction or jobs created either directly or indirectly through tourism spin-offs will be assessed through this process.

As the major benefits will be to local communities, Forest Service would look to local authorities to take the lead role in developing plans to improve tourism potential and good progress has been made with several councils, including Fermanagh District Council.

### **Incidences of Chalara Fraxinea**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what support she is providing for landowners to identify and remove incidences of chalara fraxinea.

**(AQW 16936/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department is supporting landowners who have planted ash trees in their woodlands in a number of ways.

DARD staff are proactively assessing ash sites at greatest risk and collecting samples of symptomatic material for laboratory testing. On those sites testing positive, DARD resources are being made available to expedite the removal and destruction of infected material.

We have also provided information about the disease symptoms on the DARD website to assist landowners with their inspections and recognition of the disease. A telephone helpline number for reporting suspect sites is also available on the website.

### **Ash Dieback Disease**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) when she was first made aware of the discovery of ash dieback disease in Northern Ireland; and (ii) when destruction notices were served on landowners of the five sites where ash dieback disease was discovered.

**(AQW 16940/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I was first made aware of the discovery of ash dieback disease in the north on Thursday 15 November. At this stage, there was confirmation of one outbreak at recently planted ash site in County Antrim, near Bushmills. A statutory notice requiring destruction of the affected trees near

Bushmills was prepared and issued on the morning of Friday 16 November, this was following formal laboratory confirmation of Chalara fraxinea infection at the site on Wednesday 14 November.

Laboratory confirmation of the disease at a further four sites was received on Friday 16 November, in the afternoon. Work has been in progress since that time to prepare and issue notices for the remaining sites. It is intended that these will all issue this week. Containment notices are in place on all of the remaining sites restricting the movement of plant material and requiring the implementation of appropriate biosecurity measures pending the issue of the destruction notices.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### **Athletes Success**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the success of athletes in a range of sports in the 2012 Olympics, what steps she intends to take to build on that success for other athletes through partnerships and other means.

**(AQW 15929/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** As part of the implementation of my strategy for sport, Sport Matters, I have been working to lay the foundations for a sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games which includes building on the success of athletes from a range of sports.

Sport Matters already recognises that genuine partnership working and joined up planning are essential to success and achieving excellence in performance amongst existing successful athletes and athletes in other sports. To that end, a Sport Matters Action Plan has been drawn up and published by Sport NI setting out key steps and actions to be taken over the next 4 years to build on the legacy of the 2012 games and help athletes in a range of sports to achieve success at European, Commonwealth, World and Olympic/Paralympic competition.

This action plan has already been agreed with sports organisations and a wide range of parties in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

### **Cost of the Event in Custom House Square**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 13899/11-15, to detail the level of funding her Department has allocated to Líofo for each financial year between 2011/12 and 2015/16.

**(AQW 15952/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department has not allocated specific funding to Líofo for each financial year. Individual Business Cases are prepared for expenditure associated with Líofo such as the appointment of a Líofo Officer and the Líofo birthday event.

### **Líofo Budget**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when she will publish the business case for the establishment of a specific Líofo budget.

**(AQW 15953/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** There is no specific Líofo budget. Individual Business Cases are prepared for expenditure associated with Líofo.

## Libraries

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what support LibrariesNI has provided to the eight libraries initially marked for closure in the Stage 2 Review.

**(AQW 15975/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI has worked with Library Action Groups established in each of the communities where libraries were considered for closure under the Stage 2 Review. The seven libraries that were retained have been supported through the provision of promotional postcards, leaflets and membership packs and, in some cases, promotion using social media.

The libraries continue to provide core activities such as story-times, book clubs, class visits and activities for pre-school children. All libraries participated in the Titanic Reading Voyage (a summer reading challenge for children) and various IT promotions such as the "ITea and Biscuits" Week which took place in September.

Libraries NI developed an action plan following the second stage of the Review of the Library Estate (libraries outside Greater Belfast). The plan is currently being implemented.

## World Police and Fire Games 2013

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will be working with the Department for Regional Development to increase parking facilities and public transport in Belfast in advance of the World Police and Fire Games 2013.

**(AQW 15995/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:**

**2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited is currently developing a Transportation Plan for the Games in August 2013. The majority of transport provision will utilise the existing public transportation network, as most of the venues are within the Greater Belfast Area.**

The Company is currently engaging with Translink regarding the use of the existing network. This includes discussions regarding the temporary enhancement of some routes in terms of numbers of buses and frequency of use during the period of the Games.

In terms of parking facilities, the Company is engaging with the Department for Regional Development (DRD) to consider these facilities. The Company is also engaging with DRD on other transportation issues, including the potential need for any road closures or lane restrictions to facilitate particular sports event such as cycling or the triathlon.

## Ministerial Appointments

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the success rates of (i) catholic; and (ii) protestant applicants for Ministerial appointments from May 2007 to April 2011.

**(AQW 16029/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The success rates of (i) catholic applicants for Ministerial appointments made from May 2007 to April 2011 is 18.30% while the success rates of (ii) protestant applicants for the same period is 17.92%. This is illustrated in the following table.

	<b>Community Background Catholic</b>	<b>Community Background Protestant</b>	<b>Community Background Neither or Unknown</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Applications	153	240	56	449
Number successful	28	43	6	77

	<b>Community Background Catholic</b>	<b>Community Background Protestant</b>	<b>Community Background Neither or Unknown</b>	<b>Totals</b>
% successful	18.30	17.92	10.71	17.15
% successful out of total applications	6.24	9.58	1.34	-

### Chief Executive of Sport NI

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the Chief Executive of Sport NI is in post, and, if not, why not.

**(AQW 16054/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I can advise that the Chief Executive of Sport NI has retired with effect from 31 October 2012.

### Sports Facilities and Programmes for Disabled People

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of computer terminals in each library; and the internet connection speed in each library.

**(AQW 16163/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Please see attached Annex A; which details the number of computer terminals in each library broken down by Public Access Terminals, Staff terminals and library management issue terminals and Annex B; which shows the network provision of a series of 2mb lines to each library along with their volumes.

#### ANNEX A

#### BREAKDOWN OF PATS (PUBLIC ACCESS TERMINALS), STAFF TERMINALS & LIBRARY MANAGEMENT ISSUE TERMINALS. (SEPTEMBER 2012)

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Antrim Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	35
	Staff PC	6
Ardoyne Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	16
	Staff PC	1
Armagh Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	24
	Staff PC	1
Ballycastle Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	5
	Staff PC	1



<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ballyclare Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1
Ballyhackamore Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	7
Ballymena Central Library	Issue PC	8
	PAT	32
	Staff PC	4
Ballymoney Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	12
	Staff PC	2
Ballynahinch Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	6
Banbridge Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	23
	Staff PC	1
Bangor Carnegie Library	PAT	45
	Staff PC	10
Belfast Central Library	Issue PC	16
	PAT	61
	Staff PC	35
Bessbrook Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
Broughshane Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Brownlow Library	Issue PC	6
	PAT	19
	Staff PC	3
Carnlough Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	3
Carrickfergus Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	20
	Staff PC	2

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carryduff Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	5
Castledearg Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	10
	Staff PC	1
Castlewellan Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	7
	Staff PC	1
Chichester Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	11
	Staff PC	4
Cloughfern Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Coalisland Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	6
Coleraine Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	17
	Staff PC	1
Colin Glen Library	Issue PC	6
	PAT	22
	Staff PC	1
Comber Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
Cookstown Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	30
	Staff PC	1
Cregagh Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	7
	Staff PC	1
Creggan Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	9
	Staff PC	1

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Crossmaglen Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1
Crumlin Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1
Cushendall Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Derry Central Library	Issue PC	8
	PAT	35
	Staff PC	6
Donaghadee Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	10
	Staff PC	1
Downpatrick Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	22
	Staff PC	4
Draperstown Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Dromore Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	7
Dundonald Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	10
Dungannon Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	34
	Staff PC	15
Dungiven Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	10
	Staff PC	2
Enniskillen Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	18
	Staff PC	8

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Falls Road Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	16
	Staff PC	2
Finaghy Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	14
	Staff PC	3
Fintona Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Fivemiletown Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
Garvagh Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Gilford Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	2
Glengormley Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	24
	Staff PC	2
Greenisland Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	8
	Staff PC	2
Greystone Library	PAT	5
	Staff PC	1
Grove Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	16
	Staff PC	2
Holywood Arches Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	14
	Staff PC	2
Holywood Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	16
	Staff PC	2
Irish & Local Studies Library Armagh	Issue PC	1
	PAT	9
	Staff PC	2

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Irvinestown Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	12
Keady Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	12
Kells & Connor Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Kilkeel Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	5
	Staff PC	1
Killyleagh Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	5
Kilrea Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Larne Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	22
	Staff PC	2
Limavady Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	15
	Staff PC	2
Lisburn Library	Issue PC	12
	PAT	49
	Staff PC	6
Lisburn Road Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	3
Lisnaskea Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	9
	Staff PC	2
Lurgan Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	35
	Staff PC	1
Maghera Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Magherafelt Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	23
	Staff PC	2
Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	Issue PC	1
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	2
Moira Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	3
Newcastle Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	9
	Staff PC	1
Newry Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	30
	Staff PC	5
Newtownards Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	5
Newtownbreda Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1
Newtownstewart Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	8
	Staff PC	1
Omagh Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	34
	Staff PC	16
Ormeau Road Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	14
	Staff PC	3
Portadown Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	30
	Staff PC	3
Portaferry Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	10
	Staff PC	1

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Portglenone Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
Portrush Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	15
	Staff PC	2
Portstewart Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1
Randalstown Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	6
Rathcoole Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	14
	Staff PC	3
Rathfriland Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
Richhill Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	4
Saintfield Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	5
Shankill Road Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	22
	Staff PC	1
Shantallow Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	14
	Staff PC	4
Strabane Library	Issue PC	3
	PAT	20
	Staff PC	3
Strathfoyle Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	8
	Staff PC	2
Suffolk Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	14
	Staff PC	2

<b>Library</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tandragee Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	6
	Staff PC	1
Tullycarnet Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	20
	Staff PC	2
Warrenpoint Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	10
	Staff PC	2
Waterside Library	Issue PC	2
	PAT	10
	Staff PC	2
Whitehead Library	Issue PC	1
	PAT	4
	Staff PC	1
Whiterock Library	Issue PC	5
	PAT	15
Woodstock Library	Issue PC	4
	PAT	7
	Staff PC	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1828</b>

<b>Summary</b>	
Total number of PATs	1,331
Total number of Issue PCs	286
Total number of Staff PCs	211
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,828</b>

**ANNEX B  
BREAKDOWN OF THE INTERNET SPEED IN EACH LIBRARY.**

<b>Library</b>	<b>Bandwidth in MB</b>	<b>Number of 2MB Lines</b>
Cregagh	2	1
Carryduff	2	1
Castlewellan	2	1
Ulster folk park	2	1



<b>Library</b>	<b>Bandwidth in MB</b>	<b>Number of 2MB Lines</b>
Lisburn Rd	2	1
Finaghy	4	2
Castleberg	2	1
Woodstock	2	1
Crumlin	2	1
Dromore	2	1
Dungiven	2	1
Fivemiletown	2	1
Randalstown	2	1
Portglenone	2	1
Whitehead	2	1
NILA Portadown	2	1
Kilkeel	2	1
Killyleagh	2	1
Maghera	2	1
Moira	2	1
Newtownstewart	2	1
Saintfield	2	1
Bangor	6	3
Comber	2	1
Newcastle	2	1
Creggan	2	1
Ulidia Centre	2	1
Ballyhackmore	2	1
Fintona	2	1
Lisnaskea	2	1
Ballycastle	2	1
Bessbrook	2	1
Cushendall	2	1
Keady	2	1
Cloughfern	2	1
Kilrea	2	1
Broughshane	2	1
Carnlough	2	1

<b>Library</b>	<b>Bandwidth in MB</b>	<b>Number of 2MB Lines</b>
Draperstown	2	1
Garvagh	2	1
Greystone	2	1
Kells and Connor	2	1
Portaferry	2	1
Richhill	2	1
Tandragee	2	1
Crossmaglen	2	1
Ballymena New	4	2
Armagh	2	1
Hollywood Arches	2	1
Whiterock	2	1
Tullycarnet	2	1
Rathcoole	2	1
Ballyclare	2	1
Shantallow	2	1
Limavady	2	1
Coleraine	2	1
Downpatrick	2	1
Ballynahinch	2	1
Dundonald	2	1
Chichester	2	1
Larne	2	1
Brownlow	2	1
Armagh Local Studies	2	1
Greenisland	2	1
Portrush	2	1
Portstewart	2	1
Ballymena HQ	4	2
Suffolk	2	1
Ballymoney	2	1
Waterside	2	1
Lisburn Library	8	4
Coalisland	2	1

<b>Library</b>	<b>Bandwidth in MB</b>	<b>Number of 2MB Lines</b>
Warrenpoint	2	1
Enniskillen	4	2
Shankill	2	1
Skegoneill	2	1
Strathfoyle	2	1
Falls Road	2	1
Newtownbreda	2	1
Rathfriland	2	1
Armagh HQ	4	2
Omagh HQ	6	3
Ormeau Rd.	4	2
Dungannon	4	2
Antrim	4	2
Hollywood	2	1
Glengormley	2	1
Lurgan	4	2
Newtownards	2	1
Cookstown	4	2
Magherafelt	2	1
Portadown	2	1
Carrickfergus	4	2
Colin Glen (Daily Farm)	2	1
Newry	4	2
Banbridge	4	2
Ardoyne	2	1
Donaghadee	2	1
Derry Central	4	2

## **Libraries**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure which libraries are designated as being in (i) rural; or (ii) urban locations.

**(AQW 16164/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Please see the attached Annex for a breakdown of libraries designated as being in (i) rural and (ii) urban locations.

The definition of rural / urban is based on the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (NISRA, 2005) which defines settlements of less than 4,500 as rural communities and all other settlements with a population greater than 4,500 as urban.

You will note that this classification uses data from the 2001 census.

#### ANNEX A

<b>Library</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Broughshane	Rural
Carnlough	Rural
Castleberg	Rural
Castlewellan	Rural
Crossmaglen	Rural
Crumlin	Rural
Cushendall	Rural
Draperstown	Rural
Dungiven	Rural
Fintona	Rural
Fivemiletown	Rural
Garvagh	Rural
Irvinestown	Rural
Keady	Rural
Kells & Connor	Rural
Killyleagh	Rural
Kilrea	Rural
Lisnaskea	Rural
Maghera	Rural
Moira	Rural
Newtownstewart	Rural
Portaferry	Rural
Portglenone	Rural
Rathfriland	Rural
Richhill	Rural
Saintfield	Rural
Tandragee	Rural
Whitehead	Rural
Antrim	Urban
Ardoyne	Urban

<b>Library</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Armagh	Urban
Ballycastle	Urban
Ballyclare	Urban
Ballyhackamore	Urban
Ballymena Central	Urban
Ballymoney	Urban
Ballynahinch	Urban
Banbridge	Urban
Bangor Carnegie	Urban
Belfast Central	Urban
Bessbrook	Urban
Brownlow	Urban
Carrickfergus	Urban
Carryduff	Urban
Chichester	Urban
Cloughfern	Urban
Coalisland	Urban
Coleraine	Urban
Colin Glen	Urban
Comber	Urban
Cookstown	Urban
Cregagh	Urban
Creggan	Urban
Derry Central	Urban
Donaghadee	Urban
Downpatrick	Urban
Dromore	Urban
Dundonald	Urban
Dungannon	Urban
Enniskillen	Urban
Falls Road	Urban
Finaghy	Urban
Glengormley	Urban
Greenisland	Urban

<b>Library</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Greystone	Urban
Grove	Urban
Hollywood	Urban
Hollywood Arches	Urban
Kilkeel	Urban
Larne	Urban
Limavady	Urban
Lisburn City	Urban
Lisburn Road	Urban
Lurgan	Urban
Magherafelt	Urban
Newcastle	Urban
Newry City	Urban
Newtownards	Urban
Newtownbreda	Urban
Omagh	Urban
Ormeau	Urban
Portadown	Urban
Portrush	Urban
Portstewart	Urban
Randalstown	Urban
Rathcoole	Urban
Shankill	Urban
Shantallow	Urban
Strabane	Urban
Strathfoyle	Urban
Suffolk	Urban
Tullycarnet	Urban
Warrenpoint	Urban
Waterside	Urban
Whiterock	Urban
Woodstock	Urban

## Licence for a Fish Hatchery

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the process within her Department, or its arm's-length bodies, by which an individual or organisation can obtain a licence for a fish hatchery.

**(AQW 16278/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Fish hatcheries are regulated by DCAL through the issue of Permits under Section 14 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966. This allows for the artificial propagation of fish for specific scientific purposes or the improvement of any fishery.

However, where the intention is to feed fry and rear them on, then the facility would be deemed a fish farm and would require to be registered by DARD through the issue of a fish culture licence.

## Sport in the Community Project

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what support her Department has given to the Department for Social Development for the Sport in the Community project.

**(AQW 16281/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Neither my Department nor Sport NI received any request or approach from the Department of Social Development for support towards its Sport in the Community project. Having said that, the project which focuses on volunteer development and community capacity building through partnership working, is similar to a number of programmes operated by Sport NI which are aimed at supporting and developing sports volunteers and governing bodies. These include Awards for Sport, Clubmark and Activ8 Young Leaders.

## EU Funded Programmes

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many EU funded programmes are currently operated by her Department; and how many of these will continue beyond 2013.

**(AQW 16311/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department does not act as the Managing Authority for any EU funded programmes. However, my Department and its ALBs have been successful in securing EU funding opportunities to support a range of culture, arts and leisure projects. I am extremely encouraged by this success which has made a valuable and additional contribution to the growth of the culture, arts and leisure sectors here. My Department and its ALBs will continue to pursue further EU funding opportunities in the next EU funding round, 2014-2020, to build on this success.

## Illegal Fishing

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 15127/11-15, whether her Department has a service level agreement with the Loughs Agency for the protection of fisheries in the Public Angling Estate which are not in the Loughs Agency's jurisdiction.

**(AQW 16342/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Service Level Agreement between my Department and the Loughs Agency only covers those waters that form part of the DCAL Public Angling Estate that are located within the Loughs Agency jurisdiction.

There is no Service level Agreement between the Loughs Agency and DCAL which permits Loughs Agency personnel to provide protection to Public Angling Estate fisheries which fall outside the jurisdiction of the Loughs Agency.

## Departmental Media Protocol

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 15403/11-15, for an update on the status of each arm's-length body in relation to her Department's media communications protocol.

**(AQW 16343/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** All of the Department's ALBs have indicated that they are committed to working with DCAL and improving best practice in communications, in particular at a time when public finance is tight. The Department's ALBs are engaging in the communications forum and have welcomed this development. The communications protocol has been noted by SportNI, WPGF 2013, Armagh Observatory, Armagh Planetarium and NIScreen. LibrariesNI are broadly content with the arrangements as outlined and are working with the Department in clarifying issues as they arise. The Department is waiting for a response from National Museums Council. National Museums NI and the Arts Council have offered some suggested changes to the document and these are under consideration.

## Boddagh and Black Boddagh Fish in the Lough Neagh Basin

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether boddagh and black boddagh fish are present in the Lough Neagh Basin, and its arterial rivers, or if they are extinct.

**(AQW 16550/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Boddagh and black boddagh fish are present in Lough Neagh and its tributaries. DCAL has commissioned AFBI to produce a status report on trout stocks in the DCAL area. This report will provide information on fish stock levels and recommendations for future management.

## Museums

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what funding is available to museums that are accredited by the Northern Ireland Museum Council that is not available to museums not accredited.

**(AQW 16569/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) supports local museums to gain accreditation under the Arts Council England's 'Museum Accreditation Scheme'. Currently there are 37 accredited local museums, all of which are NIMC members.

All local museums which attain the standard and are members of NIMC are eligible for funding through the various grant schemes that the Council operates. These include the NIMC Accredited Museum Grant Programme and the NIMC Acquisition Fund.

Grants offered through the NIMC Accredited Museum Grant Programme included £67,897 in 2009-10, £57,037 in 2010-11 and £45,756 in 2011-12.

Grants of £6,750 in 2009-10, £4,300 in 2010-11 and £2,714 in 2011-12 were offered through the NIMC Acquisition Fund.

NIMC funding is not available to non-Accredited museums. However assistance is provided to non-Accredited museums, heritage bodies (and the general public) by way of advice, guidance and training, with particular support being given to new museum proposals and to those organisations preparing to apply to the Accreditation standard.

## Decisions with Spending Implications

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, since May 2011, how many decisions with spending implications have been made as a result of ministerial directions.

**(AQW 16626/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** No Ministerial Directions have been given since May 2011.



## Freedom of Information Requests

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of Freedom of Information requests received by her Department in each year since 2007; (ii) the proportion of requests each year that were not answered within the time limit; (iii) the number of requests currently outstanding by more than (a) one to two months (b) three to four months; (c) five to six months; (d) seven to twelve months; and (e) more than twelve months.

**(AQW 16645/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín:

Year	Requests Received	Proportion of Requests not Answered Within Time Limit
2007	454	20 %
2008	523	12.8%
2009	346	13 %
2010	348	16.6%
2011	549	15.3%
	Number Of Requests Currently Outstanding	
1-2 Months	8	
3-4 Months	6	
5-6 Months	Nil	
7-12 Months	Nil	
More Than 12 Months	Nil	

This information is extracted as at 15 November 2012.

## Exercise and Sport as a Treatment for Depression

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has any plans to work with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to promote exercise and sport as a treatment for depression.

**(AQW 16692/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I am already working closely with a number of Departments, including the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) to increase participation rates in sport and exercise amongst children and young people, adults, women, people with a disability, older people and socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, my Department is supporting DHSSPS in developing a new Investing for Health Framework. As part of that process, DCAL has submitted a number of proposals to DHSSPS setting out where sport might contribute to the implementation of the Framework and, in turn, promote exercise and sport as an aid to treating depression.

## Prompt Payment to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what practices, protocols and measures are in place within the Department and its arm's-length bodies to ensure prompt payment to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers.

**(AQW 16731/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Two performance targets exist in this area. First, there is a 30 day target backed by legislation which contains sanctions in the form of potential interest charges where payments are late. Second, there is an Executive-set target to pay suppliers within 10 days.

My Department and its arm's length bodies have a variety of processes in place to ensure prompt payment to suppliers and to monitor performance in this area. These have been developed to suit individual business circumstances but all rely on monthly reporting of performance and on remedial action to correct performance lapses.

In addition to this, my Department monitors overall performance at Board level: a report is provided to the monthly Board meeting which details performance by each ALB and the Department itself against each payment target. Explanations are given for variances and there is follow up action to ensure that the highest possible performance standards are maintained.

The effectiveness of these arrangements is reflected in the fact that overall, in excess of 90% of invoices are currently being paid within the Executive's 10 day target.

### **Sandy Row Amateur Boxing Club**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of her contribution to the debate on boxing in the Assembly on 12 November 2012, whether she wishes to revise her answer to AQW 14874/11-15.

**(AQW 16774/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I do not believe there is any need for my answer to AQW 14874/11-15 to be revised. In my answer I advised that funding is currently only being considered for boxing clubs that are governing body affiliated. This is consistent with the criteria set out in the proposed Boxing Investment Programme, recently published for consultation by Sport NI, which states that clubs must be located in the north of Ireland and be affiliated to an internationally recognised governing body for boxing at the time of the award to avail of the equipment grant. The published programme also defines an internationally recognised governing body as one that is recognised by and affiliated to the International Amateur Boxing Association.

### **Funding for Boxing Clubs**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether those boxing clubs which are applying for funding under her recent £3million announcement do not have, as a condition for payment under the terms of the funding announcement, to be affiliated to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association, either before or after any confirmation of a successful application for funding.

**(AQW 16816/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I can confirm that all boxing clubs in the north of Ireland that are affiliated or were affiliated in the last three years to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association, are free to submit expressions of interest in benefitting from the £3.27m funding recently announced under the Boxing Strategy. These clubs may also, as part of that process, have their facility needs independently assessed.

However, in order to be eligible for funding, it is currently proposed that clubs must be located in the north of Ireland and be affiliated to an internationally recognised governing body for boxing at the time of award. An internationally recognised governing body for boxing is defined as a governing body that is recognised by and affiliated to the International Amateur Boxing Association.

## Department of Education

### Maintenance Workforce: Religious Breakdown

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 15863/11-15, how many people are employed in the maintenance workforce of the Western Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 16253/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** I have been advised by the Western Education and Library Board that 78 people are employed in the maintenance workforce departments.

### Primary and Post-Primary Schools

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) number; and (ii) percentage of (a) teachers; and (b) classroom assistants who are (1) Protestant; and (2) Catholic in primary and post-primary schools, broken down by sector; and where these figures are not maintained whether he will arrange for monitoring to be undertaken.

**(AQW 16307/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (a) The information requested is not available in respect of teachers as schools are not required to monitor the community background of their teaching staff.
- (b) Number and percentage of classroom assistants:

SELB	Community Background						Total
	Protestant Community		Roman Catholic Community		Neither Community		
Management Sector and School Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Controlled Primary	463	89.20%	41	7.90%	15	2.90%	<b>519</b>
Controlled Secondary	131	85.60%	18	11.80%	4	2.60%	<b>153</b>
Maintained Primary	41	5.00%	773	94.30%	6	0.70%	<b>820</b>
Maintained Secondary	13	5.80%	206	92.40%	4	1.80%	<b>223</b>

NEELB	Community Background						Total
	Protestant Community		Roman Catholic Community		Neither Community		
Management Sector and School Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Controlled Primary	843	82.5	72	7	106	10.5	1021
Controlled Secondary	367	67.6	122	22.5	54	9.9	543
Maintained Primary	78	14.4	390	72.2	72	13.4	540
Maintained Secondary	24	13	139	75.1	22	11.9	185

<b>WELB</b>	<b>Community Background</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Protestant Community</b>		<b>Roman Catholic Community</b>		<b>Neither Community</b>		
Management Sector and School Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Controlled Primary	262	72.4	82	22.7	18	4.9	<b>362</b>
Controlled Secondary	67	64.5	33	31.7	4	3.8	<b>104</b>
Maintained Primary	76	10.8	618	88	8	1.1	<b>702</b>
Maintained Secondary	20	10.1	173	87.8	4	2.1	<b>197</b>

<b>SEELB</b>	<b>Community Background</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Protestant Community</b>		<b>Roman Catholic Community</b>		<b>Neither Community</b>		
Management Sector and School Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Controlled Primary	482	79.02	45	7.38	83	13.6	<b>610</b>
Controlled Secondary	103	71.03	17	11.72	25	17.25	<b>145</b>
Maintained Primary	40	11.17	266	74.3	52	14.53	<b>358</b>
Maintained Secondary	17	16.19	69	65.72	19	18.09	<b>105</b>

<b>BELB</b>	<b>Community Background</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Protestant Community</b>		<b>Roman Catholic Community</b>		<b>Neither Community</b>		
Management Sector and School Type	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Controlled Primary	280	90.6	19	6.1	10	3.3	<b>309</b>
Controlled Secondary	48	87.3	5	9.1	2	3.6	<b>55</b>
Maintained Primary	23	6.5	318	90.1	12	3.4	<b>353</b>
Maintained Secondary	3	2.7	108	97.3	0	0	<b>111</b>

### Schools: Support Programme

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) primary schools; (ii) primary school principals; (iii) primary school teachers; (iv) post-primary schools; (v) post-primary school principals; (vi) post-primary school teachers who were deemed unsatisfactory, inadequate or satisfactory and are now on a support programme, broken down by (a) Education and Library Board; and (b) sector.

**(AQW 16313/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The table below details the number of primary schools and post-primary schools deemed inadequate which are currently on a support programme; these are in effect the schools currently in Formal Intervention. There are currently no primary or post-primary schools deemed unsatisfactory.

**NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEEMED INADEQUATE WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ON A SUPPORT PROGRAMME.**

ELB	Sector	Primary Schools	Post-Primary Schools
		Inadequate	Inadequate
BELB	Controlled	2	1
	Catholic Maintained	-	1
WELB	Controlled	-	1
NEELB	Controlled	2	4*1
SEELB	Controlled	-	3
	Grant-Maintained Integrated	-	1
SELB	Controlled	2	-
	Catholic Maintained	1	-

\*1 The quality of education provided at Crumlin Controlled Integrated College improved by one level of performance from unsatisfactory to inadequate between the original inspection (January 2010) and the follow-up inspection in November 2011.

**NUMBER OF TEACHERS CURRENTLY DEEMED TO BE UNSATISFACTORY AND ON A SUPPORT PROGRAMME.**

ELB	Sector	Teacher declared Unsatisfactory	Teacher declared Unsatisfactory
		Primary School	Post-Primary School
BELB	Catholic Maintained	1	-
NEELB	Catholic Maintained	1	-
	Voluntary Grammar	-	1
SEELB	Catholic Maintained	-	1
SELB	Catholic Maintained	2	-

**NUMBER OF PRINCIPALS CURRENTLY DEEMED TO BE UNSATISFACTORY AND ON A SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

ELB	Sector	Principal declared Unsatisfactory	Principal declared Unsatisfactory
		Primary School	Post-Primary School
NEELB	Controlled	-	1
SEELB	Catholic Maintained	-	1

## School Closures

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what empirical evidence is held by his Department to show that school closures result in improved educational outcomes for those children whose schools have been closed.

**(AQW 16329/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department's Sustainable Schools policy provides the framework against which all schools are assessed to ensure that young people are served by a network of strong and vibrant schools that are capable of raising standards. A sustainable school is categorised by quality educational experience, stable enrolment trends, a sound financial position, strong leadership and management, accessibility and strong links with the community.

A viable school is capable of meeting the needs of its current and future pupils by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, including the entitlement framework in post primary schools. A viable school also provides a suitable environment to support the continuing professional development of its teachers and other staff.

A school closure may occur for a range of reasons including the quality of the education provided. However, regardless of why a school closes it is important that every effort is made to ensure that pupils are given the necessary support on transfer to the new school and that all pupils have every opportunity to fulfil their potential.

The Department does not monitor pupil performance where pupils transfer to new schools as a result of a school closure. Consequently, the Department does not hold any empirical evidence to show that school closures result in improved educational outcomes.

## Functional Numeracy of School Leavers

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the current level of attainment of functional numeracy of school leavers.

**(AQW 16339/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Literacy and numeracy skills are vital to the success of our young people as they progress through school and beyond into further learning, work and life and are key drivers for the future growth of our economy. Therefore my raising standards agenda has a focus on improving pupil outcomes in both literacy and numeracy particularly for those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds most at risk of underachieving.

The proportion of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\*-C or equivalent including GCSE English and maths has increased by 5.3 percentage points in the period 2006/07 (54.2%) to 2010/11 (59.5%).

The tables below detail the performance of school leavers in GCSE English and GCSE maths or equivalent qualification in 2010/11. A GCSE grade A\*-C is equivalent to a Level 2 qualification, recognised internationally as the standard required to function in today's society.

	English	Maths
Percentage of school leavers achieving a GCSE grade A*- C or equivalent qualification.	69.1%	65.4%
Percentage of FSME school leavers achieving grade A*-C or equivalent qualification.	44.0%	37.6%

A GCSE grade D – G is a Level 1 qualification which can provide a platform for further development of literacy and numeracy skills.

	English	Maths
Percentage of school leavers achieving a GCSE grade D - G or equivalent qualification.	21.9%	27.0%
Percentage of FSME school leavers achieving a GCSE grade D - G or equivalent qualification.	38.3%	46.3%

	English	Maths
Percentage of school leavers not achieving GCSE grade A*-G or equivalent qualification.	9.0%	7.6%
Percentage of FSME school leavers not achieving GCSE grade A*-G or equivalent qualification.	17.7%	16.1%

Clearly, there is a need for improvement particularly for FSME pupils – 56% of FSME school leavers are not achieving a grade A\*-C or equivalent qualification in English and almost 64% of FSME school leavers not achieving at this level in maths. Also of concern is the percentage of FSME school leavers not getting even a GCSE grade G or equivalent qualification.

Improvement is needed in both the primary and post-primary school sectors. The Chief Inspector's Report 2010-12 highlighted the fact that almost one in five of primary school pupils is not at the expected level of literacy and numeracy when they transfer to post-primary school. The report also advised that, literacy co-ordinators, heads of departments and teachers of English in post-primary schools need to work together to address deficits in children's literacy, before, during and after their transition to post-primary education and, in almost half of post-primary school maths departments inspected, leadership and management needs to improve.

You will be aware of the recent announcement by the First and deputy First Ministers of investment in the employment of 230 graduate teachers to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of our young people. This will complement the policies I have in place to support raising standards and to achieve improved outcomes in literacy and numeracy for all our young people. These include the Every School a Good School policy for school improvement, and Count, read: succeed, the strategy for improving literacy and numeracy. However, more needs to be done, especially in areas of social deprivation, and the key now is to step up the pace of implementation and delivery of these policies and to maintain the focus on raising standards to ensure that every pupil is able to achieve to their full potential.

## Functional Literacy of School Leavers

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the current level of attainment of functional literacy of school leavers.

**(AQW 16340/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Literacy and numeracy skills are vital to the success of our young people as they progress through school and beyond into further learning, work and life and are key drivers for the future growth of our economy. Therefore my raising standards agenda has a focus on improving pupil outcomes in both literacy and numeracy particularly for those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds most at risk of underachieving.

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### Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education whether the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum has a task group to combat racist bullying.

**(AQW 16347/11-15)**



**Mr O'Dowd:** The Anti-Bullying Forum established a racist bullying sub-group in 2006 and it completed its programme of work in April 2008. This group produced content for the Forum's website (www.niabf.org.uk) including resources for schools to promote cultural diversity and inclusion with a view to preventing bullying due to race, faith and culture. They also produced a leaflet entitled 'What is bullying due to Race, Faith and Culture' which provides advice and signposting for parents and carers. The Forum can decide to re-establish this sub-group as need arises.

The theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2007 was 'Bullying due to Race, Faith and Culture' and the 2008 theme was tackling the fear of being bullied in a new school which was particularly relevant for newcomer pupils.

The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week, which takes place from 19 - 23 November, is "Everybody is Somebody". This covers all bullying that is motivated by difference or prejudice, such as racist bullying.

## Anti-Bullying Strategies

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the impact that anti-bullying strategies are having on the level of bullying behaviour in schools.

**(AQW 16348/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Bullying, in whatever form and for whatever reason, has no place in schools. All schools are required by law to have a discipline policy which includes anti-bullying measures.

My Department does not require schools to record all reported incidents of bullying and to make a return. However, the research report "The Nature and Extent of Pupil Bullying in Schools in the North of Ireland", published by my Department in October 2011, showed little change in the level of bullying behaviour reported by pupils compared to earlier studies in 2002 and 2007.

Whilst the proportion of pupils experiencing bullying had not changed significantly, the study showed that pupils are using different means to bully. In particular the report highlighted the increased use of social networks and mobile phones.

The Department recognises that it cannot tackle bullying alone and it is for this reason that it continues to fund and participate in the local Anti-bullying Forum (NIABF).

A specific programme of training is currently being delivered to schools by Education and Library Boards on a new resource "Effective Responses to Bullying Behaviour" which was produced by the NIABF. This document takes schools on a staged journey to resolving a concern, offering levelled interventions, including restorative approaches, for both the child who is being bullied and the child displaying bullying behaviour.

## Early Years Strategy

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education whether the revised proposals for the Early Years Strategy will be subject to a full public consultation.

**(AQW 16397/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I am currently considering the need for further consultation given that the previous strategy was widely consulted on.

## Post-Primary Schools that wish to Attend First World War Battlefields

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Education, in light of the Prime Minister's recent announcement for schools in Great Britain, what plans his Department has to assist post-primary schools that wish to attend First World War battlefields to mark the centenary of the Great War.

**(AQW 16459/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department delegates as much funding and decision-making as possible to schools which are best placed to assess the needs of their pupils and we take the view that it is very much a

matter for schools themselves to reach a judgement on programmes or visits they wish to participate in to enhance their teaching and learning.

I therefore have no plans to assist post-primary schools that wish to attend First World War battlefields to mark the centenary of the Great War – such a decision will be a matter for each school.

### **Speech and Language Therapy Unit**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education why the Belfast Education and Library Board can retain a Speech and Language Therapy Unit but the Western Board is unable to retain such a unit; and what he can do to address the disparity.

**(AQW 16475/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have assumed that the member is referring to the Woodlands Speech and Language Unit currently located at Belmont House Special School.

Article 7 of the Education (NI) Order 1996, as substituted by Article 3 of SENDO, refers to the duty of the Education and Library Board to educate children with special educational needs (SEN) in ordinary schools if no statement of SEN is maintained for the child.

The Chief Executive of the Western Education and Library Board has advised that as the Woodlands Unit has children attending without a statement of SEN the board is, therefore, considering its re-location to mainstream primary schools.

The Chief Executive of the Belfast Education and Library Board has confirmed that all speech and language units in its area are attached to mainstream primary schools.

### **Special Education Needs Units**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 15987/11-15, to explain the reasons for the disparity in the number of children attending special education needs unit between the Education and Library Boards.

**(AQW 16490/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the education and library boards (ELBs) that the number of special educational needs (SEN) units, also known as Learning Support Centres, is based on need, as determined by each ELB, in order to make provision for children and young people with SEN within their areas. The number of children enrolled in these units depends on the type of SEN provision being made and the individual SEN of the child.

The process involved in opening a unit is subject to the statutory Development Proposal process which facilitates consultation. This consists of consultation prior to the publication of the Proposal with those directly affected, including parents and teaching staff. There is also a statutory 2-month period post-consultation which enables anyone with an interest to comment directly to the Department.

### **Maintenance Workforce of the South Eastern Education and Library Board**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how many people are employed in the maintenance workforce of the South Eastern Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 16491/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have been advised by the South Eastern Education and Library Board that 39.5 (Full Time Equivalent) people are employed in the maintenance workforce departments.

### **Schools in North Down: Inspections**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education which schools in North Down have been subject to inspections in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16493/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The schools in North Down that have been subject to inspections in each of the last three years, are as follows:

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>School Type</b>	<b>Name of School</b>
2009/2010	Primary	Ballyholme Primary School
2009/2010	Post-Primary	St Columbanus' College
2010/2011	Nursery	Hollywood Nursery School
2010/2011	Nursery	Trinity Nursery School
2010/2011	Primary	Bangor Central Primary School
2010/2011	Primary	Ballymagee Primary School
2010/2011	Post-Primary	Bangor Grammar School
2011/2012	Special	Clifton Special School
2011/2012	Primary	Grange Park Primary School
2011/2012	Primary	Kilcooley Primary School
2011/2012	Primary	Towerview Primary School
2011/2012	Primary	Clandeboye Primary School
2011/2012	Independent	Bangor Independent Christian School

## **Dyslexia Support**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Education what level of provision for dyslexia support will be included in the new teacher employment scheme under which 300 newly qualified teachers will be appointed to deliver one to one tutoring.

**(AQW 16514/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I warmly welcome the announcement by the First and deputy First Ministers of investment in the employment of 230 graduate teachers not currently in employment, on a two year contract, to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of our young people. Not only does this provide employment opportunities for graduate teachers, it should also have a positive impact on my raising standards agenda by improving the educational outcomes of pupils who are most at risk of under achieving.

My Department officials are currently working to establish arrangements for the development and implementation of this project including details of which schools will benefit from this additional funding, how schools and teachers will be matched and how pupils will be identified for additional support. I have asked my officials to work through the finer details of the project as quickly as possible, however it is not possible at present to give exact details on the timescales and costs.

You may be aware that support for continuing professional development of teachers is the responsibility of the Education and Library Boards through their respective Curriculum Advisory Support Service (CASS). CASS carries out an annual audit of training needs for each school in their area from which they prepare a scheme of support. Schools can avail of the wide range of courses on all aspects of Special Educational Needs (SEN) offered by the Boards.

You may also be aware that my Department is supporting the SEN Continuing Professional Development Literacy Project which is being jointly delivered by Stranmillis and St Mary's University Colleges.

The project will be delivered to all primary schools and some special schools over the next three years. The project will deliver whole school training to enhance the skills of teachers in the teaching of literacy.

The project also offers specialist training, accredited by the British Dyslexia Association, to a number of SEN Co-ordinators and teachers, to enable them to meet the needs of pupils with literacy difficulties, including dyslexia.

### Development of Pooled Budgets

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education what are the legislative barriers which prevent the development of pooled budgets, as raised by the Director of Families in his Department at the All Party Group on Children and Young People on Tuesday 6 November.

**(AQW 16524/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Departments (NI) Order 1999 defines the status of each department as a body corporate.

Managing Public Money provides guidance on the use of public resources. In accordance with that guidance, departments are statutory corporations and as such have no powers except those which are conferred under statute. Expenditure can only be properly incurred where there is specific statutory authority for the activity or service as well as authority through the Budget Act for the related expenditure.

The Accounting Officer of each department is responsible for ensuring that the Estimate(s) presented to the Assembly for the department's annual expenditure are consistent with the statutory powers and with the Executive's expenditure plans; and use of resources in the department is consistent with the Estimates. The Accounting Officer must answer to the Assembly for stewardship of these responsibilities.

I have confirmed with my official that this is the point she was making in response to a question from a member of the Green Party at the All Party Group about the barriers to 'pooled budgets'.

Departments can and do fund joint initiatives, the budget is not 'pooled' as such. One department would generally take the lead, and other departments contribute. In other cases where there is a central fund, departments can bid to the fund for resources.

### Services Being Jointly Commissioned

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education which services are being jointly commissioned between his Department, or the Education and Library Boards, and any other Department or agency.

**(AQW 16526/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd:

Service	Commissioned by DE or ELB?	In conjunction with which Department?
Food in Schools Co-ordination (Public Health Agency)	DE	DHSSPS
Education Works Advertising Campaign	DE	OFMDFM
Architectural Services	SELB	Libraries NI (DCAL) & Southern Regional College (DEL)
Maintenance Services	SELB	Libraries NI (DCAL) & Southern Regional College (DEL)
Belong – Family Support Programme	SELB	Southern Health Board
Headstart	NEELB	Northern Health Trust
Relationships and Sexuality Training	NEELB	Public Health Agency
Behaviour Support Service	NEELB	DHSS&PS

<b>Service</b>	<b>Commissioned by DE or ELB?</b>	<b>In conjunction with which Department?</b>
LAC Support Service	NEELB	Health & Social Care Board
Youth Service – Young Men’s Health Project	NEELB	Health Promotion Agency
Educational Catering Service – Nutritional Guidelines for Schools	NEELB	DHSS&PS
Student Finance	NEELB	DEL
Northgate – Teacher’s Salaries	DE	Teacher Employers
Capita – Teacher’s Pension	DE	Teacher Employers including DEL
Irish Medium Bursary Scheme	DE	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG)
Transport (Translink)	DE & ELBs	DRD

### **Education and Training Inspectorate**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education how many members of the Education and Training Inspectorate were appointed in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 16581/11-15)**

**Mr O’Dowd:**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Inspector Appointments</b>
2012/2013(to date)	3
2011/2012	2
2010/2011	2
2009/2010	4
2008/2009	4
2007/2008	6
2006/2007	0
2005/2006	1
2004/2005	5
2003/2004	7
2002/2003	6

### **Multi-Agency Support Teams**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of Multi-Agency Support Teams and their effectiveness at prioritising the work of early years intervention.

**(AQW 16589/11-15)**

**Mr O’Dowd:** I understand that the Multi-Agency Support Teams (MASTS) service, which operates within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and North Eastern Education and Library Board area, has evidenced positive outcomes to date which demonstrate the teams’ effectiveness in prioritising early

years intervention. For example, during the 2011/12 academic year 57% of referrals received by the team were from children in their P1 year and 5% of children referred were in P4.

Furthermore feedback from an evaluation carried out in June 2012 with school staff reported that 82% found the training beneficial to extremely beneficial and 87% found the therapeutic intervention beneficial to extremely beneficial in meeting the needs of both the children and school staff.

In addition 95% of parents/carers who accessed support from the MASTS service, who also took part in a service evaluation in June 2012, found that the support delivered by the MASTS service, directly within the school environment, as beneficial to extremely beneficial in meeting their child's needs.

### **Multi-Agency Support Team Scheme**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Education to list the schools in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust that (i) are part of the Multi-Agency Support Team scheme; and (ii) have since applied to the scheme but who have not yet been incorporated, broken down by Parliamentary Constituency.

**(AQW 16591/11-15)**

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

The North Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that this information is held by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust as the lead body in the Multi-Agency Support Team scheme.

### **Assets Transferred to the Catholic Church**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 16201/11-15, which of the assets to be transferred from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools to the Catholic Church, in advance of the introduction of the Education and Skills Authority, are still required for the provision of education; and how replacements, or agreement, for continued use will be procured.

**(AQW 16596/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Of the assets which shall transfer from CCMS to the Catholic Church upon the creation of ESA, none are being used for the provision of education. The assets concerned are headquarters and local offices.

### **Home to School Transport Policy**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Education to outline his Department's policy for home to school transport for primary school pupils where their chosen school is outside the statutory distance and there is a school within the statutory distance.

**(AQW 16607/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education's home to school transport policy is set down within DE Circular 1996/41 (as amended) and is available on the Department's website at:

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/admission-and-transport/transport-to-school.htm>

Eligibility is determined by two criteria: 'distance' and 'suitable school'. For primary schools the distance is two miles. A 'suitable' primary school is one in the recognised categories of controlled, integrated, Irish medium, and maintained. No other definition of 'suitable' is permitted.

When a parent selects a school for their child, then the category to which that school belongs becomes the category used in an assessment of their child's eligibility for assistance with transport. Schools in other categories are then ignored. Should there be other primary schools in the same category within two miles of the pupil's home, then the parent(s) must apply to all of them, and be refused a place in each, before transport assistance will be granted to a school in the same category that lies beyond two miles.

## Decisions with Spending Implications

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education, since May 2011, how many decisions with spending implications have been made as a result of ministerial directions.

**(AQW 16627/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There have been no decisions with spending implications, since May 2011, made as a result of ministerial direction within the Department of Education.

## Area Planning Process: Post-Primary Schools

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education to outline the next steps in the Post-Primary Area Planning Process; and when he expects to receive proposals from each Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 16638/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Now that the consultation period for the Post Primary Area Plans has ended the Education and Library Boards, working closely with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools are undertaking an analysis of the responses received.

Once this has been completed they have been asked to prepare a report to the Department which outlines the key issues raised in the consultation and details what action the Board has taken or plans to take to address such issues.

The Education and Library Boards have been requested to submit their report for consideration by 7 December 2012, together with revised or enhanced Post-Primary Area Plans. It is my aim to make decisions in regard to these area plans in the New Year.

The Boards are also working to finalise the draft area plans for primary provision. It is important that lessons are learned from the Post-primary consultation. It is therefore my intention that these will be published for consultation early in the New Year.

## Area Planning Process: Primary Schools

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Education when the Area Planning Process for primary schools will begin.

**(AQW 16639/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Now that the consultation period for the Post Primary Area Plans has ended the Education and Library Boards, working closely with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools are undertaking an analysis of the responses received.

Once this has been completed they have been asked to prepare a report to the Department which outlines the key issues raised in the consultation and details what action the Board has taken or plans to take to address such issues.

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## Principles of Leadership

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education on what principles of leadership will schools be judged.

**(AQW 16643/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information relating to the inspection of leadership and management in schools is already in the public domain on the Education and Training Inspectorate's website in the Together

Towards Improvement framework for inspection. The Together Towards Improvement framework can be found at the following link: <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/together-towards-improvement.htm>

The relevant performance indicators relating to leadership and management are in Section A of the document.

### Freedom of Information Requests

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department in each year since 2007; (ii) the proportion of requests each year that were not answered within the time limit; (iii) the number of requests currently outstanding by more than (a) one to two months (b) three to four months; (c) five to six months; (d) seven to twelve months; and (e) more than twelve months.

**(AQW 16646/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** FOI Requests received each year since 2007

Year	No of Requests	Proportion of requests not answered within the time limit.
2007	138	5.07 ( 7 requests)
2008	168	7.74 (13 requests)
2009	162	1.85 ( 3 requests)
2010	207	7.73 (16 requests)
2011	206	6.80 (14 requests)
2012 (to-date)	172	5.81 (10 requests)

There are currently no outstanding requests falling outside the statutory time limit.

### Ballymena Area Planning Exercise

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education when the final decisions will be made on the outworkings of the Ballymena area planning exercise.

**(AQW 16655/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Education and Library Boards published area plans for post-primary provision on 5 July 2012 with the consultation period ending on 26 October 2012. The Education and Library Boards, working closely with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, are undertaking an analysis of the responses. Once this has been completed they have been asked to prepare a report to the Department which outlines the key issues raised in the consultation and details what action the Board has taken or plans to take to address such issues.

Any changes required to be made to a school or schools in an area as a result of proposals in the area plans will, as now, be subject to the statutory Development Proposal (DP) process and will require the publication of a DP. Once it is published, a statutory 2-month period then ensues, during which anyone who wishes to express an opinion may do so directly to the Department of Education.

I hope to be in a position to make decisions on area planning in January 2013. Until I see the revised plans I am not in a position to comment on the outworkings for the Ballymena area.

### National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education what contact he has had with National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts to seek additional inward support.

**(AQW 16656/11-15)**



**Mr O'Dowd:** While I have had no direct contact with NESTA I am aware that they visited the north of Ireland in October 2012 and during this visit they hosted a round table discussion of agency, private and public sector bodies – this included a C2k representative and two school Principals. I understand that discussions revolved around how NESTA could best support innovation in education in the north and they are looking for an agency to partner and act as co-ambassadors.

### **Sure Start Services**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education, in light of the planned expansion of Sure Start services to the top 25 percent of the most disadvantaged wards, which areas in the East Londonderry constituency are likely to benefit.

**(AQW 16658/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Roeside (Limavady) and Royal Portrush (Coleraine) wards are included in the expansion of the Sure Start programme to the top 25% areas of disadvantage in East Derry.

### **Northern Ireland Literacy and Numeracy Assessments**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education whether his interim solution to address the technical difficulties with the Northern Ireland Literacy and Numeracy assessments will overcome all the problems experienced by schools; and whether he is aware of the views within the sector that the computer systems in many primary schools are unable to cope adequately with these assessments.

**(AQW 16660/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Following an extensive investigation by suppliers of computer-based assessments, CCEA, C2k and Northgate Managed Services, a potential issue was identified for the Literacy application, which accounted for the majority of the reported issues. An interim solution has been implemented for this assessment. The effectiveness of the potential solution continues to be monitored. Initial indications are that there has been a significant reduction in the number of errors being logged as a result of this intervention. Work is ongoing to determine the root cause of these issues.

Some schools may continue to experience a range of individual issues. If assistance is still required, the CCEA and/or C2K help-lines will be able to assist or if required, CCEA and C2K will arrange an on-site support visit to a school.

I am assured by C2k that the hardware provision in all primary schools is common and an important part of the procurement and subsequent development processes was to ensure that assessments were designed to operate on the system infrastructure. Many schools have experienced no significant issues conducting the assessments on this equipment, subject to their following the appropriate prerequisite checks. Where issues with computer equipment are logged with the C2k Service Desk, these will be investigated and resolved.

### **Review of GCSE and A Levels**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how he will involve school principals in the Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment Review of GCSE and A levels.

**(AQW 16661/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In my commissioning letter to CCEA, I made it clear that in formulating its advice and recommendations, I wanted wide consultation in particular with parents and teachers. In addition, I have asked CCEA to set up an expert group and this will include representatives from schools. I see it as particularly important that the views of school principals are sought and I know that school principals will be included in the membership of the expert group.

CCEA will be launching an on-line questionnaire to gain views about the current GCE and GCSE qualifications. This initial consultation will be open to the public and will be advertised widely using the press and social media. A letter of invitation to respond will be issued to key stakeholders, including schools. I would expect principals to lead on responses from schools. The online questionnaire will be

followed by deliberative research events and these will offer further opportunities for school leaders to feed in their thoughts and views to the researchers.

Finally, I know that CCEA will be keen to arrange meetings on the review with the professional bodies/unions representing school principals.

### **Enrolment Process for Pre-school Places**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education for an update his Department's preparations for this year's enrolment process for pre-school places.

**(AQW 16662/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The process for pre-school admissions in September 2013 is due to commence on 30 November 2012 when application forms and booklets containing information about pre-school providers in an area will be made available to parents. The closing date for completed application forms to be returned to a parent's first preference pre-school provider is noon on Friday 11 January 2013.

The legislative requirement for pre-school providers to give priority in their admissions criteria to children born in July or August has been removed.

The Department and each Education and Library Board (ELB) have reviewed their publicity material and will be promoting the availability of funded pre-school places over the coming weeks to help maximise parental engagement with the process.

The Programme for Government commits my Department to ensuring that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it. I have increased the budget available for the pre-school programme and my Department has advised ELBs that they may proceed to secure the required number of funded places in advance of the process commencing. My officials will continue to work closely with the ELBs to respond to the demand for funded places in each area.

### **Teaching Posts to Improve Literacy and Numeracy in Schools**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education how many of the 230 new teaching posts that are being created to improve literacy and numeracy in schools will be in North Antrim.

**(AQW 16677/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I warmly welcome the announcement by the First and deputy First Ministers of investment in the employment of 230 graduate teachers not currently in employment, on a two year contract, to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of our young people. Not only does this provide employment opportunities for graduate teachers, it should also have a positive impact on my raising standards agenda by improving the educational outcomes of pupils who are most at risk of under achieving.

My Department has been tasked with taking forward this project and my officials are currently working to establish arrangements for the development and implementation of this project including details of how schools and teachers will be matched and how teachers will be recruited to these posts. I have asked my officials to work through the finer details of the project as quickly as possible. However, it is not possible at present to provide details of which schools will benefit from the additional funding or the timescales and costs for the project.

### **Prompt Payment to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Education what practices, protocols and measures are in place within the Department and its arm's-length bodies to ensure prompt payment to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers.

**(AQW 16688/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department and its Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) are committed to the Better Payments Practice Code, as set out in Annex 4.6 of Managing Public Money (MPMNI), and are subject to the Late Payment of Commercial Debt Regulations 2002. Payment is regarded as late if it is made outside the

agreed terms, or 30 calendar days after receipt of a valid invoice where no terms are agreed. In line with DFP guidance issued in November 2008 and section A.4.6.3 of MPMNI, the Department and its ALBs seek to maximise the number of suppliers paid within 10 working days.

Targets have been set for the 2012-13 year, to pay 97% of all non-disputed invoices within 30 days and to maximise the payment of all non-disputed invoices within 10 working days. The annual resource accounts include a note on performance against prompt payment targets.

The Department monitors prompt payment figures by business area to identify any specific areas where improvements can be made. Cost centre managers are provided with management information on a regular basis and are advised to take action to improve performance if required.

ALBs report their performance to the Department on a monthly basis and are challenged where there are dips in performance. The Department is leading a working group with the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) in an effort to share best practice and address common issues. The ELBs have processes in place to monitor the prompt payment performance of schools in their area.

The prompt payment of invoices to all suppliers is supported and monitored by senior management and the performance of the Department and its ALBs is a standing agenda item at Departmental Board Meetings. Prompt payment performance of the Department's ALBs is made available on the DE website.

## GCSE Grades

**Mr G Kelly** asked the Minister of Education (i) how many; and (ii) what percentage of Year 12 pupils, in each electoral ward, failed to achieve 5 GCSE A\*-C grades, in each of the last four academic years, broken down by gender.

**(AQW 16696/11-15)**

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

The answer includes all pupils from Year 12 or above leaving school in the given academic year. Analysis is based on pupil residence.

## Consultations on Draft Area Plans

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education (i) how his Department will assess the 47,000 responses to the consultations on draft area plans; (ii) how the public will be informed of the actions taken as a result of the responses; and (iii) how many of the responses were received via the internet.

**(AQW 16702/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** (i) The consultation on the draft Post-primary Area Plans, which ended on 26th October 2012, was conducted by the Education & Library Boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). Hence it is these organisations, not the Department, which will analyse the responses received.

(ii) The Boards, working closely with CCMS, will provide a report to the Department on the analysis of the consultation responses in all Board areas highlighting the issues raised and what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to address these issues. Following my consideration of the report on the consultation responses and the amended area plans it would be my intention to make these publicly available to ensure all interested parties are fully informed on the issues and actions.

(iii) A total of 16,806 responses were completed via the on-line questionnaires.

## Classroom Assistants

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education to outline his future plans for Classroom Assistants.

**(AQW 16703/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department will continue to respond to the educational needs of children in accordance with the prevailing legislative provisions. The Education and Library Boards will continue to support schools in meeting the needs of children and young people as identified in their Statement of Special Educational Needs. This will include funding schools in respect of the allocation of Additional Adult Assistance as recommended by appropriate professionals.

The proposals set out following the review of special educational needs (SEN) and inclusion relate to changes to the existing SEN framework to provide a less bureaucratic and more streamlined process to meet the needs of children. The review has not made specific recommendations about the role of classroom assistants in how they support children with SEN. It will be a matter for the Education and Library Boards and, in time, the Education and Skills Authority to ensure that they provide equitable SEN services that are determined and provided through commonly applied criteria.

In the meantime, the Education and Library Boards will continue to provide training and support for classroom assistants in addition to advice and training for schools on best practice in the management of classroom assistants.

### Special Needs Schools

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister of Education what consideration he has given to increasing the age limit to over 18 years for young people who attend a special needs school.

**(AQW 16741/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Young people can stay at special schools until they are 19 years old.

If a pupil has a statement of special educational needs, an Education and Library Board (ELB) may maintain the Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) until the pupil is 19 years old.

Following a young person's 14th birthday ELBs must produce a Transition Plan at the first and subsequent Annual Review of the Statement of SEN. The Transition Plan includes provision to facilitate transition from childhood to adulthood through, for example, further education, training, work or day care.

When a young person leaves a special school responsibility for that person passes from the Department of Education to the appropriate department e.g. the Department for Employment and Learning or the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety.

### Questionnaire on Cross Border Education

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education what bodies were consulted on the objectivity of the questionnaire issued to parents on cross border education; and how he will ensure that the questionnaire is not open to accusations of having questions construed in such a way so as to achieve a particular outcome.

**(AQW 16815/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education in the North, and the Department of Education and Skills in the South, cooperated on the content, design, and testing of the survey's questionnaire. To ensure that best practice was applied to the survey, and that the outcome would be robust, it was designed, and questions were developed, with input from research and statistics specialists from both Departments. Before issuing the main survey, the questionnaire and associated on-line site was piloted with the key stakeholder group, the parents of children at schools in the border corridor in the target group in Years 1, 7 and 8.

The questionnaire is relatively short and straightforward. It collects factual information about: current levels of awareness of being able to apply to schools across the border; experience of having applied; level of interest in sending children to schools across the border; types of school that would be of interest; and, any factors that might inhibit interest. The parents of pupils attending all categories of school have been surveyed. Parents of pupils at schools in the survey area and in the relevant year groups (P1, P7, and Year 8) will have an opportunity to contribute.

Given this development process, it was not considered necessary to consult any other bodies on the objectivity of the questionnaire.

### **Cost of Undertaking Equality Impact Assessments**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost to his Department over the last three financial years of undertaking equality impact assessments.

**(AQW 16824/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Once a policy is screened and screening has identified that an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is necessary, it is carried out in accordance with Equality Commission guidance.

The Department does not hold information on the costs of EQIAs, and could not readily disaggregate them.

### **Advertising in the Irish Language**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education how much his Department has spent on advertising in the Irish language in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16825/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The expenditure on advertising in the Irish language in each of the last three financial years is detailed in the following table. Some of the expenditure is listed in Euro as the Department advertises in one publication based in the south of Ireland to widen the reach and effectiveness of its classified advertising.

<b>Year</b>	<b>£ Sterling</b>	<b>Euro</b>
2011-12	11,503.88	5,682.75
2010-11	16,328.50	10,811.47
2009-10	27,890.26	930

### **School Management Practice**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of changes to education, classroom and school management practice which the Education and Training Inspectorate has recommended be made in schools that it has inspected in the last ten years; and how many of these changes have subsequently been implemented.

**(AQW 16828/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The information requested is not readily available in the format required. An exercise to obtain such information would result in disproportionate costs.

### **Education and Training Inspectorate Performance**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education what quality and performance tests have been applied to the Education and Training Inspectorate over the past five years; and how the Inspectorate has performed.

**(AQW 16829/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As an organisation committed to continuous improvement, and increased openness, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) secures an independent evaluation of its work on an annual basis.

Up until 2008/2009, this external independent evaluation had been conducted for a number of years by Price Waterhouse Coopers. From 2009 to date, to reduce costs involved, an independent, confidential, post-inspection evaluation has been conducted by the Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

During the last three years, ETI has also been subject to Charter Mark Assessment, a DE Internal Audit Evaluation and a Customer Service Excellence Award assessment.

All of these assessments of quality have reported very positively on the organisation. Further details are available from the Annual Business Reports for each of the last three years which are available at [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk).

## **External Moderation of the Education and Training Inspectorate**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education what external moderation of the Education and Training Inspectorate is in place; and what recommendations have arisen from this moderation.

**(AQW 16830/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In order to ensure continuous improvement, and increased openness, the Education and Training Inspectorate secures an independent evaluation of its work on an annual basis. Up until 2008-09, this external evaluation had been conducted for a number of years by Price Waterhouse Coopers. From 2009 to date, to reduce costs involved, an independent, confidential, post-inspection evaluation has been conducted by the Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

In addition, a "Charter Mark Certification Review" relating to the Education and Training Inspectorate was undertaken in September 2007 by EMQC Ltd. The resulting report, which was very positive, ensured that ETI retained its Charter Mark award up until Charter Mark was replaced by Customer Service Excellence in 2011.

In January 2011, the Education and Training Inspectorate was assessed by EMQC for the Customer Service Excellence Award which it was subsequently granted. The assessment concluded:

"The Education and Training Inspectorate is a highly customer focused organisation with a discrete balance between the rigorous assessment of educational and training establishments against educational policy and the support for these organisations to change and improve. Customers appreciate the rigour of the inspection process and the support to make positive change provided. Customers spoke highly at assessment of the approachability of Inspectors and the value added their advice and guidance provides in ensuring learners have the best opportunities for attainment. Policy makers at the Department of Education appreciate the objectiveness of reporting the ETI provides that enables clear measurement of improving standards in education.

There are no actions that require immediate attention and I am pleased to pass on to EMQC Ltd's Certification Committee my recommendation that you are certificated as meeting the Customer Service Excellence Standard. Certification is valid for three years from the Certification Committee's decision date and subject to ongoing annual monitoring."

The key mission of the Education and Training Inspectorate is "to promote improvement in the interests of all learners". This includes the promotion of improvement in its own procedures and practices.

In 2010, the DE Internal Audit Branch conducted an evaluation of the work of the Education and Training Inspectorate. The resulting evaluation report noted: "Internal Audit considers that the quality of the service provided by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) complies with best practice".

"The Review highlighted a number of ETI's strengths in each of the areas examined. The most notable of these are:

- The quality of documentation detailing ETI's system processes
- The importance assigned by ETI management to the development of their staff
- The openness and transparency with which ETI shares its work with stakeholders
- The desire to continually improve the inspection service provided to its customers by being subject to an annual independent evaluation of the inspection process."

## Inspectors from the Education and Training Inspectorate

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education how often Inspectors from the Education and Training Inspectorate return to (i) teaching for an extended period; and (ii) school management positions for an extended period.

**(AQW 16831/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** It is not current practice for the inspectors from the Education and Training Inspectorate to return to:

- (i) teaching for an extended period;
- (ii) school management positions for an extended period.

## Voluntary Grammar Schools

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Education when the £250 payment will be made to eligible staff of Voluntary Grammar Schools for the 2010/11 year.

**(AQW 16834/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The £250 payment will be made to eligible staff of Voluntary Grammar Schools once all of the necessary approvals have been obtained in accordance with the requirements of public sector pay policy.

## New Teaching Posts

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how many of the 230 new teaching posts that are being created to improve literacy and numeracy in schools will be in North Down.

**(AQW 16855/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I warmly welcome the announcement by the First and deputy First Ministers of investment in the employment of 230 graduate teachers not currently in employment, on a two year contract, to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of our young people. Not only does this provide employment opportunities for graduate teachers, it should also have a positive impact on my raising standards agenda by improving the educational outcomes of pupils who are most at risk of under achieving.

My Department has been tasked with taking forward this project and my officials are currently working to establish arrangements for the development and implementation of this project including details of how schools and teachers will be matched and how teachers will be recruited to these posts. I have asked my officials to work through the finer details of the project as quickly as possible. However, it is not possible at present to provide details of which schools will benefit from the additional funding or the timescales and costs for the project.

## Confidentiality of School Inspections

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education to outline his Department's policy on the confidentiality of school inspections carried out by the Education and Training Inspectorate; and to detail any breaches of this confidentiality which have occurred in the last five years.

**(AQW 16861/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** All inspection evidence is scanned and stored electronically in the Department of Education's central repository for documentation. The inspection file, which contains the inspection evidence, is held for seven years in accordance with the Education and Training Inspectorate's retention and disposal schedule. All inspection evidence is treated confidentially and evidence unique to each individual is handled under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

There have been no breaches of this confidentiality in the last five years.

## Lay Involvement of the Education and Training Inspectorate

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education whether there is any lay involvement in the work of the Education and Training Inspectorate.

**(AQW 16862/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) does not currently have any lay involvement in its work. However, ETI does use Associate Assessors during inspection. An Associate Assessor is a serving Principal/Vice Principal, senior manager or senior support officer from the CASS service, who is released from their school/organisation to join an inspection team. Training is provided by ETI for all Associate Assessors.

## Appointment of Members of the Education and Training Inspectorate

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education whether there is any lay involvement in the appointment of members of the Education and Training Inspectorate.

**(AQW 16863/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There is no lay involvement in the appointment of members of the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). The appointment of members of ETI is carried out by HR Connect, the Civil Service's partner, which delivers all recruitment services.

## Education and Training Inspectorate: Involving Teachers and Managers

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education what steps he has taken to involve (i) practising teachers; and (ii) practising school managers and principals in the inspections that are carried out by the Education and Training Inspectorate.

**(AQW 16865/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In relation to (i) and (ii), many inspection teams include among their numbers, Associate Assessors. An Associate Assessor is a key professional who is currently serving as a Principal/Vice Principal, senior manager or senior support officer from the CASS service and who is released from their school/organisation to join an inspection team.

## New Build for Down High School

**Mr Hamilton** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the progress towards a new build for Down High School, Downpatrick.

**(AQW 16911/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As you will be aware, the consultation on post-primary area plans has completed and responses are currently being considered. Potential capital projects such as that for Down High School will be critically assessed as part of this process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed.

Proposals for a new build at Down High are somewhat complicated by the need to purchase land on the Strangford Road.

In addition to the site issues, planning approvals will have to be renewed and the economic appraisal will need to be updated and reassessed before a new build project can progress.

## Irish Medium team in CCEA

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what was the total cost of the Irish Medium team within the Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16939/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has provided the following information:



Year	Total Cost	Note
2011-2012	£447,530.92	
2010-2011	£384,425.15	
2009-2010	£258,711.91	
2008-2009	£191,997.20	CCEA did not have a dedicated Irish Medium team during this year. CCEA had a number of individuals, including translators, working on Irish Medium activities.
2007-2008	£138,759.51	CCEA did not have a dedicated Irish Medium team during this year. CCEA had a number of individuals, including translators, working on Irish Medium activities.

In 2009, the Department initiated a programme by which CCEA was tasked with significantly increasing the availability of curriculum support materials for the Irish Medium sector and specifically to address recommendations 15 and 16 of the Review of Irish-Medium Education Report.

The costs for 2007-2012 are for the direct team costs and do not include the cost of any materials that were produced e.g. the production/print cost of support materials.

### Teacher Education Review

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 16370/11-15, what is the estimated date for the publication of the draft strategy.  
(AQW 16946/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The target in the Department's Corporate Plan for 2012-15 is to publish the strategy document on the Review of Teacher Education by the end of January 2013.

## Department for Employment and Learning

### Items Disposed of at Auctions

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the items his Department disposed of at auctions in (i) 2010/11; and (ii) 2011/12, including the auction value of each item.  
(AQW 16312/11-15)

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** The Department has not disposed of any items at auctions in either 2010/11 or 2011/12.

### Helping Young People Find Jobs

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department is taking to help young people find jobs in the North Down area.  
(AQW 16358/11-15)

**Dr Farry:** Addressing youth unemployment, in all areas of Northern Ireland including North Down, is a priority.

Steps to Work is the Department's main return to work provision and in the North Down area 265 young people are currently availing of this programme. This is a flexible programme which tailors provision to the individual's need with the aim of assisting participants to find and sustain employment.

A new initiative has recently been implemented within the StW programme known as 'First Start'. Between now and 2014 First Start will support 1,700 waged employment opportunities, each lasting

a minimum of six months, for young people aged 18 to 24 who have been in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for at least six months.

The Department's Pathways to Work programme assists people with health conditions and disabilities move into employment and presently 62 young people in the North Down area are involved in this programme.

In March the Executive agreed a package of new measures – “the Youth Employment Scheme” - to help young people gain experience, acquire new skills and find employment.

My Department is actively working with employers to secure as many opportunities as possible as quickly as possible across Northern Ireland. I have been encouraged by the response of employers so far and I expect many more to come forward to offer opportunities for young people in the coming months.

In the period April to October 2012 my Department helped 390 young people move from welfare to work in North Down (the area served by Bangor and Newtownards Jobcentres). This is 25% above target for those areas for the period. (The target for Bangor was 145 and for Newtownards, 167).

### **Beecroft Report on Employment Law**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the Beecroft Report on Employment Law.

**(AQW 16413/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In my statement to the Assembly on 5 November 2011 on the Department's employment law review, I stated that the debate around employment law is often pitched as the interests of business against the rights of workers, and I rejected the argument that this has to be a zero-sum situation. I also stated that I am committed to evidence-based policymaking, to better regulation, and to making the decisions that best serve employees and employers.

With the above in mind, my overall assessment of the Beecroft Report is that it does not sufficiently consider the needs of employees. I have already ruled out the introduction of compensated no-fault dismissal.

### **Items Disposed of for a Monetary Return**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the items that his Department disposed of for a monetary return in (i) 2010/11; and (ii) 2011/12.

**(AQW 16483/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department has not disposed of any items for a monetary return in either 2010/11 or 2011/12.

### **Chairperson of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 14514/11-15, how, and when, a new chairperson of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast will be appointed; and whether he can give an assurance that the post will be filled by a publicly advertised competitive process.

**(AQW 16515/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Work has commenced on the process of recruiting a new Chair to the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College. I can confirm that this is being carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland and that the post will be publically advertised. Subject to a suitable candidate being identified, who meets the advertised selection criteria, a new Chair will be appointed when the process is completed.

### **Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how, and when, a new vice-chairperson of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast will be appointed; and whether he can give an assurance that the post will be filled by a publicly advertised competitive process.

**(AQW 16516/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In accordance with the Governing Body's Instrument of Government, the Vice-Chair is elected by Governing Body members from among their own number. The current Vice-Chair's term of office is not due to expire until July 2014.

### **Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how, and when, a new Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast will be appointed; and for his assessment of whether the size of the present board allows it to be fully representative.

**(AQW 16517/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** There is no requirement for a new Governing Body of Stranmillis University College to be appointed. However, the Chair is due to retire at the end of December 2012 and there are three vacancies among other members. Work has commenced on the process of recruiting people to fill these four vacancies through open competitions.

The make up of the present Governing Body is fully representative of the required categories of members specified in the Colleges of Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

### **Departmental Review of Teacher Education in Northern Ireland**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 14550/11-15, when the departmental review of Teacher Education in Northern Ireland, including the viability audit of the two University Colleges, will be published.

**(AQW 16518/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** As I stated in AQW 14550/11-15, work on the First Stage of the Study of the Teacher Education Infrastructure in Northern Ireland is ongoing. The report will be available once this has concluded and the findings have been discussed with both university colleges.

### **Degree Level Courses in Pedagogy**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) whether any degree level courses in Pedagogy are being offered; (ii) the number of students enrolled on the courses; and (iii) if courses are not being offered, why this is the case.

**(AQW 16530/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** As my Department does not hold this information, my officials contacted the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for a response. The universities and university colleges have confirmed that there are currently no degree-level courses in Pedagogy. However, the study of pedagogy is an integral part of the courses of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) available at the four HEIs.

### **150 Phd Places at Universities**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the distribution of the additional 150 Phd places between universities.

**(AQW 16561/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I am currently considering the basis on which to allocate to the universities both the 150 additional PhD places announced under the Jobs and Economy Initiative and the additional 150 places already announced in "Graduating to Success", my Department's Higher Education Strategy. I

would hope to be in a position shortly to make a final decision on their distribution between the two universities.

The first tranche of 100 additional places will be available in the 2013-14 academic year.

### **STEM Undergraduate Places**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning when the additional 500 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics undergraduate places will be available; and when he intends to announce how the places will be distributed between universities.

**(AQW 16562/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I would hope to be in a position to make a final decision and announcement on the allocation of the additional STEM places shortly. The places will be available from the 2013-14 academic year.

### **National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what contact he has had with National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts in relation to seeking additional inward support.

**(AQW 16570/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Departmental officials have recently been present at several NESTA organised events and meetings. There have been no specific discussions about additional inward support and no approach of this nature has been made recently by the organisation.

I welcome the recent decision of the Assembly to consent to NESTA's reconstitution as a charity and look forward to working together with the organisation in the future.

### **Learner Access and Engagement Programme**

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) to outline the timescale for the delivery of the Learner Access and Engagement Programme; and (ii) whether he can offer an assurance that funding will be available to continue community education in the Derry area until the programme is implemented.

**(AQW 16580/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The timeframe produced by the Western Education and Library Board, the Centre of Procurement Excellence for the Learner Access and Engagement procurement exercise, has indicated that the process will take approximately 26 weeks, concluding in May 2013. The programme is expected to commence in September 2013.

The Department's funding to the six further education colleges for community education will continue, pending the programme's implementation.

### **Former Employees of Forth and Foyle**

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he can offer an assurance that the six remaining former employees of Forth and Foyle will be offered training programmes as a matter of urgency.

**(AQW 16617/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My officials have been pro-active and along with colleagues from the Social Security Agency; they have already met with the six former employees of Forth and Foyle on the 2 November 2012 at their premises at Skeoge Industrial Estate.

During this meeting, each employee was spoken to individually to give him/her appropriate benefit guidance and advice, and for those who wished to make claims to Job Seekers Allowance, appointments were made in both Foyle and Lisnagelvin Jobs and Benefits Offices.

My officials outlined the range of DEL services available to them, including upskilling, identifying alternative employment, and a Self Employed Test Trading option. The employees indicated that they would be interested in availing of specialised training specifically in relation to off shore work on both oil rigs and wind turbines. They also indicated they were very keen to update and improve their CVs in order to enhance their employability.

My officials advised that the employees could receive immediate help with CVs through the Job Clubs in both Foyle and Lisnagelvin Jobs and Benefits Offices, and that they would be eligible for a range of assistance under the Steps to Work programme (StW). My Department's ability to fund these will of course be dependent on the costs and whether or not these courses are available in Northern Ireland. My staff also made an initial enquiry with Invest NI on their behalf, to see if they could provide any assistance.

It was agreed that the employees would compile a list of courses and send these to my staff, who would in turn consider these with our local StW Lead Contractor, Bryson Future Skills. To date my officials have not received this list, so on the 8 November 2012, they followed up on this; however I will ask them to do so again as a matter of urgency.

### Compliance with Law for SMEs

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the evaluation of the outcomes of the research project, commissioned by his Department, to identify the support mechanisms that the small and medium-sized enterprise sector requires to comply with employment law.

**(AQW 16618/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My Department is anticipating receipt of a final report on the research project shortly, and I intend to publish the report by the end of the year.

The key output from the research will be a set of recommendations on how SMEs might be better supported to overcome challenges in interpreting and complying with employment law.

I will then consider how best to take forward the research recommendations and hope to announce proposals in the Spring of 2013.

### Freedom of Information Requests

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department in each year since 2007; (ii) the proportion of requests each year that were not answered within the time limit; (iii) the number of requests currently outstanding by more than (a) one to two months (b) three to four months; (c) five to six months; (d) seven to twelve months; and (e) more than twelve months.

**(AQW 16647/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The information requested in relation to (i) and (ii) is published in a series of FOI Annual Reports, which are on the basis of calendar years. The reports up to 2011 can be accessed from the OFMDFM website at:

[http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/improving-public-services/information\\_management\\_and\\_central\\_advisory\\_branch/annual-reports-and-statistics.htm](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/improving-public-services/information_management_and_central_advisory_branch/annual-reports-and-statistics.htm)

An overview of the Department's statistics is detailed below for your information.

Year	Number of Requests Received	Proportion of requests not answered within time limit
2007	100	1%
2008	109	3%

Year	Number of Requests Received	Proportion of requests not answered within time limit
2009	102	1%
2010	107	1%
2011	189	3%
2012*	108	1%

\* until 12 November 2012

My Department currently has no responses to Freedom of Information requests outstanding beyond the legislative deadline.

### Step-Up Programme

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in light of the concerns of teachers and schools in Londonderry and Belfast that the quality of provisions and funding for the Step-Up Programme will be diminished, given that the designer and director has been absent from university for over seven months and has now resigned, what action he is taking to address this matter.

**(AQW 16745/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Step-Up programme has been extremely successful in raising the motivation, aspiration and academic performance of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and has enabled many young people to progress to higher education, including some who would not previously have considered higher education as an option for them.

The University of Ulster has confirmed that the Step-Up programme remains an important part of its overall widening participation plan and that the university intends to explore new opportunities to extend this very successful model to other economically relevant disciplines. The Step-Up programme is a collaboration between the schools, industry and the University of Ulster and as such is not dependent on the contributions of single individual. However, the university has confirmed that a new director will be appointed for the Step-Up programme as soon as possible in order to ensure that all Step-Up activities continue to be carried out to a very high standard.

I believe that "Step-Up" will contribute significantly to the achievement of the objectives set out in Access to Success, my Department's strategy to widen participation in higher education which I launched on 11 September 2012. I am committed to providing continuing funding for the Step-Up programme and will be considering the introduction of similar new programmes within the new strategy.

### 500 Work Experience Placements on the Steps to Work Programme.

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the timescale for the additional 500 work experience placements on the Steps to Work Programme.

**(AQW 16747/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The 500 work experience placements on the Steps to Work programme will be available across the Public Sector. It is envisaged that there will initially be 40 starts in 2012/13 with a further 230 starts during both 2013/14 and 2014/15.

### Steps to Work Programme

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the educational attainment level of participants on the Steps to Work Programme in the Foyle and Lisnagelvin Jobcentre catchment areas in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 16772/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The contract for the delivery of Steps to Work in the Foyle contract area that covers the Foyle and Lisnagelvin Jobs & Benefit offices catchment areas was awarded on 25 July 2011 to North West Regional College. This contract ended on 30 September 2012 and a new contract was awarded to Bryson Future Skills from 1 October 2012.

The educational attainment level of participants who started Steps to Work provision with the Lead Contractors from 25 July 2011 to 12 November 2012 is detailed in Annex A.

The data on educational attainment was input on the Department's Trainee Management System (TMS) by the Lead Contractors, North West Regional College and Bryson Future Skills.

#### ANNEX A

Highest Qualification held	Number of participants	Highest Qualification held	Number of participants
Masters Degree	26	HND	22
Diploma in Further Education	35	OND	2
Diploma in Higher Education	9	Higher leaving Certificate	3
Diploma in Vocational Education	16	Leaving Certificate	4
Degree	103	GNVQ Advanced	3
A Level	119	GNVQ Intermediate	19
Advanced Senior	1	GNVQ Foundation	15
AS Level	12	NVQ Level 1	93
GCSE	411	NVQ Level 2	373
O Level	28	NVQ Level 3	81
CSE	26	RSA Stage 1	4
BTEC National	49	RSA Stage 2	5
BTEC Certificate	12	RSA Stage 3	1
BTEC First	24	Key Skills	2
BTEC General	13	Basic Skills	1
Junior Certificate	2	Other	43
City and Guilds	129	No formal qualifications	1566
Unstated	5	Certificate of Achievement	17

#### Apprenticeships

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department aligns the number and type of apprenticeship places with the gaps in skills and workplace needs.

**(AQO 2886/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department's current policy on apprenticeship training is to fund apprenticeships based on demand. Demand is determined by employers recruiting and nominating apprentices on to the programme linked to their business and skills needs.

The ApprenticeshipNI budget contains funding for two categories: those apprentices aged 16-24; and those aged 25 and over. Following a recent review of adult training, including apprenticeships, support for adults aged 25 and over is prioritised in the economically important sectors which are constrained by skills needs and which are needed to rebalance the economy.

These are business services specifically ICT; financial services; manufacturing, including food and drink/agri-food, advanced manufacturing and advanced engineering; and the emerging sectors of life and health sciences and the creative industries.

This policy will aid the growth of a strong private sector and promote high value/high paid jobs in sectors with the potential to expand, to innovate and to export.

A pilot higher level ICT apprenticeship programme for eight participants commenced in October 2012. It is planned also to pilot higher level apprenticeships in Engineering.

The Department has worked closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel and private sector companies to design a Public/Private ICT Apprenticeship Scheme to employ and train individuals for work in the ICT sector. 32 ICT apprentices have recently been recruited into the scheme in a variety of roles.

The number of people undertaking apprenticeship training at the moment is 11,600. This figure is testimony to the value that employers put on ApprenticeshipsNI training.

I would encourage all employers to avail of the programme. In particular, through the new Jobs and Economy Initiative we will encourage further employer engagement with ApprenticeshipsNI by supporting the cost of "off the job" apprenticeship training for up to 900 additional young people that have participated on the Youth Employment Scheme.

### **Graduate Acceleration Programme: South Antrim**

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many graduates from the South Antrim constituency have benefited from the Graduate Acceleration Programme since 2008.

**(AQO 2893/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Graduate Acceleration Programme was introduced in January 2010 as a strand of Steps to Work provision.

Since its introduction, 404 graduates have started on this strand of provision. Of these 404 participants, 17 or 4% resided in the South Antrim parliamentary constituency.

### **Programme-led Apprenticeships**

**Mr Newton** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people who enrolled in the Programme-Led Apprenticeship Scheme, over the past three years, were able to gain work placements to complete their vocational qualifications.

**(AQO 2894/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The numbers enrolled in each intake of the Programme-Led Apprenticeship programme since its introduction in September 2009 are as follows. In 2009/10 there were 3,397 participants, in 2010/11 there were 3,519 participants, in 2011/12 there were 3,588 participants and in 2012/13, 2,792 participants have enrolled to date.

A work placement is required to ensure the participant can gain evidence towards their competence based vocational qualifications. To date 2,266 NVQ2 vocational qualifications have been achieved.



The Programme-Led Apprenticeship programme aims to assist young school leavers who have been unable to find the requisite employed status to train as an apprentice through the Department's ApprenticeshipsNI programme during the economic downturn.

The Department is determined that in this downturn we continue to invest in the skills training of our young people.

We do not want to be in a position at the end of this recession where we have a group of young people who have been disenfranchised and disenfranchised, nor do we want there to be a skills gap.

### **South West College: Enniskillen Campus**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the capital requirements for the Enniskillen campus of the South West College.

**(AQO 2895/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The South West College is preparing a business case to address accommodation needs at its Fairview campus in Enniskillen. We anticipate having a draft presented to us, for assessment, by the end of 2012. In the business case the College is considering a number of options including a new build option on the site of the old Erne Hospital. This option is looking at the possibility of developing a shared services site with a range of other public sector bodies. Whilst no firm decisions can be made on options or capital requirements, until the business case is complete, the project forms part of my Department's advanced planning and a bid will be made in respect of the South West College to the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

### **Steps to Work**

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why it is necessary to use non-indigenous providers to deliver the Steps to Work Programme.

**(AQO 2896/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** By the term non-indigenous I assume the Member means outside Northern Ireland. Steps to Work, my Department's main employment programme, is delivered in Northern Ireland through a network of eight lead contractors across 10 contract management areas.

When the delivery of Government programmes is subject to the public procurement process it must adhere to the EU Public Procurement Directives including the EU Treaty Principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. It is therefore unlawful to restrict the award of contracts to Northern Ireland companies only.

There is only one company with headquarters in Great Britain currently delivering Steps to Work in Northern Ireland.

### **Employment: People with Disabilities**

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department assists people with disabilities to gain employment.

**(AQO 2897/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The Department's provision for people with disabilities is delivered by my staff, healthcare professionals and specialist providers. Providers have a range of expertise required to meet the specific needs of disabled people wanting to obtain or sustain employment.

All provision can be accessed through highly trained Employment Advisers based in Jobs and Benefits Offices and Jobcentres throughout Northern Ireland. In addition, the Department's Disability Employment Managers provide ongoing support and guidance to these Employment Adviser teams.

Specialist provision offered by the Department's Disability Employment Service includes:

- a dedicated Occupational Psychology Service;

- the Work Connect programme;
- the Workable programme;
- the Access to Work programme;
- the Condition Management Programme; and
- the Job Introduction Scheme.

The Department, in partnership with disability organisations and Employers for Disability Northern Ireland, also works with employers to advocate on behalf of, and to promote the benefits of employing people with a disability.

## Youth Unemployment

**Mr Mitchel McLaughlin** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on his plans to address the levels of youth unemployment.

**(AQO 2898/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Through the Youth Employment Scheme this year, we expect to offer 1,000 short two to eight week work experience placements, 400 longer six to nine month skills development opportunities and subsidise 350 jobs by March 2013. These figures will rise steadily over the next three years to a total of 6,000 opportunities across all strands of the Scheme. We expect to spend £31 million by March 2015.

Since the successful promotional event on 26 September in the Titanic Building in Belfast, almost 200 employers have signed agreements to participate in the scheme. To date there have been 154 opportunities advertised with 37 young people availing of the scheme. A new Enterprise Allowance to help 150 young people establish their own business will also be made available.

Following the Executive's recent Economy and Jobs announcement, an additional 500 jobs for unemployed young people will be supported through my Department's 'First Start' Initiative this year which has already attracted almost 100 vacancies within the first week of operation.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what progress has been made on his Department's review of Educational Maintenance Allowance.

**(AQO 2899/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I can advise that my Department and the Department of Education launched a joint public consultation on the future of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme on Monday 30 July. The consultation ran for fourteen weeks and closed on Friday 2 November. The consultation document contained five options for the future structure of the scheme which were agreed with the Minister of Education. I can also advise that sixty-two consultation responses were received.

My Department and the Department of Education are now carefully analysing all responses received prior to making a joint recommendation on the future structure of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme. Final decisions on the way forward will rest with the Executive.

It is intended that all agreed changes to the scheme will be implemented from the 2013/14 academic year and an announcement made as soon as practically possible, in order to ensure that current and prospective students are provided with sufficient notice of how any proposed changes to the scheme may affect them. It is also to ensure that there is sufficient time for the Student Loans Company, which administers the scheme on behalf of both Departments, to make the required changes to the ICT infrastructure, application forms and guidance documentation.

## Employment Law

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning when he expects to bring a paper to the Executive on the review of employment law.

**(AQO 2900/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** In my statement to the Assembly on 5 November, I identified a number of policy issues that merit further consideration, many of which may require legislation and Executive approval.

Some of these proposals include: the routing of all tribunal claims through the Labour Relations Agency; increasing the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims; and the introduction of protected conversations.

However, there is a need for a more detailed appraisal of a range of policy proposals before seeking Executive approval to go out to public consultation. I intend to take a paper to the Executive in the early part of 2013, having taken the views of the Employment and Learning Committee and key stakeholders.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Market Reports Published by Property Agents Lisneys

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the recent market reports published by property agents Lisneys, to detail the available square footage of office space outside Greater Belfast that has been deemed suitable for potential Foreign Direct Investment projects.

**(AQW 16231/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** Businesses seeking to invest in Northern Ireland, whether they are Foreign Direct or indigenous, will have specific property requirements unique to their particular needs. It is therefore not possible to detail the available square footage of office space outside Greater Belfast that has been deemed suitable solely for potential Foreign Direct Investment projects.

Invest NI does, however, maintain an online database which contains details of a range of available properties, both private and public sector, across Northern Ireland. The database is accessible through the NI Business Info website and provides potential investors with a range of property solutions that may meet their particular needs.

Invest NI can also provide qualifying businesses, both Foreign Direct and indigenous, with bespoke property searches tailored to their specific requirements to present them with a range of innovative solutions.

### Market Reports Published by Property Agents Lisneys

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the recent market reports published by property agents Lisneys highlighting the virtual total collapse of bank lending to the property sector, to detail (i) what consideration has been given to this as a threat to the ability to attract Foreign Direct Investment opportunities; and (ii) what plans there are to introduce any form of government subvention, by means of either short-term rental guarantee or capital shortfall grant, to ensure the availability of premises, particularly outside Greater Belfast

**(AQW 16233/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The availability of suitable office space is an important part of Northern Ireland's investment proposition. Potential investors are attracted by competitive rents and immediate availability.

Invest NI considers that the current level of availability of Grade A office space is not having a negative impact upon its ability to attract and secure Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Northern Ireland.

It should be noted that the current trend in FDI projects across the UK and indeed Republic of Ireland is for smaller projects in terms of overall job numbers. This may have a resultant impact on the demand for large office floor plates.

As a result of the continuing economic downturn Invest NI has brought forward a number of measures to help businesses, both FDI and indigenous, directly with their property needs. However, in terms of plans to introduce any form of government subvention to ensure the availability of premises, market failure would have to first be proven. There would also be a need to consider whether such an intervention would result in any demonstrable market advantage. Invest NI will continue to keep this matter under review.

## **EU Funding Initiatives**

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps her Department is taking to ensure that local small and medium-sized enterprises benefit from future EU funding initiatives, such as the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Programme and Horizon 2020.

**(AQW 16254/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department continues to take the lead in improving the support available to small and medium-sized enterprises who wish to participate in EU Innovation Programmes. As part of this, plans are well advanced for the creation of a new Northern Ireland Horizon 2020 Network. This Network will consist of research experts who will be known as Horizon 2020 Contact Points and who will work with companies and research organisations to assist them in availing of future funding opportunities. Importantly, as part of this Network, Invest NI will fulfil the specific role as Horizon 2020 Contact Point for SME's.

This new Horizon 2020 Network will augment the financial and other support already available through Invest NI and InterTradeIreland to help SMEs develop funding proposals.

## **Proposed Narrow Water Bridge Project**

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans her Department has to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises in South Down benefit as a result of the proposed Narrow Water Bridge linking Warrenpoint and Omeath.

**(AQW 16255/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI continues to offer a wide range of support to encourage the start up and growth of small and medium sized businesses within South Down.

Invest Northern Ireland's Southern Regional Office in Newry has an active relationship with many local business and key stakeholders in the South Down area. The products, services and support available to both new and existing businesses of all sizes are extensively promoted through a range of channels, including advertising campaigns such as Boosting Business and Go For It, direct marketing, social media, events, workshops and seminars which cover all regions of Northern Ireland. Through this, Invest NI will be particularly keen to help local businesses to take advantage of the physical link with Rof to sell their products/services in the Louth area.

The new Regional Start Initiative has commenced in the last month to assist with the development of new start-up businesses and is available to all prospective enterprises in South Down.

Invest NI's Boosting Business initiative, encompassing support under five themes: Jobs, R&D, Exports, Technology and Skills, is also available to local businesses in the area.

Under the Local Economic Development (LED) measure Invest NI Southern Office has worked closely with the Down and Newry and Mourne District Councils and the South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) group to progress 9 initiatives to support business in the Down area. These initiatives have a total value of £1.9 million.

Of these, the Renewable Energy and Marine Technologies Development Program will be particularly attractive to businesses in the South Down Area. However, all the programmes of assistance will help build the capacity of the local business base and prepare them to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the new link.

### **Proposed Narrow Water Bridge Project**

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she has any plans to meet with Ministers from the Irish Government to discuss ways in which the proposed Narrow Water Bridge project can advance the fortunes of local trade and investment.

**(AQW 16259/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have no plans at present to meet with Irish Government Ministers to discuss this project.

### **Layde Graveyard, Cushendall**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether he will investigate the decline of the Causeway coast and glens tourist attraction Layde Graveyard, Cushendall.

**(AQW 16284/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Neither my Department nor the Northern Ireland Tourist Board have been made aware of the decline of the Layde Graveyard visitor site in Cushendall until now.

Moyle District Council, The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the National Trust are the key stakeholders responsible for this visitor site.

### **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail how many meetings her Department has had with representatives from Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in relation to promoting and developing cultural musical tourism in the Glens of Antrim in each of the last three years, including the date of each meeting.

**(AQW 16286/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has had three meetings with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

### **Tourism in the Glens of Antrim**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department has taken to promote and develop tourism in the Glens of Antrim.

**(AQW 16287/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Causeway Coast and Glens is one of the proposed 'key tourism areas/destinations' identified in a Priorities for Action Plan for tourism which is currently being finalised by my Department. As part of the work in developing this Plan the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has fully supported the development of tourism in the Glens of Antrim by facilitating the implementation of the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Area Plan.

Through NITB's Tourism Development Scheme 2008-2011, NITB provided financial support for a Causeway Coastal Route visitor infrastructure and interpretation programme which included the Glens area. This culminated in project costs of £5million, with NITB contributing £2.5million, to enhance the existing visitor experience across the Causeway Coast and Glen's region. NITB has a Service Level Agreement with the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, from which a number of local sustainable tourism initiatives have also been delivered in the region.

NITB and Tourism Ireland have promoted the Glens area, both at home and abroad, through their extensive marketing campaigns, PR, and other promotional materials including brochures and on their consumer websites.

## Meetings with Airlines

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any meetings she has had with the airlines in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 16291/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Improving Northern Ireland's air connectivity is a priority for my Department and I have met with airline and airport representatives, on a number of occasions in the last two years. For example, I hosted a Northern Ireland Access Initiative event earlier this year at which I met with representatives from easyjet, Flybe, Ryanair and United/Continental.

## Reduction in Air Passenger Duty

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action she is taking to secure new airline routes on the basis of the forthcoming reduction in air passenger duty.

**(AQW 16293/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department, through Tourism Ireland, is in dialogue with airlines, and Belfast International Airport, on an ongoing basis to identify and develop opportunities for new or re-instated services to long haul destinations.

The decisive action taken by the Northern Ireland Executive, and the Assembly, to eliminate Air Passenger Duty on direct long haul flights will help to support these endeavours by sending a positive message to long haul airlines that Northern Ireland can be a viable option for their business.

## Direct Flight Routes to and from Canada and the United States

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action she is taking to secure direct flight routes to and from Canada and the United States.

**(AQW 16294/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department, through Tourism Ireland, is in dialogue with airlines, and Belfast International Airport, on an ongoing basis to identify and develop opportunities for new or re-instated services to North America. The decisive action taken by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Assembly, to eliminate Air Passenger Duty (APD) on direct long haul flights, will help to support these endeavours, by sending a positive message to long haul airlines, that Northern Ireland can be a viable option for their business.

The removal of direct long haul APD, will help to secure our existing link with the United States, thereby protecting and improving our international air access and competitiveness. It will also send a positive message to airlines with the potential to operate between Northern Ireland and Canada. The long established and highly valued family, cultural and business links which exist between Canada and Northern Ireland, make direct air access on this corridor highly desirable to our growth aspirations. Indeed, of the four million Canadian residents boasting Irish ancestry, almost two thirds of them trace their roots back to Northern Ireland.

## Draft Tourism Strategy

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the draft Tourism Strategy, including the timescale for the implementation of the final strategy.

**(AQW 16327/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department is working to finalise a 'Priorities for Action' Plan for tourism to ensure that tourism commitments in the Programme for Government are delivered. The Plan will set out how we propose to develop tourism up to 2014/15 and how this will provide a platform to move towards our aspirations to 2020. The Plan will be reviewed in 2014 to ensure that we are on target to meet our long term goals. I intend to take it to the Executive for endorsement shortly.

## Air Passenger Routes to Brazil, Russia, India and China

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action she is taking to improve air passenger routes to Brazil, Russia, India and China.

**(AQW 16344/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department, through Tourism Ireland, is in dialogue with airlines, and Northern Ireland's airports, on an ongoing basis to identify and develop opportunities for services to important markets such as those represented by the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China). This includes the potential for direct access and also access via hub airports.

While there are no direct flights from Northern Ireland to the BRIC countries, we are well connected to these important markets via the British Airways (BA) service which operates between George Best Belfast City Airport and Heathrow, the United Kingdom's hub airport. This service, which operates seven flights per day, provides inbound and outbound business and leisure travellers with excellent onward connectivity with BA to a range of destinations including the BRIC countries.

## InvestNI Vists

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 14405/11-15, to detail the seven potential investors who visited Derry in 2011/12.

**(AQW 16349/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Due to the commercially sensitive nature of ongoing negotiations, Invest NI does not disclose the name of potential investors until they have committed to locating in Northern Ireland. As a result, Invest NI cannot detail in full the seven inward investment visits to the Londonderry District Council Area (DCA).

It is important to note that Invest NI does not determine the location of an inward investment project. Ultimately this is a decision taken by the investor. As noted by the Independent Review of Economic Policy, it is essential to allow companies the scope to locate where they consider that they will be able to operate most profitably.

## Farmers Bankrupt

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many farmers have gone bankrupt as a result of the recession.

**(AQW 16356/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Insolvency Service is unable to provide statistics on the number of farmers that have gone bankrupt as a result of the recession. It can, however, provide the number of individuals that have been made bankrupt in the Agricultural Sector for the last ten years.

Financial Year	Number of Bankruptcies in the Agricultural Sector	Total Number of Bankruptcies	%
2002 - 2003	10	350	3%
2003 - 2004	16	582	3%
2004 - 2005	12	685	2%
2005 - 2006	12	892	1%
2006 - 2007	25	1008	2%
2007 - 2008	17	906	2%
2008 - 2009	14	1155	1%

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Bankruptcies in the Agricultural Sector</b>	<b>Total Number of Bankruptcies</b>	<b>%</b>
2009 - 2010	24	1250	2%
2010 - 2011	20	1456	1%
2011 - 2012	33	1569	2%

### **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 15072/11-15, to detail (i) how the figure of £6,740,558 for the contract awarded to Whiterock Capital Partners was arrived at; and (ii) whether the contract value could increase over time.

**(AQW 16384/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The award of the management contract to Whiterock Capital Partners followed a competitive tendering process.

The contract was awarded on the basis of best practice advice on making appointments to External Delivery Organisations, as provided by Central Procurement Directorate.

The figure of £6,740,558 was arrived at from the bid that was submitted by the consortium that established Whiterock Capital Partners. This will be paid over a 10 year period.

There is scope for a bonus to be earned, subject to the successful achievement of the performance targets outlined within the legal contract. The performance bonus will be based on a percentage of the funds repaid to Invest NI above a £15million hurdle incentivising the Manager to maximise the return of public money which can then be utilised for additional programmes and initiatives.

### **Ulster Science and Technology Park, Derry**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she will visit the Ulster Science and Technology Park, Derry, with a view to increasing Foreign Direct Investment in the North West.

**(AQW 16386/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I would ask the Member to send visit requests through the normal appropriate channels within my Department where they will be considered in line with all other invitations.

### **Jobs Created by InterTrade Ireland**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the 115 (i) temporary; (ii) permanent; (iii) part-time; and (iv) full-time jobs created by InterTrade Ireland in the first half of 2012, broken down by (a) type; (b) salary; and (c) location.

**(AQW 16449/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** In relation to types of jobs InterTradeIreland categorises its job impact in terms of industrial sectors. The breakdown is as follows:

<b>Sectors:</b>	<b>Number of Companies</b>	<b>Jobs Impact</b>
Administrative & Support Service Activities	5	31
Electricity, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	1	3
Human Health & Social Work Activities	2	17
Information & Communication	7	23



<b>Sectors:</b>	<b>Number of Companies</b>	<b>Jobs Impact</b>
Manufacturing	5	30
Mining & Quarrying	1	3
Professional, Scientific & Technical	2	3
Water Supply, Sewage, Waste Management & Remediation Activities	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>115</b>

InterTradeIreland does not collect data on salaries.

In terms of location the figures are as follows:

<b>Jobs Impact</b>	<b>Number of Companies</b>	<b>Jobs Impact</b>
Northern Ireland Companies	13	69
Republic of Ireland Companies	11	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>115</b>

Please note that all jobs are reported as full-time permanent positions.

### **Items Disposed of for a Monetary Return**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the items that her Department disposed of for a monetary return in (i) 2010/11; and (ii) 2011/12.

**(AQW 16482/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department disposed of a vehicle on which the sales proceeds were £10,000 during the 2010/11 Financial Year.

The Department did not dispose of any items for a monetary return in the 2011/12 Financial Year.

### **Impact of Hydraulic Fracturing**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any discussions have taken place within the Tourist Board on the impact of hydraulic fracturing; and whether it has developed a policy in relation to the process.

**(AQW 16497/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board does not have a policy in relation to the process.

### **Impact of Hydraulic Fracturing on the Tourism Sector**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any representatives from the Tourist Board have outlined to her Department the potentially negative impact of hydraulic fracturing on the tourism sector.

**(AQW 16498/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has not outlined to my Department the potentially negative impact of hydraulic fracturing on the tourism sector.

## InvestNI's Skills Growth Scheme

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an outline of InvestNI's Skills Growth scheme, including the criteria for inclusion and the remit of the scheme.

**(AQW 16508/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** As with a number of the proposals put forward under the Economy and Jobs Initiative, the "Skills Growth" scheme is still at a relatively early stage of development and the details of how this will operate have not yet been finalised. Invest NI are currently working to develop the details of the scheme and will confirm this when available.

It is anticipated that this scheme will operate as a 50% grant for small businesses towards external skills development costs.

## Finance Voucher Scheme

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) how the new Finance Voucher scheme, to help small and medium sized enterprises access specialist support to grow their businesses, will operate; (ii) which SMEs will be eligible; and (iii) how they can apply for this scheme.

**(AQW 16510/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** When Invest Northern Ireland was developing its Access to Finance strategy, it was clear that businesses need support, in particular to have a better understanding of the types of finance which are available, what the funder's lending criteria were likely to be, and how to prepare an application/plan, which is going to succeed. It was from this that the proposals for a Finance Voucher emerged.

The Finance Voucher will form an important element in enhancing the ability of local small and medium sized businesses to access available sources of finance by providing the necessary support to enable them to make a strong case to potential funding providers.

Whilst it is still in relatively early stages of development, it is likely that it will incorporate:

- Awareness raising amongst SMEs on available funding, understanding financial information, Funders' criteria and how to make the case and manage the relationship with a funder; and
- A Finance Voucher for local SMEs with growth potential, to enable the production of a funding application, and which can be redeemed with approved suppliers. The Voucher is likely to be awarded by way of competitive calls. Eligibility criteria are currently under development.

Invest NI is currently working to develop the details of the scheme and will confirm these when available.

## Debt Advice Service in the Foyle Constituency

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many people have availed of the Debt Advice Service in the Foyle constituency since August 2012.

**(AQW 16548/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Debt Action NI, the new DETI funded debt advice service for Northern Ireland, commenced on 1 August 2012. The service has 27.5 full-time equivalent debt advisers working at a range of outlets throughout Northern Ireland, as well as delivering a telephone debt advice service. Debt Action NI dealt with 116 new clients from within the Foyle constituency area during the period 1 August until 31 October 2012.

## Farms

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many farms are subject to health and safety legislation.

**(AQW 16564/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Health and Safety at Work Order (Northern Ireland) 1978, and subordinate legislation, applies to all workplaces where persons are either employed or are self employed, including farms.

Department of Agriculture figures indicate that, in 2011, there were 24,436 farm businesses in Northern Ireland.

### **Energy Efficiency Measures in Homes**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the budget that has been set aside to cover the proposals to boost economic activity through the retro-fitting of energy efficiency measures in homes.

**(AQW 16574/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Social Development has statutory responsibility for energy efficiency in the domestic sector.

I understand that the Office of the First Minister and the deputy First Minister plans to bring forward proposals to boost economic activity through the retro-fitting of energy efficiency measures into homes.

### **Energy Efficiency Retro-Fitting**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether in considering options for energy efficiency retro-fitting she will pro-actively engage with representatives from the Green New Deal Group.

**(AQW 16575/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Social Development has statutory responsibility for energy efficiency in the domestic sector.

### **Economy and Jobs Initiative**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the announcement in the Economy and Jobs Initiative to progress the extension of the gas network to additional towns in the west and north-west including Strabane and Omagh, and to towns in east Down is a change from the Economic Strategy; and (ii) whether this will have any impact on the Economic Appraisal on the extension of the natural gas network.

**(AQW 16576/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

**The announcement in the Economy and Jobs Initiative on gas network extension is not a change from the Economic Strategy. The Economic Strategy supports gas network extension and, on page 70 of the document, states:**

- (i) Building on what we have delivered to date, we will seek to overhaul our energy infrastructure to ensure it will be fit for purpose through to 2050. This will include ... exploring prospects for further development of the natural gas network”.
- (ii) The announcement will have no impact on the economic appraisal which has recently been completed by the Department.

### **Energy Efficiency Measures in Homes**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when she will publish the proposals for the retro-fitting of energy efficiency measures in homes.

**(AQW 16577/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Social Development has statutory responsibility for energy efficiency in the domestic sector.

## Energy Efficiency Measures in Homes

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when she will bring forward proposals to retrofit energy efficiency measures into homes; and how this will help the construction industry.

**(AQW 16608/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Social Development has statutory responsibility for energy efficiency in the domestic sector.

## Freedom of Information Requests

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of Freedom of Information requests received by her Department in each year since 2007; (ii) the proportion of requests each year that were not answered within the time limit; (iii) the number of requests currently outstanding by more than (a) one to two months (b) three to four months; (c) five to six months; (d) seven to twelve months; and (e) more than twelve months.

**(AQW 16648/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Relevant Departmental FOI statistics for each year from 2007 are published on the OFMDFM website and can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/improving-public-services/information\\_management\\_and\\_central\\_advisory\\_branch/annual-reports-and-statistics.htm](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/improving-public-services/information_management_and_central_advisory_branch/annual-reports-and-statistics.htm)

## Health and Safety Improvements on Farms

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what approaches have been used to secure health and safety improvements on farms.

**(AQW 16693/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Health and Safety Executive have employed a wide range of approaches to securing health and safety improvements on farms. These have included:

- inspections and advisory visits;
- investigations of reported incidents and complaints;
- practical demonstrations at regional Safety and Health Awareness Days;
- speaking and providing information at a range of events arranged by partner bodies;
- providing information stands at Agricultural Shows and Events;
- working in partnership with the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster at events and competitions;
- delivering 'Be Aware Kids' child farm safety events at rural primary schools and regional events;
- running an annual Children's Farm Safety Calendar Competition;
- an ongoing proactive strategy of delivering key messages through the farming press;
- setting up a Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) in May 2012; and
- developing a Farm Safety Action Plan along with its FSP partners.

## Health and Safety Risk Scoring for Farms

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how health and safety risk scoring for farms compares with other small and medium-sized businesses.

**(AQW 16694/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The internationally recognised method for comparing health and safety risks in one work sector with another is based on the number of fatal accidents per 100,000 employed, i.e. Fatal

Accident Incidence Rate. Although this does not take account of business size, it is significant that over 99% of businesses in Northern Ireland are classified as small or medium-sized.

Using a five year average (2007-2012) the Fatal Accident Incidence Rate for a number of sectors, including agriculture, is given below:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Fatal Accident Incidence Rate (Per 100,000 at risk)</b>
Agriculture	11.7
Manufacturing & Quarrying	4
Construction	2.5
All Northern Ireland Employment	0.8

### **Patton Group: Sub-Contractors**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps she intends to take to support sub-contractors affected by the Patton Group going into administration; and whether she has considered helping sub-contractors with their liquidity issues.

**(AQW 16712/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I recognise the devastating effect that the failure of the Patton Group has had on the Group's employees, their families and increasingly on the owners, employees and families of the Patton Group sub-contractors.

It was clear at the discussion on Monday 12 November that many of the sub-contractors were seeking advice on the potential implications that the Patton Group administration could have on their businesses. In response, Invest NI has urgently put in place arrangements to provide initial expert advice and guidance on a one-to-one basis to those affected, along with the offer of more detailed follow up consultations. These clinics took place on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 November. Invest NI is also engaging with the Administrator to identify any further creditors who might benefit from these clinics and, if there is demand, will deliver these.

Whilst there have been some calls for financial aid to creditors to Patton Group by means of loan or grant assistance from the Department of Finance and Personnel, there are a range of legislative and financial constraints, including European State Aid rules that prohibit this.

Although it will not be possible to provide any direct financial support to creditors of the Patton Group, the Executive announced a £200 million package of investment measures on 7 November many of which are designed to help the construction sector.

### **Administrator Dealing with the Patton Group**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what contact her Department has had with the administrator dealing with the Patton Group.

**(AQW 16713/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has been in contact with the Administrator on a number of occasions to seek clarity on the scale of redundancies in the Patton Group and endeavour to get an appreciation of the impact on the supply chain.

### **InvestNI Growth Loan Fund**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to explain the administrative cost of £6.74m for the £50m InvestNI Growth Loan Fund.

**(AQW 16722/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The award of the management contract for the £50million Growth Loan Fund was made to Whiterock Capital Partners following a competitive tendering process.

The contract was awarded on the basis of best practice advice on making appointments to External Delivery Organisations, as provided by Central Procurement Directorate.

The cost figure of £6.74million was arrived at from the bid that was submitted by the consortium that established Whiterock Capital Partners. This will be paid over a 10 year period. Current staffing comprises of six qualified investment professionals with administrative support and this is expected to rise to at least ten during the next year.

### **Small Businesses that are Owed Money for Sub-Contracting**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what advice her Department can give to small businesses that are owed money for sub-contracting when the main contractor goes into administration.

**(AQW 16768/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I would advise that sub-contractors seek urgent professional and legal advice as the potential for the recovery of their debts could well be informed by the terms and conditions of the contract they are party to.

For instance, it may be possible for a sub-contractor to seek recovery of a debt from a client if it is a nominated sub-contractor. A nominated sub-contractor is one that is selected by the client to carry out an element of the works. However, this is often a complex contractual issue that undoubtedly would require specific legal advice.

In the current case of the Patton Group administration I would encourage sub-contractors to seek advice through contact with Invest NI. Invest NI has already set up a number of clinics to provide practical advice and guidance and is working with the Administrator to identify creditors who might benefit from these.

### **Wind Farms**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many wind farms are currently operating.

**(AQW 16854/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** There are currently 29 onshore wind farms (with installed capacity above 1 MW) already in operation in Northern Ireland and supported under the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation. Their combined installed capacity is 428 MW.

### **Oil and Gas Companies Reducing Prices**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what she can do to encourage oil and gas companies to reduce prices for consumers.

**(AQW 16859/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Wholesale oil and natural gas prices are traded daily on world markets, hence I have no direct role in the setting of such prices, nor in the final retail costs charged to consumers, particularly in relation to heating oil.

Natural gas prices are subject to regulation by the Utility Regulator, and where appropriate, my Department has supported the mutualisation of natural gas transmission infrastructure, and the introduction of gas supply competition, both of which should contribute to lowering retail gas prices.

The heating oil market in Northern Ireland is not subject to regulation by the Utility Regulator.

The Office of Fair Trading report published in October 2011 clearly stated that the home heating oil market was working well for consumers on price across the United Kingdom, and particularly noted that

Northern Ireland households can exercise real choice from a large number of oil distributors operating in the local retail market. Data recently produced by independent energy consultants continues to show that local households can buy heating oil at prices below those in the Republic of Ireland and most areas of Great Britain.

### **Local Renewable Energy Sources**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the potential for creating local renewable energy sources.

**(AQW 16860/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Strategic Energy Framework's target of 40% renewable electricity by 2020 is solely derived from the level of Northern Ireland's natural renewable resource.

Development rights for 600MW offshore wind and 200MW of tidal energy were announced in October.

The draft On Shore Renewable Electricity Action Plan has identified potential on shore renewable generation mixes ranging from 1400 MW – 2360 MW of installed renewable capacity. It will be for the market to bring forward the most cost effective renewable technologies.

### **Employment**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment given that 8,600 jobs were promoted by Invest NI between April 2011 and September 2012, for her assessment of the number of job losses during the same period.

**(AQO 2909/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI mainly provides support to businesses in the manufacturing and service sectors with high export potential, and it has made good progress against its jobs target in challenging global economic conditions. However, jobs will have been both created and lost elsewhere in the economy.

Across all the economy there has been a net loss of some 4,500 jobs between March 2011 and June 2012. But the position is not uniform and, for example, construction and retail combined have seen net job losses of around 4,600, offsetting some job growth in manufacturing and other industries.

Overall, the marginal rates of economic growth seen in recent years have not been sufficient to create enough jobs to substantially reduce our unemployment figures.

### **Low-carbon Energy: Job Creation**

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she plans to create jobs through the expansion of indigenous and low carbon energy sources in order to meet targets for a low carbon future.

**(AQO 2907/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Northern Ireland already has a significant Low Carbon Environmental Goods & Services sector with over 1,500 companies employing some 31,000 people. The long term goal is to grow this further and Invest NI has developed an active programme across FDI, Trade & Supply Chain that has engaged with over 800 businesses and responded to over 1400 enquiries in the past year. I am also committed to extending the natural gas network in Northern Ireland which will provide a lower carbon energy source to additional consumers and create employment opportunities.

### **City of Culture 2013: Marketing**

**Mr Ó hOisín** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she will seek Executive endorsement for a bespoke marketing campaign in advance of Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 events.

**(AQO 2908/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** NITB is working with other agencies and partners in Londonderry to develop an agreed marketing strategy so that the huge potential of the UK City of Culture can be realised. During my visit to the World Travel Market in London earlier this month I had the opportunity to see Tourism Ireland's plans for promoting the UK City of Culture in key markets.

I am confident that NITB and Tourism Ireland marketing plans will provide the platform to promote Londonderry as the UK City of Culture across all of our major markets.

### **Business: Mid-Ulster**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the plans she has to help reduce energy costs for businesses in the Mid Ulster area.

**(AQO 2910/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department has recently completed an economic appraisal on extending the natural gas network to further towns in Northern Ireland, including Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland. Pipeline construction works could begin as early as 2015 and local businesses should be able to reduce energy costs significantly by switching from oil to gas. Earlier this month, I launched the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive, a £25 million scheme that will provide incentive payments for up to twenty years to businesses and other organisations installing renewable heat technologies to help offset ongoing energy costs.

### **Tourism Development Scheme**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the success of the Tourism Development Scheme.

**(AQO 2911/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The NITB Tourism Development Scheme has operated since 1992 and has been very successful.

Over the last three years the Scheme has provided direct funding of £60 million, which attracted a further £90 million of match funding, to a total of 99 capital projects across Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Executive has announced an extra £5.7million of funding will go to the Tourism Development Scheme which could deliver total investment of over £27.5million. It is estimated that this additional investment will support over 450 jobs in the construction phase and create or sustain 50 tourism jobs once complete.

### **Tourism: GB Visitors**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many tourists are travelling to Northern Ireland from Great Britain annually.

**(AQO 2912/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The estimated number of visitors to Northern Ireland from Great Britain for the last five years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Visitors (000s)</b>
2007	1,285
2008	1,202
2009	1,017
2010*	973
2011*	970



- \* Following a review of the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey, the methodology was revised in 2010. This means that it is not possible to directly compare visitor numbers for 2010 and 2011 to those collected using the previous methodology.

**Source:**

NI Passenger Survey (NITB), NI Passenger Survey (NISRA), Survey of Overseas Travellers (Failte Ireland), Country of Residence Survey, Passenger Card Inquiry (CSO)

## **Job Creation**

**Mr Newton** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what impact the Executive's recently announced £200 million package will have on potential job creation.

**(AQO 2913/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I expect the Economy and Jobs Initiative to create and secure employment, particularly within the construction sector. The actions will also support the longer term objectives of the NI Economic Strategy.

The initiative contains actions that are aimed at supporting people impacted by difficulties in the labour market, supporting businesses facing challenges in key markets and delivering investment in infrastructure to support the construction sector.

## **Small Businesses: Regulation**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what she is doing to reduce the regulation of, and bureaucracy for, small businesses.

**(AQO 2914/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Economic Strategy reiterates the Executives commitment to reducing the regulatory burden on all business, particularly small business in Northern Ireland, and it highlights key initiatives reforming environmental, employment, planning and agri-food regulation. My Department assists small business through advice, mentoring and best practice initiatives, to minimize cost and effort to comply with regulation, safeguarding employees and citizens. The recent Economy and Jobs Initiative announcement identifies a number of additional initiatives, including streamlining the application/approval process for InvestNI Selective Financial Assistance projects under £100,000.

## **Mobile Phone Coverage: Fermanagh**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on her efforts to secure funding to aid the improvement of mobile phone coverage in rural parts of Fermanagh.

**(AQO 2915/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** At this moment the Mobile sector is under significant change and evolution. Mobile operators are investing to improve their networks; 4th Generation services are already being introduced by one operator; an auction of 4th generation licences for other operators is imminent which will include a Northern Ireland coverage target of 95%; and the development of a Mobile Infrastructure Project across the UK to improve 2G services is under way.

All of this will impact on the provision of mobile services across Northern Ireland including Fermanagh. My officials are watching these developments and will explore how any consequent gaps are best filled through public investment.

An indicative budget of up to £12million has been identified from EU and Department of Culture, Media and Sport sources to address improvements to 3rd Generation mobile services and at the same time, future-proof networks for the delivery of 4th Generation services across Northern Ireland. This work will take account of the investments and improvements the industry are making.

# Department of the Environment

## Departmental Consultees

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment to list all the consultees within his Department whose responses will no longer be available to the public.

**(AQW 14428/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment):** Earlier this year, revised arrangements were put in place in for seeking advice on planning applications from other sections within Planning and Local Government Group (PLGG). These revised arrangements were introduced on that basis that there was a distinction between (i) external consultees to the Planning process, such as DRD Roads Service, (ii) Departmental consultees, such as NIEA and (iii) other sections of PLGG where staff have a level of expertise.

These revised arrangements will involve the following sections which form part of the internal structures of PLGG: Design Unit, Conservation Area Officers (CAOs), Strategic Projects (Retail Unit, Mineral Unit, and Environment Unit), Landscape Architects Branch (LAB) and Development Plan.

The internal advice that those sections listed provide on planning applications will be taken into account together with all other material planning considerations in the preparation of the Development Management Officer's report.

Following consideration by the Development Management Group meeting and when a recommendation on an application has been made and referred to the Council, the Development Management Officer's report will be made available on the Planning Portal and it can also be viewed by members of the public under the Open File arrangements. There is not an issue of responses being no longer available to the public.

The Development Management Officers report is a key document which sets out the considerations of the Department in making a recommendation on a planning application and will include details of the internal advice provided. I will keep this matter under review.

## Article 31 Planning Applications

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the Article 31 planning applications currently outstanding; (ii) for how long they have been under consideration; and (iii) the target dates for decisions.

**(AQW 14583/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** There are 36 current Article 31 applications. A schedule of the applications including the date the application was submitted to the Department is appended.

As Environment Minister I have impressed on my planning officials the need to process planning applications, particularly those of major importance, in a timely manner. To that end, I have instructed my officials to bring to a conclusion older Article 31 applications in the near future.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
F/1999/0465	23/12/1999	Larne Marina Company	Site for Waterfront leisure development	Off Chain Memorial Road, Curran and Drumaliss, Larne	On Hold awaiting applicants submission of further Environmental Information
A/2004/0976	17/09/2004	Tesco Stores	Proposed foodstore	Land at the junction of Buncrana Road & Templemore Road, Derry	Hearing Before PAC postponed by Applicant
X/2005/1156	07/10/2005	Tesco Stores Ltd & Castlebawn Ltd	Retail development	Former abbatoir site, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	Applicant considering how to proceed*
A/2006/0180	24/02/2006	McCormick Properties & Crumley Construction	Food Store	Lands off Buncrana Road, Londonderry	Under consideration as part of a series of applications in L'derry
R/2007/0853	10/08/2007	Mr J Miskelly	Retail development	Belfast Road, Ballynahinch	Applicant considering alternative proposal
S/2008/0630	04/06/2008	Rose Energy Ltd	Biomass fuelled power plant	Ballyvannon Road, Glenavy, County Antrim	Under Assessment
P/2009/0163	12/02/2009	The Hill Partnershipo c/o Ostick & Williams	Comprehensive mixed use development	Carbane Way/Shepherds Way Roundabout, Newry	Under Assessment
H/2009/0264	06/05/2009	JHT Upperlands Ltd	Heritage led regeneration	Former William Clark & Sons Ltd, Upperlands, Maghera, Co Londonderry	Applicant to provide detailed scheme. Proposal in principle agreed. Decision anticipated by end 2012.
S/2009/0579	12/06/2009	Rose Energy Ltd	Water abstraction facility and water pipeline	Ballyvannon Road, Glenavy, County Antrim	Under Assessment
O/2009/0477	31/07/2009	Homecare (NI)	Proposed retirement village and nursing home	Within the grounds of Manor House, Milford, Co Armagh	Under Assessment

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
A/2009/0689	21/08/2009	D & A Properties Ltd	Mixed use regeneration development	Drumahoe Industrial Estate, Drumahoe, Londonderry	Under consideration as part of a series of applications in L'derry. Decision expected Nov 2012
S/2009/1045	26/10/2009	Sprucefield Centre Ltd	Erection of Phse 2 of Sprucefield Park	Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre, Lisburn	PAC has scheduled a public inquiry for 15 April 2013
X/2009/0858	26/11/2009	Comber Consortium	Mixed use development	Lands south east of the Comber by-pass	Under Assessment
Z/2009/1607	27/11/2009	Belfast City Council / Bayshore Developments Ltd	Mixed use development	Loughside Recreation Centre, Shore Road, Belfast	Decision expected Nov 2012
O/2009/0792	15/12/2009	NIE Plc	Proposed Interconnector	From new substation at Trewmount Road, Moy to link to proposed network in the Republic of Ireland	Public Inquiry currently adjourned. Applicant to amend Environmental Statement.
Y/2010/0087	05/03/2010	Lagmar Properties Ltd	Retail store, petrol filling stations, industrial units	Former Rolls Royce factory, Upper Newtownards Road, Dundonald	Decision before end 2012
X/2010/0296	02/04/2010	Marm Developments	Mixed use development	Lands at Marm Factory site, 20 Comber Road, Newtownards	Decision before end 2012
A/2010/0241	12/04/2010	GSB Guemsey Trading Ltd & GML (NI) Ltd	Mixed use development including hotel, offices, healthcare facility	Lands to the east of Crescent Link, north of Sevenoaks, Londonderry	Under consideration as part of a series of applications in L'derry
A/2010/0240	12/04/2010	GSB Guemsey Trading Ltd & GML (NI) Ltd	Retail superstore	Lands to the east of Crescent Link, north of Sevenoaks, Londonderry	Under consideration as part of a series of applications in L'derry. Decision Nov 2012

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
S/2010/0041	19/05/2010	Lisburn Energy Recovery Ltd	Proposed energy from waste gasification plant and ancillary infrastructure	211 Moira Road, Lisburn	Further environmental information being processed.
H/2010/0254	24/05/2010	Merit Investments & Properties	Retail food superstore, petrol filling station	Moneymore Road, Magherafelt	Under Assessment
A/2010/0493	09/07/2010	Genova North West Ltd	Food superstore	Unit 1, Crescent Link Retail Park, Crescent Link Road, Londonderry	Under consideration as part of a series of applications in L'derry Decision Nov 2012
Z/2010/1006	26/07/2010	Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mixed use development	City Quays, Clarendon Dock, Belfast	Under Assessment. Further information to be submitted.
Z/2010/1284	10/09/2010	The Trustees of the Diocese of Down and Connor	Mixed use development	Glenmona (former St. Patricks site) west of Monagh By-Pass, Springfield Road, Belfast	Under Assessment
X/2010/0819	02/11/2010	JHT Newtownards Ltd & Asda Stores Ltd	Redevelopment of site to provide foodstore, petrol filling station	Former Scrabo High School site, Scrabo Road, Newtownards	Under Assessment
H/2011/0103	25/02/2011	RSL Developments	Proposed foodstore, petrol filling station	Land between Thornhill Avenue and Oakvale Manor, Magherafelt	Under Assessment
H/2011/0104	25/02/2011	Forbes Furniture Group	Demolition of existing furniture store and erection of supermarket	Lands including Forbes Furniture store, existing Lidl store and vacant site, Castledawson Road, Magherafelt	Under Assessment
H/2011/0145	14/03/2011	Corbo Ltd	Food superstore, dental surgery, filling station	40 Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt	Under Assessment

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
X/2011/0189	14/03/2011	Castlebawn Development Ltd	Foodstore	Comber Road, Castlebawn Roundabout, Southern Relief Road, Newtownards	Under Assessment
U/2011/0138	06/04/2011	Ballyclare Developments Ltd	Mixed use development	Former Spinning Mill, Hillhead Road, Ballyclare	Under Assessment
A/2011/0226	07/04/2011	Caw Properties Ltd c/o Rapport Architects	Food superstore, hotel	Lands at Gransha Londonderry	Under consideration as part of a series of applications in L'derry Decision Nov 2012
L/2011/0359	08/04/2011	Townland Properties Ltd	Tourist destination resort	Gublusk bay, Killadeas, Co Fermanagh	Decision before end 2012
J/2011/0433	18/11/2011	Riverside Building and Development Ltd	Mixed use cross border development	Lifford, Strabane	Under Assessment
I/2012/0240	15/06/2012	PSNI	Joint Services Training College	Desertcreate Road, Cookstown	Decision Dec 2012
S/2012/0421	29/06/2012	Royal Ulster Agricultural Society	Redevelopment of part of former Maze/Long Kesh prison site to create international showground facility	Former maze/Long Kesh prison site, Halfdown Road, Lisburn.	Decision Nov 2012

\* This application has been superseded by an approval which is now built and operational.

## Dual Carriageway and Roundabout System for the Craigtlet Hills

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions his Department has had with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to the construction of a dual carriageway and roundabout system for the Craigtlet Hills.

**(AQW 14902/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In the course of processing this application, the Area Planning Office has been in discussion with officials from Roads Service on a number of occasions.

I am fully aware of the application. I have met local residents who raised legitimate questions and issues. At present the proposal is for a 3500sqm of new carriageway. However no decision has been taken if even this is appropriate.

## Phase 2 of Millennium Way, Lurgan

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions his Department has had with the Minister for Regional Development concerning the completion of Phase 2 of Millennium Way, Lurgan.

**(AQW 15431/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The position in relation to this matter remains as Danny Kennedy MLA, Minister for Regional Development, indicated during the Adjournment Debate on 7 February 2012 on the completion of Millennium Way. At that time, the Minister confirmed that he fully understood the potential benefits that an extension of Millennium Way from Malcolm Road to Gilford Road could provide, including relieving peak hour traffic congestion on the road network in that part of Lurgan. In addition, this improvement would also enhance the attractiveness of Millennium Way as a through-traffic route generally.

However, the resources currently available for road improvements are focused on the strategic road network, primarily on the A5, A8 and A2 projects, and are committed up to 2014-15. Therefore, funding for other road improvements beyond this timeframe will be dependent on future budget settlements. Given the present economic climate, future funding may not be sufficient to deliver schemes contained in the current Strategic Road Improvement Programme, within the timescale envisaged in the Department for Regional Development's Investment Delivery Plan for Roads. The same also applies to schemes, such as the extension of Millennium Way from Malcolm Road to Gilford Road, that do not form part of the strategic road network.

Minister Kennedy remains committed to identifying, within the prevailing financial constraints and competing demands, the funds required to progress this scheme as quickly as possible. In this respect Roads Service, having obtained planning permission for the scheme, continues to develop this proposal in preparation for progressing it through the Vesting Order, should the necessary resources become available.

## Quarrying on the Spring Road, Drumnakilly, Omagh

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of the Environment whether a stop notice was issued in relation to quarrying on the Spring Road, Drumnakilly, Omagh; and if so, how it has been enforced.

**(AQW 15715/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Resulting from unauthorised sand and gravel extraction and processing, the Department served a temporary stop notice on the site on 2 February 2007. This notice was complied with. The temporary stop notice expired on 2 March 2007.

A stop notice and enforcement notice were served on 2 March 2007. The stop notice had immediate effect and the enforcement notice came into effect on 2 April 2007. No appeal was received by the Planning Appeals Commission and the enforcement notice took effect on this date. The stop notice and enforcement notice were not complied with.

Instructions to summons were issued by the Department on 9 May 2007 and the matter listed for hearing before the Magistrate sitting in Omagh on 10 August 2007. However the matter was adjourned on five occasions; 14 September 2007, 9 November 2007, 11 January 2008, 8 February 2008 and 9 May 2008. The matter was finally listed for a two day trial on 17 and 18 September 2008.

The operator continued to work the site throughout this period. In view of the non compliance, the delays in court proceedings and continuing complaints, the Department on 26 June 2008 applied to the High Court for an interlocutory injunction. The judge adjourned the matter until 28 August 2008. Subsequently an injunction was secured which remained in place until early 2009, when retrospective planning permission was granted for continued extraction on the site. The terms of settlement in relation to the injunction proceedings were agreed in March 2009.

### **Marie Stopes Clinic in Belfast**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to statutory requirements and guidance, whether the planning application for the Marie Stopes clinic in Belfast contained sufficient particulars to adequately describe the development which was the subject of the application.

**(AQW 16061/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I requested and received legal advice confirming that the Department has fulfilled its statutory duties for determination of planning application Z/2012/0244/F – change of use of the premises in Great Victoria Street Belfast from which the Marie Stopes clinic is now operating. The Department received particulars consistent with statutory requirements and guidance to describe the development which was the subject of the planning application.

### **Tourism Related Issues**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of the Environment how he engages with the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Tourist Board over tourism related issues.

**(AQW 16125/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Given the significant contribution my Department makes towards the economy and tourism, I regularly engage with the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Tourist Board.

By way of specific example, I fully engaged with the Minister, Arlene Foster, and the Tourist Board in bringing forward new planning policy for tourism and I have had meetings with both Arlene Foster and the Tourist Board to discuss my proposals for national parks.

More generally as part of the consideration of a planning application, the Department may consult with a range of public bodies, depending on the nature and location of planning applications, to inform the decision making process and would consult with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Tourist Board as appropriate in applications relating to the tourism.

Additionally although not directly with the Minister herself, I have considerable ongoing engagement with NITB at a very senior level, with its Chief Executive, who is an appointed member of the Historic Environment Strategic Ministerial Forum, which I chair, and which commissioned the recently published report 'Study of the Economic Value of Northern Ireland's Historic Environment'. I expect this engagement to continue as an action plan emerges to address the various recommendations from the report. My officials have engagement with NITB, for example on the Envisioning Day for Dunluce Castle, which NITB is co-ordinating with staff from NIEA, and officials from both DETI and DOE worked together on the delivery of the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre.

I firmly believe that our built and natural heritage will be the greatest driver for future increases in tourist numbers and spend. Six of the top ten visitor attractions in the North are our built and natural heritage assests.

I was also pleased to be able to make a very positive intervention in Portrush and Portstewart by providing £405k of funding to address dereliction in advance of the hosting of the Irish Open. Following



on from the success of this, I have also recently announced a further £503k for Derry City to tackle dereliction in the run up to the city's year as UK City of Culture 2013.

This reflects my commitment to address this issue which I see as an important opportunity to attract investment and tourists to the North. This sort of intervention is extremely effective and I am currently looking at ways of extending the approach taken in Portrush/Portstewart and Derry to other towns and cities. My officials are currently working with other departments to ensure joined up government and I will continue to engage with the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Tourist Board over tourism related issues.

### **Natural Gas Storage Facilities Under Larne Lough**

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of the Environment what the timescale is for the development of natural gas storage facilities under Larne Lough, until it becomes operational.

**(AQW 16127/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The project timeline submitted by the applicant in support of their planning application for the onshore elements of the Islandmagee Natural Gas Storage Facility envisaged that, employing the best case scenario, the first caverns would become operational in year 5, with project completion and final caverns becoming operational in year 7.

### **Marie Stopes Clinic in Belfast**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment, given the deficiency of the particulars supplied with the planning application for the Marie Stopes clinic in Belfast, whether consideration will be given to revoking the planning permission.

**(AQW 16154/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department has the power to revoke a planning permission for a change of use at any time before the change has taken place (Article 38(3) b of The Planning (NI) Order 1991). As the change has taken place already, the Department has no power to revoke the permission.

The particular details which were submitted with the application met the statutory requirements and guidance.

### **Storage and Collection of Archaeological Artefacts**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of the Environment whether there have been any developments on the storage and collection of archaeological artefacts since the Assembly debate on 2 July 2012.

**(AQO 2854/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** As I outlined in the Assembly debate on 2 July 2012, one way of progressing the resolution of this matter would be to complete a baseline quantification survey of the material held by private archaeological companies from excavations conducted in Northern Ireland. Such a baseline survey is key to moving the debate forward as it will properly inform discussion of the wider issue here. I have initiated this survey and preliminary findings should be available by the end of December 2012.

### **Former Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church in Belfast**

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of the Environment what progress has been made on the restoration of the former Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church in Belfast.

**(AQW 16230/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Earlier this year I authorised the allocation of £400,000 to ensure that urgent remedial works could be undertaken to stabilise the fabric of the former Church building. These works have now been completed.

Officials in NIEA have recently been in contact with the owners of the building, the Belfast Buildings Preservation Trust (the Trust), to discuss the next phase of works. These works will include the

introduction of basic services to facilitate interim occupancy, in line with the Trust's plans to have a 'meanwhile use' for the building, in association with the Belfast Activity Centre. I understand that the Trust anticipates completion of this phase within the next 18 months.

Furthermore, I am advised that the Trust is also engaging with local communities in North Belfast to consider a long term, sustainable use for the building.

### **Woodlands or Parks in Towns**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what funds or grants are available through his Department to help create woodlands or parks in towns.

**(AQW 16238/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) administers the Natural Heritage Grant Programme to encourage the conservation and enhancement of key elements of the environment and its wildlife and the provision of facilities which help as wide a range of people as possible to enjoy and appreciate our natural heritage.

Grant applications to the annual competitive Natural Heritage Grant programme are invited from not-for-profit organisations to support actions contributing to natural heritage interests. Elements of the creation of woodlands or parks in towns may be eligible for support if the project meets the grant criteria; it is deemed of sufficient merit in comparison with other projects; and there are sufficient grant resources available.

### **Layde Old Graveyard**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of the Environment why the Layde Old Graveyard has been allowed to fall into such a state of decline; and whether he will work with the National Trust and Moyle District Council to have the site restored.

**(AQW 16262/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) protects and conserves the ruins of Layde Church as it is a Monument in State Care. The graveyard is in the ownership of Moyle District Council and the car park is in the ownership of the National Trust. My Department does not have responsibility for the upkeep of the graveyard, NIEA officials have recently met with the Council and the National Trust to discuss the condition of the site. As a part of a programme of enhancement measures, NIEA is working towards improving visitor information signage at the site. I trust that the member will address his concerns also to the owners of the graveyard and the car park respectively and acknowledge how NIEA is clearly helping those in ownership.

### **Encouraging People to Recycle**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment what more his Department can do to encourage people to recycle.

**(AQW 16265/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Department currently has a comprehensive set of actions to encourage waste prevention and recycling including:

- a The Rethink Waste Communications Plan with a national advertising campaign, due to run until at least August 2013.
- b Technical advisory support through the grant-in-aid funding of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). WRAP also delivers bespoke communications advice to councils to improve recycling.
- c Rethink Waste Funds with funding of projects to increase recycling particularly for local councils. Over the past three years, capital grants totalling in excess of £7 million have been made available to councils and revenue grants totalling in excess of £1.17 million have been made available to councils, the private sector and Community & Voluntary sector.

The latter two initiatives are due to run until 31 March 2015. The Department is currently minded to continue with these initiatives taking on board lessons learned and feedback from stakeholders to improve future iterations.

The review of the Waste Management Strategy will also provide further policy and legislation drivers in order to directly and indirectly improve recycling rates.

- a The introduction of a new statutory recycling target requiring 60% of local authority collected municipal waste to be recycled by 2020.
- b Proposals for food waste landfill restrictions.
- c The introduction of higher packaging recycling rates for aluminium, plastic and steel packaging for the period 2013-2017, and to achieve an overall recovery rate of 79% and overall recycling rate of 72.7% for packaging by 2017.
- d The Department will consult on legislation required to implement the recast WEEE Directive by early 2013 to come into effect by January 2014 by the introduction of reuse targets and the increase in collection targets.

The Department continues to provide support for WRAP's voluntary agreements (also referred to as responsibility deals) for industry in Northern Ireland to promote resource efficiency including recycling. The key voluntary agreements being supported are:

- a The Courtauld Commitment 2 aims to improve resource efficiency and reduce the carbon and wider environmental impact of the grocery retail sector. A successor "Courtauld Commitment 3" is currently being developed.
- b The Halving Waste to Landfill Commitment provides a supportive framework to encourage the construction industry to work together to reduce waste and increase recycling rates.
- c The Hospitality and Food Service Agreement supports the sector in reducing waste and recycling more.

## Landfill Sites

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment what percentage of waste goes to landfill sites in each council area annually.

**(AQW 16266/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Since January 2005, all District Councils have submitted waste data returns on a quarterly basis via the WasteDataFlow system. This national on-line database assists District Councils to carry out timely and structured reporting.

All holders of waste management licences and those with certain waste exemptions are required to submit timely site operator waste data returns on a quarterly basis to NIEA.

The information available from these NIEA databases has been used to collate the requested data. The attached Table 1 provides the percentage of waste going to landfill sites in each council area annually as a total of all waste landfilled in Northern Ireland. It should be noted that this will depend on where the landfill site is located and is independent of the origin of the waste. These data have been arranged by Waste Management Groups.

Table 2 shows the percentage of the NI Local Authority collected municipal waste landfilled annually in each council area. These figures are independent of landfill location and only relate to District Council waste. These data are provisional estimates and will be confirmed by December 2012.

Table 1 shows the Waste landfilled in each NI District Council area as a % of all waste landfilled in NI per financial year

All percentages are calculated individually and then rounded up and so individual values should not be totalled to derive / check higher levels e.g. waste management group and country as this would introduce avoidable rounding errors.

**TABLE 1**

	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11 (%)</b>	<b>2011/12 (%)</b>
<b>arc21</b>			
Antrim	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ards	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ballymena	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Belfast	23.0%	12.4%	8.0%
Carrickfergus	0.9%	1.4%	2.8%
Castlereagh	0.1%	0.9%	0.8%
Down	0.4%	2.5%	2.2%
Larne	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lisburn	26.0%	23.5%	15.3%
Newtownabbey	34.1%	35.6%	37.5%
North Down	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All arc21	84.6%	76.3%	66.5%
<b>NWRWMG</b>			
Ballymoney	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Coleraine	9.7%	12.1%	17.0%
Derry	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Limavady	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Magherafelt	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Moyle	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Strabane	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All NWRWMG	10.8%	13.1%	18.0%
<b>SWaMP2008</b>			
Armagh	0.4%	1.6%	2.6%
Banbridge	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cookstown	2.6%	2.4%	3.7%
Craigavon	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dungannon	0.3%	1.3%	3.7%
Fermanagh	0.8%	2.2%	2.1%
Newry & Mourne	0.5%	3.0%	3.2%
Omagh	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11 (%)</b>	<b>2011/12 (%)</b>
All SWaMP2008	4.5%	10.6%	15.4%
Northern Ireland	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 2 shows the percentage of the NI Local Authority collected municipal waste landfilled annually in each council area

All percentages are calculated individually and then rounded up and so individual values should not be totalled to derive / check higher levels e.g. waste management group and country as this would introduce avoidable rounding errors.

**TABLE 2**

<b>Council sorted by waste management group</b>	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11 (%)</b>	<b>2011/12 (%) #</b>
<b>arc21</b>			
Antrim	48.2%	50.2%	45.3%
Ards	62.7%	61.8%	61.5%
Ballymena	65.8%	66.8%	61.7%
Belfast	77.6%	74.2%	70.8%
Carrickfergus	69.1%	58.7%	54.0%
Castlereagh	61.5%	57.7%	56.3%
Down	71.6%	70.4%	68.7%
Larne	64.6%	61.1%	42.9%
Lisburn	63.4%	59.5%	58.8%
Newtownabbey	65.1%	60.1%	57.0%
North Down	60.1%	56.7%	55.0%
All arc21	67.1%	64.2%	60.8%
<b>NWRWMG</b>			
Ballymoney	65.3%	65.6%	63.5%
Coleraine	66.7%	63.2%	57.2%
Derry	70.4%	70.8%	70.1%
Limavady	61.7%	60.9%	58.2%
Magherafelt	49.8%	42.5%	28.1%
Moyle	67.4%	66.0%	59.5%
Strabane	75.8%	65.9%	63.2%
All NWRWMG	66.0%	63.3%	58.7%
<b>SWaMP2008</b>			
Armagh	61.1%	54.0%	49.2%
Banbridge	48.4%	49.0%	46.3%

<b>Council sorted by waste management group</b>	<b>2009/10 (%)</b>	<b>2010/11 (%)</b>	<b>2011/12 (%) #</b>
Cookstown	60.7%	60.4%	58.3%
Craigavon	64.7%	49.6%	29.2%
Dungannon	68.4%	64.2%	57.3%
Fermanagh	68.4%	67.6%	62.4%
Newry & Mourne	71.2%	70.6%	66.7%
Omagh	61.7%	60.0%	55.8%
All SWaMP2008	64.1%	59.7%	52.2%
Northern Ireland	66.1%	62.8%	58.1%

# provisional estimates only - to be confirmed by Dec 2012

This measure is a key performance indicator KPI(f) and as such is subject to regular quarterly updates at [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/waste-home/municipal\\_data\\_reporting.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/waste-home/municipal_data_reporting.htm)

## **Driver and Vehicle Agency Business Plan**

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of the Environment what programmes have been designed to improve road user attitudes and behaviour in line with the Driver and Vehicle Agency Business Plan. **(AQW 16297/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The Driver & Vehicle Agency business plan for 2011-12 outlines the Agency's key priorities, describes the strategic context within which it operates, lists the main challenges it faces over the coming year, and sets out the performance levels it is seeking to achieve and the tasks it is aiming to complete in order to meet its key performance targets and Departmental commitments.

In setting out the contexts and challenges for 2011-12, the business plan sets out a number of Departmental business objectives to which the Agency also contributes - for example, "reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads by delivering a strong and enforced system of driver and vehicle regulation in Northern Ireland, and aligned with it a number of programmes designed to improve road user attitudes and behaviour".

During 2011-12 the Agency contributed to several Departmental programmes designed to improve road user attitudes and behaviour.

As part of the Learning to Drive programme, the Agency introduced a number of initiatives aimed at changing the way young people learn to drive and the way they are tested. In order to better assess a candidate's understanding of safe driving, we introduced case studies to the theory test, and, in order to encourage learners to understand the material and not just learn by rote, we ceased publication of live theory test questions. In addition, we introduced a section of independent driving into the practical driving test, where the candidate has to take responsibility for route finding - for example, by following signs or driving to a local landmark. This allows for a more realistic assessment of their driving ability.

In 2011, the Agency changed its practical driving test policy actively to promote the benefits for all candidates of having observers in their cars during tests. This involves an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI), parent or friend sitting in on the test to observe and listen to the examiner's feedback – all with a view to providing critical support for the learner and newly qualified driver's ongoing development and lifelong learning.

The requirement for learner motorcyclists to complete compulsory basic training (CBT) was introduced in February 2011. CBT requires learner motorcyclists to complete basic training before they may ride unaccompanied on public roads. Whilst it is too early to measure any impact in Northern Ireland,

evidence from Britain indicates that the scheme there delivered an improvement in road safety both for motorcyclists and for other road users.

As a pre-requisite to CBT, the Agency introduced a mandatory register of approved motorcycle instructors (AMIs). CBT and motorcycle instruction can now be delivered only by registered AMIs who are quality assured by DVA.

In addition, the Agency meets regularly with a range of stakeholders including representative associations from the driver/rider instruction industry, taxi industry and freight industry. The Agency's Driver Licensing Division has provided information through various publicity campaigns to raise awareness of driving related issues and is currently undertaking campaigns on the high risk offenders scheme, on the mutual recognition of driving disqualifications between the United Kingdom and Ireland, and on the importance of holding a current driving licence with up-to-date entitlements.

The Agency encourages motorists to keep their vehicle MOTs up-to-date by issuing vehicle test reminders seven weeks in advance. It also measures levels of compliance within the goods, bus and taxi industries and publishes key results from surveys it conducts for use by the industries.

In addition, the introduction of new legislative requirements such as the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (NI) 2010 increased the emphasis for operators and drivers on ensuring that they were compliant with roadworthiness and licensing requirements.

The introduction of the Taxis Act (NI) 2008 also created a new framework for improved standards in the taxi industry delivered through increased awareness, more accountability and better and more effective enforcement.

### **Forthcoming Programmes**

The Department's Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division (RSVRD) works in conjunction with DVA to educate road users and influence attitudes and behaviours in order to achieve road casualty reductions. RSVRD is responsible for promoting road safety, educating road users, producing the Highway Code and developing policy and legislation.

Among current relevant road safety initiatives being led by the Division, with support from DVA, are measures to establish a radically different driver training and testing regime. This new programme, which will require primary legislation to be introduced into the Assembly in the coming months, aims to improve road safety by changing attitudes and behaviours associated with learning to drive. It will be designed to encourage learner drivers to appreciate that learning to drive requires skills and attitudes which it takes time to master and develop, that they should take a progressive approach to learning to drive, following a structured programme, and that their aim should be not just to pass the theory and practical driving tests but to learn to drive safely for life.

The Department is also proposing to introduce other graduated driver licensing measures to change the attitudes and behaviours of new drivers when they first start to drive. These will include a requirement to display 'N' plates for the first two years and a restriction on young drivers carrying peer group passengers (other than family members) for the first six months post-test.

Also, as part of a proposed new drink drive regime, there will be a lower blood alcohol limit for new drivers during their first two years post-test and for professional drivers.

Inappropriate attitudes to breaking road safety laws across the island of Ireland will be addressed through the implementation of plans to deliver mutual recognition of penalty points for drink and drug driving, speeding, use of mobile phones and non-wearing of seatbelts by 2015.

### **Domestic Planning Applications**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment for the average time taken to make decisions on domestic planning applications within the North Down Borough Council area.

**(AQW 16336/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** In 2011/2012 the average processing time for domestic alterations and extensions in the North Down Borough Council area was 55 working days.

### **Environmental Crime Unit**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of the Environment what is the standard response time to an enquiry, in the South Antrim constituency, to the Environmental Crime Unit; and how many complaints are ongoing. **(AQW 16395/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** NIEA's Environmental Crime Unit is intelligence-led and therefore does not operate an incident response process or have a standard response time. All intelligence received is considered and used to build up detail of serious environmental offending and to lead investigations.

In the South Antrim constituency area, there are currently seven ongoing criminal investigations into alleged breaches of environmental law.

### **Car Safety Campaigns**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the car safety campaigns his Department is currently running. **(AQW 16405/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** This question has been clarified by the member as referring to road safety campaigns.

The Department has an extensive portfolio of campaigns which it runs on a regular basis, addressing many negative road user behaviours.

Research shows the main causes of collisions (and therefore of deaths and injuries on roads) in Northern Ireland to be speeding, drink driving and inattention. Only a very small percentage of road collisions can be attributed to reasons other than attitude and behaviour. It is for this reason our road safety campaigns concentrate on changing these behaviours.

Campaigns are delivered throughout the year in the form of television, radio, on-line activity, bus shelters, bus backs and cinema.

In this financial year, the Department is running the following road safety campaigns.

"Hit Home" was launched in 2009 and addresses drink driving. The image of the smashing pint glass and the line 'Every drink increases your risk of crashing' reinforces the dangers of drink driving from the very first sip.

This current campaign continues to be supported by the older, iconic anti drink drive campaigns that still resonate with the Northern Ireland public. "Shame" was first launched in 2000 and features a drink driver crashing into a garden fence where a young boy was playing. The message warns 'Could you live with the shame?' In 2005, "Just One" was developed further to reinforce the fact that 'Just one drink impairs driving.'

All the anti drink driving campaigns have carried the strapline 'Never Ever Drink And Drive' since 1995.

"Steps" was launched in 2009 and highlights the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs. It also appeals to passengers who suspect that their driver may be impaired through drugs. This campaign carries the strapline 'What steps would you take to stop a drug driver from wrecking your life?'

"Moment" was launched in 2011 and addresses for the first time driver carelessness and inattention. Driver carelessness and inattention is the biggest cause of death on Northern Ireland's roads and is made up of over 20 different driving behaviours. This campaign shows several scenarios with devastating consequences. "Moment" carries the strapline 'One lapse can last a lifetime.'

"Mess" was launched in 2007 and addresses the issues of speeding, which is the single biggest cause of road death over the last 10 years. The campaign dramatises a scenario where a speeding



driver is forced to swerve to avoid the unexpected but was unable to avert the tragedy. This campaign warns 'The faster the speed the bigger the mess' and depicts the consequences of prison, serious injury and death.

The Department has several campaigns addressing seatbelt wearing, targeting different audiences.

"Damage" was launched in 2002 and was instrumental in changing the public's attitudes towards choosing not to wear a seatbelt. For the first time, the message was clear, that it was the young male in the back who did the damage.

"Get It On" was launched in 2007 and targeted back seat passengers who chose not to wear a seatbelt. This shows the consequences for other passengers inside the car in the event of a collision should someone be unbelted. The research had shown the reasons that young people chose not to wear a seatbelt and the advert dispelled the idea that it was anti-social or uncool.

"Selfish" was launched in 2007 and is aimed at parents, reminding them that it is the driver's responsibility to ensure that child passengers are properly restrained while travelling. The message was clear and carried the strapline 'How selfish can you get?'

Each seatbelt campaign builds on the message "No Seatbelt No Excuse".

"Just Because" was launched in May this year. Just over one in five deaths on Northern Ireland's roads are pedestrians and, as such, the campaign focuses on the vulnerability of pedestrians and the shared responsibility both drivers and pedestrians have to respect each other on the road. The message urges road users to 'Respect Everyone's Journey.'

Launched on 19th September this year, "Excuses" highlights that over 95% of collisions where someone is killed or seriously injured are due to human error – not the roads, not the weather, not the vehicles, not the environment. Hence the campaign clearly states that crashes are not 'accidents'. The advert differs from DOE Road Safety campaigns in the past, which individually concentrated on one aspect of road safety, for example speeding or drink driving. This advert plays out examples across the whole gamut of road safety and the excuses that those responsible for collisions make. The campaign states: 'Kill the Excuses. It's no Accident.'

The "Kids" campaign, launched in 2005, empowers older children to pay more attention while using the road whilst making drivers aware that children are particularly vulnerable. The message is 'Stop. Look. Listen. Live.'

As responsibility for motorcyclist casualties is shared almost equally between motorcyclists and drivers, the Department has two campaigns to address the issue.

"Thinking Ahead" was launched in 2002 and is aimed at motorcyclists. The message urges bikers to ride appropriately and to remember their loved ones in the event of them being involved in a collision. It carries the warning 'It's not just you who crashes.'

In 2009, "Underneath" targeted drivers asking them to give more consideration to motorcyclists. It reminded motorists that every motorcyclist is a human being – a father, a brother, a son, an uncle, a sister, a mother, a partner. The message stated: 'Take another look' at motorcyclists and see the person underneath the helmet.

The first series of "Crashed Lives", the real life accounts of road tragedy, were launched in 2009 with Dr Gerry Lane, followed by the mother's stories in 2010. In 2011, another set of four were developed featuring two sets of bereaved parents and two victims who had received lifelong debilitating injuries.

In addition to the television campaigns, there is a series of general radio intervention messages aired each month. Some of these reinforce the rules of the road and some address specific driving behaviours such as speeding, drink driving and seatbelt wearing.

Others such as the cyclist safety campaign, the HGV blind spot awareness campaign, and the Signs and Lights on School Buses were developed specifically for radio with outdoor advertising support.

The “Gift” radio campaign was specifically developed to address the historical spike in road deaths around the Christmas period and runs during the month of December.

The impact of these campaigns is carefully monitored; the evidence shows that they are consistently rated as the most important influence on road user behaviour, and therefore are an important element of the Department’s work to reduce casualties on our roads, with the aim of achieving zero deaths.

## Planning Applications

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications have been received in each of the last three years in each council area.

**(AQW 16406/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Over the last 3 business years the number of planning applications received by the Department has steadily declined from 19,557 in 2009/10 to 13,680 in 2011/12; a decrease of 30% in this 3 year period.

The table below provides the details of the number of applications received in each council area over the last 3 business years.

**TABLE 1 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE LAST 3 BUSINESS YEARS**

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/111</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>
Antrim	630	537	466
Ards	924	753	622
Armagh	830	767	554
Ballymena	775	684	509
Ballymoney	368	310	259
Banbridge	617	532	426
Belfast	1651	1498	1321
Carrickfergus	252	217	186
Castlereagh	480	408	348
Coleraine	758	596	540
Cookstown	604	548	442
Craigavon	739	636	472
Derry	842	648	584
Down	936	871	690
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1002	774	624
Fermanagh	1249	889	864
Larne	370	333	226
Limavady	414	375	284
Lisburn	1065	964	806
Magherafelt	689	579	496
Moyle	367	294	203

<b>Council Area</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/111</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>
Newry and Mourne	1539	1296	938
Newtownabbey	537	492	369
NorthDown	622	573	473
Omagh	828	692	620
Strabane	469	502	394
<b>All Areas</b>	<b>19557</b>	<b>16768</b>	<b>13680</b>

### **T19 Exemption for Bio Diesel Produced from Waste Products**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether the T19 exemption for bio diesel produced from waste products apply in Northern Ireland as in England.

**(AQW 16454/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** There is no equivalent legislative measure in Northern Ireland of the T19 waste exemption. However the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has published a number of policy papers to advise and assist staff and those involved in the production of biodiesel using waste cooking oil and rendered animal fat.

NIEA published a Regulatory Position Statement in February 2011 which provides guidance on low risk activities. The paper permits the recovery of biodiesel using waste vegetable oil as a fuel in motor vehicles. Up to 100 litres of biodiesel can be produced at one time and up to 1000 litres stored on the site without the requirement for a waste management licence. Full details can be found on the following link:

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/low\\_risk\\_activities\\_20-02-11.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/low_risk_activities_20-02-11.pdf).

The physical treatment of used cooking oil and production of more than 100 litres of biodiesel will require a waste management licence.

The chemical treatment and non commercial production of less than 5000L of biodiesel per annum for personal use will also require a waste management licence. However the commercial production of biodiesel will require a PPC permit. Full details can be found on the following link:

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/position\\_statement\\_on\\_biodiesel\\_protocol.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/position_statement_on_biodiesel_protocol.pdf).

A Quality Protocol setting out end-of-waste criteria for the production and use of biodiesel derived from waste cooking oil and rendered animal fat (tallow) is applicable in Northern Ireland. Full details of the QP can be found on the following link:

[http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Biodiesel\\_QP\\_NIEA\\_GEH00311BTPC-E-E.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Biodiesel_QP_NIEA_GEH00311BTPC-E-E.pdf)

The Department will consider the introduction of a waste exemption for the physical treatment of waste to produce biodiesel when it next undertakes a legislative review of all waste exemptions.

### **Non-Domestic Planning Application**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the average waiting time for a non-domestic planning application decision in each district council area.

**(AQW 16476/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The average time taken to process a non-domestic planning application in the first quarter of 2012/13 was 86 days. This is a significant improvement in performance when compared with an average processing time of 102 days for these types of applications in the 2011/12 business year.

The tables below detail the average processing times in days for non-domestic planning applications for the 2011/12 business year and for Q1 of 2012/13.

**TABLE 1 2011/12 BUSINESS YEAR:**

**THE NUMBER OF NON-DOMESTIC PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECIDED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA AND THE AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME IN DAYS**

	Approvals		Refusals		Total	
	No. of Applications	Av. Processing time	No. of Applications	Av. Processing time	No. of Applications	Av. Processing time
Antrim	171	46	7	339	178	49
Ards	212	108	15	267	227	117
Armagh	215	122	10	643	225	125
Ballymena	195	71	10	412	205	78
Ballymoney	89	77	0	.	89	77
Banbridge	129	124	10	173	139	126
Belfast	614	111	48	159	662	116
Carrickfergus	70	63	4	126	74	66
Castlereagh	95	109	6	94	101	109
Coleraine	192	56	9	156	201	57
Cookstown	132	102	3	94	135	101
Craigavon	224	106	7	379	231	108
Derry	318	92	18	232	336	98
Down	238	158	14	415	252	161
Dungannon	211	61	22	161	233	67
Fermanagh	261	57	14	152	275	62
Larne	95	107	2	174	97	112
Limavady	92	111	19	273	111	131
Lisburn	213	138	10	233	223	138
Magherafelt	127	91	4	144	131	92
Moyle	74	102	5	242	79	113
Newry And Mourne	315	124	24	419	339	130
Newtownabbey	133	93	5	133	138	94
North Down	165	74	5	140	170	74
Omagh	206	79	26	190	232	91
Strabane	175	55	16	236	191	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,961</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>102</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 Non Domestic Planning Applications Refer To Any Applications Not Listed As “Residential”.
- 2 The Median Has Been Used As The Measure Of Average Processing Time.
- 3 Cluds Are Excluded From This Analysis.

**Table 2 Quarter 1 of 2012/13:**

**The number of non-domestic planning applications decided by district council area and the average processing time in days**

	Approvals		Refusals		Total	
	No. of Applications	Av. Processing time	No. of Applications	Av. Processing time	No. of Applications	Av. Processing time
Antrim	28	36	2	272	30	41
Ards	67	101	1	282	68	102
Armagh	48	111	1	412	49	112
Ballymena	45	65	2	285	47	69
Ballymoney	18	123	0	.	18	123
Banbridge	40	99	1	161	41	102
Belfast	190	108	13	86	203	106
Carrickfergus	23	71	1	317	24	72
Castlereagh	28	63	0	.	28	63
Coleraine	41	58	7	224	48	58
Cookstown	41	65	1	71	42	67
Craigavon	49	76	2	920	51	76
Derry	88	59	4	241	92	60
Down	67	128	7	318	74	140
Dungannon	48	46	3	149	51	47
Fermanagh	76	53	3	205	79	53
Larne	19	124	0	.	19	124
Limavady	22	53	3	308	25	56
Lisburn	100	105	2	288	102	110
Magherafelt	45	95	2	129	47	96
Moyle	17	100	2	591	19	109
Newry And Mourne	59	102	6	265	65	103
Newtownabbey	34	96	3	144	37	111
North Down	32	83	1	113	33	83
Omagh	41	52	4	134	45	58
Strabane	25	40	3	1,054	28	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>86</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 Non Domestic Planning Applications Refer To Any Applications Not Listed As “Residential”.
- 2 The Median Has Been Used As The Measure Of Average Processing Time.
- 3 Cluds Are Excluded From This Analysis.

The Department’s approach to negotiation on planning applications to resolve issues of concern is evident in the significantly longer times to process applications that are result in a refusal decision.

However, the Department does acknowledge the importance of processing applications in a timely manner and I have asked senior officials to actively monitor performance to ensure appropriate allocation of resources and to maintain improvements in performance.

**Tourist Related Planning Applications**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to list the tourist related planning applications currently under consideration for the Moyle council area; (ii) the status of each application; (iii) the length of time since the application was initially submitted; and (iv) when a decision will be made on each application.

**(AQW 16477/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Following a manual check of all live applications in the Moyle area, six ‘tourist related’ applications were identified.

In most cases additional information is required from third parties. However, the Department is striving to bring each application to a conclusion as expeditiously as possible.

E/2009/0316/F - Amendment to previous approval to provide 45 bedroom hotel with 29 suites and 24 holiday chalets at Clare Park, Clare Road, Ballycastle.

**Application submitted: 11 September 2009.**

Status: Opinion to approve agreed with Moyle Council on 21/12/2009. Under Article 40 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 the applicant agreed to enter into a legal agreement with the Department that the holiday apartments and chalets will be used for holiday letting only and not be used as permanent place of residence. The site is now under the control of the Bank of Ireland.

When will the decision issue: As the site is now under the control of the Bank of Ireland, the applicant has no further input into the planning process. The agent confirmed on 27th September that the Bank has instructed their legal representatives to take the matter forward with respect to finalising the A40. The Department is awaiting contact from the Bank’s Solicitors to allow the necessary documentation to be exchanged in order to finalise the A40 Agreement.

E/2009/0415/F - Two bedroom self catering cottage, Glenariffe Road, Glenariffe.

**Application submitted: 14 December 2009**

Status: Application originally presented to Council with an opinion to refuse on 25th April 2010, in that, it was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 21, policy CTY 1 and policy TOU 3 of the Department’s Rural Strategy. The access arrangements were also unacceptable. The planning policy issues have now been resolved and the Department considers the proposal is an acceptable farm diversification scheme. The Roads Service has advised that the access arrangements are unrealistic and impractical.

When will the decision issue: Subject to satisfactory resolution of the access arrangements, the application will be returned to Council with a change of opinion to approve.

E/2010/0289/F - Eco holiday cottage, Ballyvenagh Road, Ballyvogy, Ballycastle.

**Application submitted: 22 October 2010.**

Status: The application was presented to Council on 24/10/2011 with an opinion to refuse, in that it was contrary to policy TOU 3 of the Rural Strategy and CTY 1 of PPS 21 – The application was deferred and further information was submitted including a business case submitted on 28/9/2012 and a bat survey on 14/11/2012.

When will a decision issue: Subject to satisfactory consultation response from NIEA-NH regarding the bat survey the application can be returned to Council with an opinion to approve.

E/2012/0133/O - 10 Self catering holiday cottages, Straid Road, Bushmills.

**Application submitted: 19 July 2012**

Status: NIEA Historic Monuments Unit require an archaeological evaluation. NIEA Natural Heritage has advised that the proposal will impact on a protected species and is therefore contrary to PPS 2: Planning and Nature Conservation.

When will decision issue: Discussions are ongoing to establish how development may proceed while having regard to the archaeological and protected species issues. Subject to resolution of these issues and completion of a legal agreement the application can be concluded. In light of the above outstanding issues, this application has yet to be presented to the Council.

E/2012/0154/F - Pedestrian and cycle path link to Causeway Hotel and Visitors' Centre.

**Application submitted: 16 August 2012.**

Status: The Department is waiting on the agent to submit up to date information demonstrating how the proposal will link to the Causeway Hotel and Visitors' Centre.

When will decision issue: The application will be progressed to present an opinion to Council following receipt and evaluation of the outstanding information.

E/2012/0168/F - Two storey side extension to Causeway Tavern Bed & Breakfast, Whitepark Road, Bushmills.

**Application submitted: 29 August 2012.**

Status: Nearing completion.

When will decision issue: This application is streamlined and the Approval Notice should issue week commencing 12 November 2012.

On these matters, the decision at Runkerry and other initiatives, as Minister I am working to ensure the Planning System protects our heritage, positively develops it, not least the causeway Coast and Glens, arguably our greatest natural and built heritage.

**Planning Policy Statements**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether he intends to overhaul any of the planning policy statements; (ii) how many officials he has tasked to carry out this work; and (iii) when they will report their findings.

**(AQW 16592/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** As part of the overall programme of planning reform, the Department is undertaking a comprehensive consolidation and review of planning policy which will reconfigure existing provisions within a single policy document. The single 'Strategic Planning Policy Statement' (SPPS) will reflect a new approach to the preparation of regional planning policy. It will be much more strategic in focus, simpler and shorter

I have tasked officials from within Planning Policy Division (PPD) to carry out this work and the precise number of officials involved will vary through the course of preparing the SPPS. There will also be

engagement with and contributions from many other officials and stakeholders as this work is progressed.

I am currently considering a Scoping Paper which sets out the preferred approach for this work, key next steps and timescales. The SPPS will be needed in time for the transfer of planning powers to Councils in 2015 and it is my intention that a public consultation draft SPPS will be made available before the end of 2013.

### **Vehicle Tax Exemption for Historic Vehicles**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has any plans to extend vehicle tax exemption for Historic Vehicles constructed or manufactured after 1 January 1973.

**(AQW 16597/11-15)**

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

Rates of duty and criteria for exemptions are matters for HM Treasury, as part of wider fiscal policy, and for the Department for Transport.

I recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport on this matter pointing out that it seemed unfair that the exemption was limited to those vehicles built or registered after 1 January 1973 and asking for a review of the historic vehicle criteria.

In the response received from Stephen Hammond, the Parliamentary Under - Secretary of State for Transport, I am advised that there were no plans at present to change the criterion for the exemption of historic vehicles. Mr Hammond did, however, advise that as the Chancellor keeps all taxes under review he has asked HM Treasury colleagues to note my comments about the exemption from vehicle excise duty for Historic Vehicles.

### **Decisions with Spending Implications**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment, since May 2011, how many decisions with spending implications have been made as a result of ministerial directions.

**(AQW 16629/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** Since May 2011, there have been no decisions with spending implications as a result of a Ministerial direction.

### **Councillors: Severance Pay**

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of the Environment for an estimate of the total cost to the taxpayer of the Severance Pay for councillors as part of the Reform of Public Administration.

**(AQO 2921/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** I will be consulting on a range of options for a councillor severance scheme and aim to do so very shortly. The consultation will outline a number of models, consistent with the principles of a financial cap, graduated scheme for longer serving councillors, no payments for councillors for periods when they held another elected office (etc.). I believe the Executive should agree to fund the scheme to recognise great service over long and difficult years. The final cost will clearly depend on the numbers who apply under the scheme.

### **Rates Convergence**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on his discussions with the Minister of Finance and Personnel on finding an equitable solution for rates convergence.

**(AQO 2922/11-15)**



**Mr Attwood:** The Minister of Finance and Personnel and I are very much aware of the concerns which have been legitimately expressed by elected representatives, the business sector and others, about rates convergence and debt issues arising from the implementation of local government reform. We have met on a number of occasions and agree the importance of developing plans and procedures to address the issue of rates convergence.

A group of senior local and central government officers, which include officials from both our Departments, have been commissioned to examine the financial implications of rate and debt convergence. The group is currently developing detailed financial models to quantify the impact on rate levels, arising from local government reform, across each of the councils and council clusters.

In parallel with this, the group is also examining a wide range of options for addressing fairly and fully the issue.

The key findings and recommendations of the group will be carefully considered and a paper will then be presented to the Executive.

My view is that it is widely agreed that a model or models of assistance need to be developed, to ensure that businesses, rate payers, the public and representatives conclude that the rates issue has been addressed satisfactorily.

### **Local Government: D'Hondt System**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of the Environment whether the d'Hondt method of for allocating council posts will be in place for the 11 new councils.

**(AQO 2925/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** The sharing of power and responsibility will be a key feature of the governance arrangements for the new councils, from their establishment. This will be provided for in the Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill which I propose, with the Executive's agreement, to introduce to the Assembly early in the New Year.

The d'Hondt method will be one on the approaches that I propose specifying as being available to the new councils to achieve the sharing of positions of responsibility; the others will be Saint Laguë and the Single Transferrable Vote. D'Hondt will be specified as the default method to be used in the absence of qualified majority support for a specific method.

The provision of this choice from the three identified methods was recommended by the Strategic Leadership Board's policy development panel on governance and relationships which was comprised of elected representatives from the five main political parties. This approach was supported by a significant majority of the respondents to the consultation on the Local Government Reform Policy Proposals.

### **Local Government: Transition Committees**

**Ms McGahan** asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the anticipated timeframes and roles for the new Council Statutory Transition Committees.

**(AQO 2926/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** My Department is working to provide for Statutory Transition Committees as soon as possible and I intend using enabling powers in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Act 2010 to make regulations to establish Transition Committees on a statutory footing

My intention is that the Statutory Transition Committees will be responsible for aiding the process of convergence and taking forward the work required around governance, corporate and financial planning, arrangements for service delivery, transferring functions, community planning, capacity building and the appointment of senior staff. I believe this will help create certainty and leadership, as well as drive the reform process.

## Wind Turbines: Belfast International Airport

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of the Environment how much weight is given to consultation responses from Belfast International Airport in relation to planning applications for wind turbines.

**(AQO 2927/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** DOE Planning will consult with statutory and non-statutory bodies to obtain comments on a development proposal in relation to the consultee's area of expertise.

DOE Planning will consult with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) or the airport operators about proposals for developments, the heights of which would exceed the various specified limits within the safeguarded area defined by the CAA around the airport. Belfast International Airport (BIA) and Belfast City Airport (BCA) both have safeguarded areas.

In addressing a development proposal, both the case officer and the development management group will take consultee responses into account as a material consideration in forming an opinion on the application. The weight to be attached to individual consultee responses is a matter for planning judgement which will rest with DOE Planning as the planning authority.

## Derelict Properties: Derry City Council Area

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of the Environment given his recent announcement of £500,000 to tackle derelict properties in the Derry City Council area, whether he has plans to fund any future similar schemes to protect the built heritage in the area.

**(AQO 2928/11-15)**

**Mr Attwood:** On a recent visit to Derry I announced the sum of £500,000 to address derelict sites within the City's central area as a contribution to the preparations for the UK City of Culture 2013 and as an addition to the £700,000 which I have already committed for various other Built Heritage related projects. This latest funding to Derry City Council follows on from the intervention funding which I provided to Coleraine Borough Council to tackle dereliction in Portrush and Portstewart in the run up to the Irish Open Championship in June 2012.

It has always been my intention that such interventions would be carefully assessed to identify any lessons to be learned from such an approach and to evaluate the contribution which such funding can make to the overall improvements needed across a wide range of towns in Northern Ireland. Expanding the scope of these interventions is dependant on both availability of funding in my Department and a proactive and collaborative approach between departments, councils, other parts of the public sector and voluntary bodies exploring synergies to the maximum benefit of the area.

In regard to the additional £700K that I referred to earlier, you may wish to note that this includes money to help charities to buy listed buildings at risk; to help NIEA to conserve historic monuments in the city and its environs; and to promote the heritage of the city. All of this work is currently being developed and implemented.

This money is in addition to major investment over recent years in a number of listed buildings such as - the Guildhall, St Columb's Cathedral, First Derry Presbyterian Church, the Playhouse and St Eugene's Parochial House. It is also additional to the considerable investment that NIEA has made over many years in conserving and improving the fabric, facilities and setting of Derry's Walls.

This will have an immediate impact by providing increased support for existing listed building grant applications, of which there are eight in the Derry City Council area, and it will be a strong catalyst to encourage further work.

Along with the efforts of others in the city, such as the improved public realm works being delivered by DSD, I believe that this funding has the potential to build confidence and unlock investment in the area's built heritage. This will help create additional, and much needed, jobs particularly within the construction and tourism sectors.

I believe the scheme has application across council areas and should receive central Executive support.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### Groups Found to Have Misused their Funding

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, over the last three years, how much government funding has been recouped from groups found to have misused their funding, or who failed to comply with the requirements of their letters of offer.

**(AQW 14331/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** Over the period of the last three years £226,745 has been recouped from groups found to have misused their funding, or who failed to comply with the requirements of their letters of offer. The breakdown, as provided by Departments, is detailed below:

Department	2009/10 - 2011/12
DCAL	£8,470
DE	£7,600
DEL	£163,582
DHSSPS	£35,548
OFMDFM	£11,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>£226,745</b>

Figures shown represent grant funding from DHSSPS only and do not include funding provided by HSC organisations.

### European Regional Development Fund

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail, as at 31 October 2012, the total value of the European Regional Development Fund and member state match funding that has been committed to (i) Priority sub-measure 1.1 - Building positive relations at the local level; (ii) Priority sub-measure 1.2 - Acknowledging the past; (iii) Priority sub-measure 2.1 - Creating shared public spaces; (iv) Priority sub-measure 2.2 - Key institutional capacities for a shared society; and (v) Priority 3 - Technical assistance.

**(AQW 16256/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The table overleaf details commitment under each Theme of the PEACE III Programme, broken down by European Regional Development Fund and Member State contributions, as at 31 October 2012.

Commitment includes all projects which have accepted Letters of Offer, projects with Letters of Offer issued, and all completed projects. Projects which have been approved by Steering Committee but which have not yet been issued with a Letter of Offer have not been included.

Theme	Total Commitment (£)		
	ERDF	Regional Match	Total
1.1	78,955,547	37,940,890	116,896,437
1.2	22,849,654	10,980,054	33,829,708

Theme	Total Commitment (£)		
	ERDF	Regional Match	Total
2.1	41,938,060	20,152,698	62,090,758
2.2	19,869,584	9,548,026	29,417,610
3.1	9,322,387	4,479,732	13,802,119
<b>Total</b>	<b>172,935,232</b>	<b>83,101,400</b>	<b>256,036,632</b>

### European Regional Development Fund

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail, as at 30 June 2012, the total value of the European Regional Development Fund and member state match funding expenditure on (i) Priority sub-measure 1.1 - Building positive relations at the local level; (ii) Priority sub-measure 1.2 - Acknowledging the past; (iii) Priority sub-measure 2.1 - Creating shared public spaces; (iv) Priority sub-measure 2.2 - Key institutional capacities for a shared society; and (v) Priority 3 - Technical assistance. **(AQW 16257/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The table below details expenditure under each Theme of the PEACE III Programme, as at 30 June 2012.

Theme	Total Cumulative Expenditure (£)		
	ERDF	Regional Match	Total
1.1	42,168,483	20,263,423	62,431,906
1.2	12,312,487	5,916,578	18,229,065
2.1	14,233,690	6,839,783	21,073,473
2.2	2,556,527	1,228,500	3,785,027
3.1	6,020,700	2,893,157	8,913,857
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,291,887</b>	<b>37,141,441</b>	<b>114,433,328</b>

### Contract with G4S to Provide Security on the Stormont Estate

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the value of the contract with G4S to provide security on the Stormont Estate; and what is the hourly rate paid to G4S staff. **(AQW 16258/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The security services performed by G4S on the Stormont Estate are part of a wider Northern Ireland Civil Service Contract covering over 200 buildings across the Government Estate. The value of the services provided by G4S at the Stormont Estate is approximately £430,000 per year.

The hourly rate paid to G4S staff varies from £6.30 per hour to £8.51 per hour.

### Unemployed People in North Down

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many people in the North Down area are unemployed. **(AQW 16357/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The official measure of unemployment is sourced to the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the LFS is a sample survey and estimates of unemployment, at sub-NI

geographies, are not sourced to the LFS because of the relatively large confidence intervals around such estimates. This is due to sample size constraints in the LFS.

The following table is sourced instead to the claimant count measure of unemployment. This shows the number of persons claiming unemployment related benefits at October 2012 and this figure as a percentage of the resident working age population.

District Council Area	Claimants	
	Number	Rate
North Down	1,896	3.7

### Cost of Hosting the Ulster Covenant Event

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of the cost of hosting the Ulster Covenant event on 29 September 2012.

**(AQW 16362/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** In reply to an earlier written question, the costs incurred by my Department in relation to this event were estimated at approximately £1,500 (see AQW 15045/11-15).

This figure represented the value of overtime payments likely to be claimed by Stormont Estate Management Unit staff involved in overseeing and facilitating the event.

### Job Losses in the Foyle Constituency

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of job losses in the Foyle constituency, since 2003, as a result of Foreign Direct Investors leaving or reducing workforce numbers.

**(AQW 16387/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The primary source of Northern Ireland employee job estimates is the Census of Employment (CoE) however the CoE does not collect information on foreign-ownership. The information below is sourced from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) from which the earliest available data is for 2006.

In September 2006, there were 3,365 employee jobs in the Foyle constituency in foreign-owned businesses. In September 2012, there were 6,045 employee jobs in the Foyle constituency in foreign-owned businesses. These figures are based on 2011 Parliamentary Constituency Area boundaries.

This change in employees jobs is due to a number of factors e.g. businesses opening, closing, relocating jobs to other parts of Northern Ireland (or elsewhere), expanding, reducing their workforce or changing ownership. A further breakdown is given in Table 1.

**TABLE 1: NET CHANGE<sup>1</sup> IN EMPLOYEES JOBS IN FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESSES<sup>2</sup> IN THE FOYLE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY**

Reason for change	Change
Business closed (or no longer foreign-owned)	-625
Decrease in employee jobs within Foyle	-1095
Business opened (or now foreign-owned)	+4695
Increase in employee jobs within Foyle	+60
<b>Total net change</b>	<b>+3035</b>

1 Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and thus may not add to totals.

- 2 On the IDBR a business is classified as being directly (or immediately) foreign-owned if a single non-UK investor holds a greater than 50 per cent shareholding in its parent company. This classification is based on information received by the Office for National Statistics (from a market information company, Dun and Bradstreet). This may not be an exhaustive list of foreign-owned businesses.

### **Maternal Deaths as a Result of Unsafe Abortions**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of maternal deaths as a result of unsafe abortions since 1967.

**(AQW 16389/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Deaths are registered with the General Register Office and are classified using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The term “unsafe abortion” is not included in this classification and therefore information on the number of maternal deaths specifically due to “unsafe abortion” is not recorded.

There are a number of ICD codes noted below which relate to abortion<sup>1</sup>. Two cases of maternal deaths since 1974 are recorded against these codes. Data prior to 1974 is not held electronically.

1 International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision codes 635 – 639; International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes 004 - 006, 007.2, 008.1.

### **Whitehall Departments**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how the contribution to non-identifiable expenditure is calculated and allocated across the relevant budgets of Whitehall Departments.

**(AQW 16419/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Northern Ireland Executive has no responsibility for, or involvement in, the allocation of either identifiable or non-identifiable expenditure to Whitehall Departments. This is a matter for the UK Government and is determined by the Treasury as part of its budgetary process.

### **Whitehall Departments**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how the contribution to identifiable expenditure undertaken by Whitehall Departments is calculated and allocated across the relevant budgets of Whitehall Departments.

**(AQW 16420/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Northern Ireland Executive has no responsibility for, or involvement in, the allocation of either identifiable or non-identifiable expenditure to Whitehall Departments. This is a matter for the UK Government and is determined by the Treasury as part of its budgetary process.

### **Olympic Funding**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much additional funding was awarded under the Barnett consequential associated with Olympic funding.

**(AQW 16421/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Northern Ireland Executive Block Grant for 2011-12 received additional in-year funding for the Olympics of £5.4m. This comprised of £5.2m Resource DEL and £0.2m Capital DEL.

### **Treasury Statement of Funding Policy**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the process for consultation and agreement, between the Executive, the Secretary of State and the Chief Secretary of the Treasury, on the Treasury Statement of Funding Policy: Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly, which was published in 2010.

**(AQW 16424/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Statement of Funding Policy states:

In line with the principle of mutual respect, the terms of this Statement have been agreed between the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, following consultation with the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

In practice HMT officials circulate a draft Statement of Funding Policy (SFP), to the Devolved Administrations seeking their views on potential revisions.

My officials write out to each NI department to seek their views on proposed changes and the comparability factors contained within the document. My officials then communicate any necessary changes to HMT. This is an iterative process and can require discussions at Ministerial level to resolve any fundamental differences of opinion.

Once a final draft document is agreed, the SFP is passed to Secretaries of State for their agreement.

### **EU Structural Funds Programmes**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the EU Structural Funds Programmes for 2014 – 2020 which are currently being developed by Departments.

**(AQW 16458/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The following potential EU Structural Funds Programmes for 2014-2020 are currently being developed:

- 1 A European Regional Development Fund programme under the Investment for Growth and Jobs objective.
- 2 A European Social Fund programme under the Investment for Growth and Jobs objective.
- 3 A European Regional Development Fund INTERREG cross-border programme under the European Territorial Cooperation objective.
- 4 A European Regional Development Fund PEACE cross-border programme under the European Territorial Cooperation objective.

### **Bonus Payments to Civil Service Staff**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the criteria for awarding bonus payments to civil service staff.

**(AQW 16473/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** NICS departments have discretion under the Special Bonus Scheme to reward staff below the Senior Civil Service for exceptional performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. The overall cost of bonus payments in each department must not exceed 0.2% of its pay bill and must be accommodated within the department's running cost provisions.

### **Small Business Rate Relief Scheme**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) to detail the criteria that businesses must meet to be eligible for the 20 percent reduction in rates, as an extension to the small business rates relief scheme; (ii) from when will the reduction apply; and (iii) for how long it will last.

**(AQW 16509/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** As I recently announced in the Assembly, the Executive has agreed to extend the small business rates relief scheme to include properties with an NAV up to £15,000 rising from the previous figure of £10,000.

This extension is part of the Jobs and Economy Initiative and will provide much needed support to an additional 3,500 business ratepayers, bringing the total amount of business ratepayers supported by SBRR to just over 27,000.

The 20% relief will automatically be awarded to all eligible small business ratepayers with a net annual of £5,001 to £15,000. However, ratepayers who occupy multiple premises, that are more than three properties in total, are not eligible for the relief under the scheme.

It is also my intention to further refine the scheme by disallowing double rate relief on the same premises and recycling the savings in order, making best use of the available resources and maximising the number of businesses receiving support. This would apply to ratepayers already entitled to derating for industrial or sport and recreation use; relief that is granted at 70% and 80% respectively.

The newly expanded scheme will last for a further two years, from April 2013 through to 31 March 2015.

### **£40 Million Additional Funding**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of how the £40 million additional funding, to deliver a range of projects to support the construction sector, will be allocated in the current financial year.

**(AQW 16511/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** My Statement on Monday 12 November contained detail of the 2012-13 October Monitoring allocations. This included £41.5 million of allocations that will support the construction sector:

- £23.9 million to DRD for road maintenance, street lightning maintenance and water mains works;
- £8.3 million to DE for schools maintenance and addressing fire damage to Arvalee Special School;
- £8.0 million to DSD for Co-ownership; and
- £1.3 million to DHSSPS to progress hospital car parking on the Tor Bank Site.

### **Land and Property Registration Fees**

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the current Land and Property Registration fees in Northern Ireland compared with the fees in England; and why fees in Northern Ireland are more expensive for transfers, leases and exchanges.

**(AQW 16512/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The legislation governing the operation of the Northern Ireland Land Registry differs significantly from that under which Land Registers England and Wales operate. In Northern Ireland, in accordance with the provisions of S84 of the Land Registration Act (NI) 1970, Land Registry is obliged to raise fees to cover the costs of registration services. When fees are revised any revisions must reflect the actual cost of provision of services.

The range of services and transactions provided in the two jurisdictions are also different, therefore it is not possible to provide a like-for-like comparison of charges.

Where we do have comparability is in the registration of transfers, leases and exchanges however we do not use the same value bandings as illustrated in the tables below.

#### **LPS SCALE FEE CHARGES**

<b>Band No</b>		<b>Fee</b>	<b>Fee (electronic lodgement)</b>
1	0–£20,000	£90	£70
2	£20,001–£80,000	£150	£100
3	£80,001–£100,000	£210	£150



<b>Band No</b>		<b>Fee</b>	<b>Fee (electronic lodgement)</b>
4	£100,001–£150,000	£250	£210
5	£150,001–£200,000	£360	£300
6	£200,001–£250,000	£415	£345
7	£250,001 and over	£525	£435

#### **ENGLISH SCALE FEE LAND REGISTRY CHARGES**

<b>Band No</b>		<b>Fee</b>	<b>Fee (electronic lodgement)</b>
1	0–£50,000	£50	N/A
2	£50,001–£80,000	£80	N/A
3	£80,001–£100,000	£130	N/A
4	£100,001–£200,000	£200	N/A
5	£200,001–£500,000	£280	N/A
6	£500,001– £1,000,000	£550	N/A
7	£1,000,001 and over	£920	N/A

The highest maximum fee payable to LPS is significantly lower than the highest fee paid in England and Wales, particularly if the transfer is processed electronically.

The registration fees that the house buyers pay are determined by the selling price of a property. As prices vary significantly between jurisdiction and region, the only way in which a meaningful comparison can be made is to calculate what the registration fee for a house in the average price bracket is in each jurisdiction.

The table below details fees for properties in the average price band.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Average House Price (Oct 2012)</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Fee (electronic lodgement)</b>
N Ireland	£129,000	£250	£210
England	£225,954	£280	N/A

The comparison shows that the Northern Ireland house buyer purchasing a property at the average price and using electronic lodgement pays £70 less in fees when compared to their English counterpart.

A comparison of the current Northern Ireland Transfer, Lease and Exchange fees with historic charges shows that due to the rebalancing of property prices, average fees have reduced and the percentage of house purchases attracting fees in the lower bands increased.

In the third quarter of 2007 the average transfer fee was £265, in that same quarter in 2012 the average fee had fallen by 33% to £178.

In October-April 2007, 30% of customers paid fees in Bands 1-3 - in September 2012 that percentage had increased to 63%.

## **St Patrick's Barracks in Ballymena**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what role his Department had to play in the transfer of St Patrick's Barracks in Ballymena from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Department for Social Development.

**(AQW 16552/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Land & Property Services provided a valuation for OFMDFM in January 2012 in connection with a proposed transfer of part of the overall site to DSD which comprised of 47 dwellings.

OFMDFM submitted a business case seeking DFP approval on 7th March 2012 for the "Disposal of 47 houses at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena". My officials considered the proposal and granted approval on 3rd April 2012.

## **Rating Revaluation of Domestic Properties**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when he intends to carry out a rating revaluation of domestic properties.

**(AQW 16598/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Executive has currently no plans to carry out a domestic revaluation during the spending review period and lifetime of this Assembly.

Furthermore, carrying one out would be difficult at the moment, as the evidence required to establish the values is not sufficiently reliable, given the low volume of sales and the continued volatility in the housing market.

Research by LPS and other bodies indicate that broadly speaking residential values have now returned to values that existed in January 2005 – the base date for the existing domestic Valuation List.

The Executive and Councils still need the same amount of money out of the system to pay for public services. If a general revaluation of all domestic properties were to take place soon and we found that all values had decreased below the 2005 levels, the tax rate or rate in the pound would simply have to go up.

The important issue in deciding whether to undertake a revaluation, however, is the extent to which some areas of the market have declined over this period relative to others. Revaluation always creates winners and losers; houses that have reduced in value by more than the average since 1 January 2005 would end up paying less rates, those that have reduced by less than the average, or indeed increased, would have an increased rates liability.

LPS will continue to monitor changes and shifts in value and when these relativities get significantly out of line and the housing market is sufficiently stable and active to provide the underlying evidence, the matter can be reconsidered. At present the only calls for a general revaluation are from those who are under the mistaken impression that lower house prices across the board should result in lower rates for all households.

## **Allocation of £75 Million to the Department of Education**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the rationale behind the allocation of £75 million to the Department of Education in 2014/15.

**(AQW 16654/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The rationale for the allocation is to help address pressures on schools' budgets, protecting frontline services as far as possible whilst the Minister for Education moves ahead with implementing strategic reform aimed at creating a more efficient and effective education sector.

## Freedom of Information Requests

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department in each year since 2007; (ii) the proportion of requests each year that were not answered within the time limit; (iii) the number of requests currently outstanding by more than (a) one to two months (b) three to four months; (c) five to six months; (d) seven to twelve months; and (e) more than twelve months.

**(AQW 16667/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The information requested has been provided in the following tables.

Year	Requests Received	Proportion of Requests Not Answered Within Time Limit
2007	336	15%
2008	332	9%
2009	409	10%
2010	374	4%
2011	383	16%

	Number of Requests Currently Outstanding
1-2 months	2
3-4 months	0
5-6 months	0
7-12 months	4
More than 12 months	6

## Economically Inactive People

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many economically inactive people aged between 18-25 are not in job related training or education.

**(AQW 16669/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** For the period July – September 2012, the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimated there to be 17,000 economically inactive individuals, aged between 18 and 25, who were not in job related training or education.

## Decisions with Spending Implications

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, since May 2007, how many decisions with spending implications have been made as a result of ministerial directions.

**(AQW 16679/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** There have been no ministerial directions with spending implications initiated by the DFP Minister since May 2007.

## Prompt Payment to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what practices, protocols and measures are in place within the Department and its arm's-length bodies to ensure prompt payment to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers.

**(AQW 16686/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The standard payment period for government contracts is 30 days. This is reflected in standard forms of contract and widely accepted by business. In addition DFP aims to complete all payments to contractors within 10 days in line with the prompt payment protocol.

Procurement Guidance Note 01/12 Contract Management - Procedures and Principles and Procurement Guidance Note 06/12 Helping SMEs Benefit from Subcontracting Opportunities set out best practice for contract managers and project managers and provide information for main contractors and subcontractors.

CPD contracts require contractors to offer similar terms and conditions to their subcontractors, such as payment within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice, and also include a poor performance protocol. Ultimately, if a contractor fails to comply with contract conditions, including those relating to prompt payment of subcontractors, they can be excluded from future government tender opportunities for a year.

The Construction Contracts (Amendment) Act (NI), which came into effect on 14 November 2012, will help to improve the legal position of subcontractors in all construction contracts. The Construction Order also incorporates default conditions on payments that are deemed to be included if the parties have not agreed terms.

In the case of construction contracts, CPD requires main contractors to report monthly on subcontractor payment progress (where the subcontract value exceeds 1% of the total contract or £10k), 'payment issues' must be a standing agenda item at project meetings and project managers are required to validate that subcontractors receive payments due, by conducting random checks.

CPD has produced detailed guidance for Project Managers which includes standard reporting templates.

## **Government Commissioned Contracts**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is being done to ensure that subcontractors working on Government commissioned contracts are paid promptly and at a reasonable rate.

**(AQW 16705/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** CPD guidance includes a number of measures to help to counter the sharp practices employed by some main contractors.

- Contractors are required to offer written subcontracts, with terms no more onerous than those that the client has agreed with the main contractor, such as payment within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice.
- Contractors must report monthly on subcontractor payment progress (where the subcontract value exceeds 1% of the total contract or £10k).
- 'Payment Issues' must be a standing agenda item at project meetings.
- Project managers are required to validate that subcontractors receive payments due, by conducting random checks.
- Where main contractors fail to comply with contract conditions, including those relating to fair dealing with subcontractors they face exclusion from future government tender opportunities for up to one year.
- Main contractors are required to declare that their tenders take full account of the price of key elements of the contract that will be subcontracted.

The amendments to the Construction Contracts (NI) Order 1997 which commenced on 14 November 2012 will make access to remedies such as adjudication easier for aggrieved subcontractors.

## Government Commissioned Contracts

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether companies that fail to pay sub-contractors within a reasonable time period can be excluded from future tenders for Government commissioned contracts.

**(AQW 16708/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The failure to treat subcontractors fairly is a matter of great concern for me. I am determined to address the sharp practices employed by some main contractors.

CPD guidance requires contractors to pay their subcontractors within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice. Ultimately, if a contractor fails to comply with a contract condition in relation to prompt payment, it can be excluded from future government tender opportunities for a year.

## Government Commissioned Contracts

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether companies which successfully tender for Government commissioned contracts are scrutinised on how promptly they pay their sub-contractors.

**(AQW 16710/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** CPD guidance for public sector contracts includes a number of measures aimed at ensuring subcontractors are paid promptly.

Included in these is a requirement for main contractors to report monthly on subcontractor payments (where the subcontract value exceeds 1% of the total contract or £10k) to the client's project manager and to ensure that 'Payment Issues' is a standing agenda item for project meetings.

In addition project managers are required to ensure prompt payment is actually applied, by accessing the contractor's records of payments made and by carrying out periodic checks with subcontractors.

CPD guidance also includes a protocol to enable main contractors to be excluded from future government tender opportunities for a year, if they fail to comply with contract conditions on prompt payment of subcontractors

## Non-Civil Service Employment

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many people in each Department, since September 2009, have had their previous non-civil service employment counted as continuous service.

**(AQW 16733/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The information on the number of people in each Department, since September 2009, who had their previous non-civil service employment counted as continuous service is not held.

## Economy and Jobs Initiative

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the origins of the £200m used to finance the Economy and Jobs Initiative.

**(AQW 16738/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** The Executive's £200 million Jobs and Economy Initiative was funded from a range of sources. These sources included unallocated Barnett consequentials from the UK Government's recent Budget and Autumn Statements. These Barnett consequentials amounted to £179 million and were additional to the funding allocated to the Executive as part of the 2010 UK Spending Review.

There were also resources made available through reduced requirements identified by departments and by the acceleration of capital spending brought forward from 2014-15.

## People in Employment in North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of people in employment in North Down in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16793/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Estimates of the numbers in employment by District Council Area (DCA) are sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), Local Area Database, with the most recent data available for January – December 2011.

Please note that LFS estimates at the DCA level are based on relatively small sample sizes and as a result there are relatively large confidence intervals around such results. In addition, these estimates are based on the residency of an individual.

Estimates of employment in the North Down DCA, for each of the last five years, are shown in the table overleaf.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT IN NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

Year	Number in employment
2007	33,000
2008	37,000
2009	39,000
2010	37,000
2011	37,000

Data are rounded to nearest 1,000.

Annual data for 2012 will not be available until mid-2013

## Economically Active People in North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of economically active people in North Down in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16794/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** Estimates of the number of people, who are economically active by District Council Area (DCA), are sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), Local Area Database. The most recent data available are for January – December 2011.

Please note that LFS estimates at the DCA level are based on relatively small sample sizes and as a result there are relatively large confidence intervals around such results. In addition, these estimates are based on the residency of an individual.

Estimates of the number of people, who are economically active in the North Down DCA, for each of the last five years, are shown in the table overleaf.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE IN THE NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

Year	Number economically active
2007	33,000
2008	37,000
2009	40,000

Year	Number economically active
2010	38,000
2011	38,000

Data are rounded to nearest 1,000.

Annual data for 2012 will not be available until mid-2013.

### Reclassifications or Reallocations by the Department of Education

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) what checks are in place to ensure that any reclassifications or reallocations by the Department of Education during the budgetary year are warranted; (ii) whether the Department of Education has reduced requirements which ought to be notified; (iii) whether the level of scrutiny he is able to apply to the Department of Education is equivalent to that applied to other departments; and (iv) if not, why this is the case.

**(AQW 16804/11-15)**

**Mr Wilson:** When proposed reclassifications or reallocations are submitted, including those from the Department of Education, an explanation as to why they are required is sought and challenged where appropriate by officials. All reclassifications and some reallocations require Executive approval.

Departments are required to submit any reduced requirements they identify to the Department of Finance and Personnel in good time, and the Department of Education is no different in this regard. Any reduced requirements not declared will fall as underspend at the end of the year. My Department has stressed to Departments that, if there is likely to be an underspend, they should not leave it until the last moment to declare it.

The level of scrutiny which I am able to apply to Departments depends on the amount of detail available. I am disappointed that my paper on the Review of Financial Processes, which would have increased transparency, has yet to secure the agreement of the Executive. The lack of transparency in the Education budget restricts external scrutiny and I have raised this with the Minister. I am also aware that the Assembly Education Committee has raised similar concerns relating to budget transparency and I hope this issue will be resolved.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Suicides in the Limavady Borough Council Area

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of (i) suspected; and (ii) reported suicides in the Limavady Borough Council area, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16219/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):**

- (i) Information is not available.
- (ii) The table below gives the number of deaths registered due to 'suicide and self-inflicted injury'<sup>1</sup> or 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'<sup>2</sup> in Limavady, 2007-2011P

All suicides are referred to the coroner and can take time to be fully investigated. Therefore there is often a period of time between when the suicide occurs and when it is registered. Figures below will subsequently include deaths that occurred before the period of interest, and exclude those that occurred within the period but have yet to be registered.

1 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes X60-X84, Y87.0

2 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes Y10-Y34, Y87.2

Table 1: Registered deaths due to 'suicide and self-inflicted injury' or 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'<sup>3</sup>, 2007-2011P

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P	2007-2011 P
Limavady District Council	5	5	8	7	2	27

**Source:** Demography & Methodology Branch, DFP

3 In the UK, in considering suicide events it is conventional to include cases where the cause of death is classified as either 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' or 'Undetermined injury'.

P Data for 2011 remains provisional until the publication of the Annual Report of the Registrar General which is due to be published in November 2012.

### Adoption Rights for Gay Couples

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 15844/11-15, what advice he has received from officials concerning the cost of the legal challenge; and for an estimate of the total cost.

**(AQW 16224/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The total costs associated with the Judicial Review proceedings brought by a third party to date are circa £24k. It is impossible to estimate the total cost of the legal challenge. This will depend, to a large extent, on the scope of the appeal, which will only be determined when the appeal is underway.

### Waiting Time for Patients with Severe Psoriasis

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the waiting time for patients with severe psoriasis to access specialist treatment compares with the rest of the UK.

**(AQW 16225/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on the waiting times for patients in Northern Ireland with psoriasis for specialist biologic therapy treatment, at 30th September 2012, by HSC Trust, is shown in the table below.

HSC Trust	Waiting Time in Weeks						Total
	0-13	> 13-21	> 21-39	> 39-52	>52-78	>78	
Belfast	10	4	12	3	0	0	29
Northern	9	4	4	0	0	0	17
South Eastern	3	3	7	1	0	0	14
Southern	3	6	6	5	0	0	20
Western	6	5	4	0	0	0	15
Northern Ireland	31	22	33	9	0	0	95

**Source:** Departmental Return SDR5 (Dermatology)

Waiting times for specialist drugs for psoriasis are not officially collected in other parts of the UK, therefore it is not possible to compare Northern Ireland waiting times with those in the rest of the UK.



## Establishment of Central Business Service Functions

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the timescale for the establishment of central business service functions, such as payroll, between the Health and Social Care Trusts.

**(AQW 16232/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The current projections for go-live for the HSC shared service centres are:

- Payments & Income – Summer 2013
- Payroll and Recruitment & Selection – Winter 2013.

## Research for Health and Wellbeing Strategy

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the progress on developing a strategy to succeed the Research for Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2007-2012.

**(AQW 16251/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** A new strategy is in the final stages of drafting prior to public consultation. Over the past 12 months informal consultations have involved stakeholders throughout the province, including lay representatives.

The strategy will also be informed by the independent review of the Impact of Health & Social Care R&D that I commissioned. The report from that review was made public in July and provided evidence of success over the years since the regional HSC R&D Fund was developed. Benefits have been delivered for patients and for the economy. Importantly, the report demonstrated that for every £1 allocated locally, a further £4.15 in R&D funds was attracted to Northern Ireland. Nonetheless recommendations for further improvement were also made and the new strategy will address these as appropriate.

## Car Clamping in Hospital Car Parks

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 15824/11-15, whether the Northern Health and Social Care Trust pays the company with the contract for vehicle clamping from its own budget; and how much the company has been paid since car parking charges were introduced.

**(AQW 16260/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Trust pays the Parking and Enforcement Agency out of the income received from Car Parking. The amount from May 2011 to October 2012 is £21,188.

## GP Practices in North Down

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many GP practices there are in North Down.

**(AQW 16263/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Figures provided by the Family Practitioner Services Information and Registration Unit in the HSC Business Services Organisation, show that as at November 2012, there were 12 GP practices located in North Down Local Government District.

The count is based on the postcode of the main practice, branch surgeries are not included.

## Chemists in North Down

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many chemists there are in North Down.

**(AQW 16264/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Figures provided by the Family Practitioner Services Information and Registration Unit in the HSC Business Services Organisation, show that as at November 2012, there were 21 community pharmacies located in North Down Local Government District.

### **Pilot Service 294 from Enniskillen to Altnagelvin Hospital**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the Western Trust has any plans to enclose information leaflets for the Pilot Service 294, from Enniskillen to Altnagelvin Hospital, with the appointment letters of people living in County Fermanagh.

**(AQW 16270/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Western Health and Social Care Trust has advised that it is sending leaflets about the new Translink pilot bus service with all elective outpatient letters to any addresses in Counties Fermanagh and Tyrone.

### **Travel and Subsistence Costs for Hospital Appointments**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the criteria that must be met in order to claim back travel and subsistence costs for hospital appointments or visits; and how a claim is made.

**(AQW 16273/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Hospital Travel Costs Scheme provides help with travel costs to hospital for health service treatment for people and their dependants who are in receipt of Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (Income-related), Jobseeker's allowance (Income Based), Guarantee Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit; or who are on a low income.

Details about who can claim and how to claim are set out in leaflet HC11 Help with health costs, available from hospitals, Social Security Offices and Jobs and Benefits Offices and on my Department's website at: [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hc11\\_help\\_with\\_health\\_costs.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hc11_help_with_health_costs.pdf). Details can also be found on the NI Direct website at: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/hospital-travel-costs-scheme](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/hospital-travel-costs-scheme).

### **Beltany House in Omagh**

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what guarantee he can give that Beltany House in Omagh will remain open; and what plans he has for the future of this facility and the services it provides.

**(AQW 16274/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am advised by the Western Health and Social Care Trust that there are currently no plans to close Beltany House in Omagh.

The opening of a new children's respite facility in Omagh has led to a small increase in respite services available for adults at Beltany House. The development of the new children's unit will also allow the Trust to review adult learning disability respite services provided across the Trust area to ensure equity of access and to identify new ways of working to address the demand for respite in the area. As part of this review the Trust will be fully engaging with families, staff and Trade Unions.

The Trust acknowledges that respite is crucial for families undertaking their caring roles and aims to continuously strive to ensure respite is provided in a manner that meets the needs of carers and people availing of respite. There is clearly a need to ensure that respite is flexible and we would seek to offer a range of respite options hence the review of respite indicated above.

### **Fire and Rescue Service**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the accounting procedures in place in the Fire and Rescue Service in relation to stock control; and whether these

stock control procedures can detect loss, theft or misappropriation of goods and material intended for use by the Service.

**(AQW 16289/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** NIFRS stock control procedures are detailed within the NIFRS' Stock Control Policies and Procedures document and can be summarised as follows:

NIFRS hold a number of inventories including:

- Uniform Store, eg, PPE (Dress Uniform), Undress Uniform and Safety Shoes;
- Main Store, eg, firefighting equipment, medical consumables and stationery;
- Transport Stores, eg, vehicle parts.

Stock is purchased, after approval of a Business Case, via the e-procurement system and its approval protocols. When it is received stock is logged onto the stores system as a receipt and the system shows the purchase history (e.g. date & cost). Goods are then ordered and controlled using both manual and electronic systems.

Stock taking within NIFRS' Stores is done in accordance with the NIFRS' Stock Taking Policy and Procedure and is independently verified and audited by the Internal Audit Unit.

Recommendations to improve stock control have been made by both NIFRS internal audit and one of the recent reports into whistleblowing allegations and NIFRS management is committed to addressing these recommendations.

## **Fire and Rescue Service**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the nature of any inventory held by the Fire and Rescue Service which shows the date of purchase of assets, the date of disposal, how assets were disposed of, to whom and for how much.

**(AQW 16292/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The value of NIFRS assets, including those for disposal is referred to in the Accounts section of the NIFRS Annual report.

NIFRS also has a range of inventories which include:

- Capital Assets Register;
- Office Furniture and Equipment;
- Transport Equipment;
- Uniform and Main Store.

The Assets suitable for disposal are recorded in the appropriate register and reflect date purchased (for items greater than £5,000).

## **Fire and Rescue Service**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of agency workers currently employed by the Fire and Rescue Service; (ii) the number employed in each of the last five years; (iii) the rank held by those personnel; (iv) the length of time the agency staff were employed by the Service; and (v) the cost of employing agency staff in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16295/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) NIFRS currently employs 51 Agency workers.
- (ii) See Annex A

- (iii) See Annex A
- (iv) See Annex A
- (v) The table below details the cost of employing Agency staff in each of the last five years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Cost Of Agency Staff £'000S</b>
2007/08	536
2008/09	802
2009/10	933
2010/11	1,090
2011/12	1,042

The rising trend of agency costs is being addressed by NIFRS senior management.

## **ANNEX A**

### **NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2007/08**

**TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED = 42**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Sen Quality & Audit Officer	P01	71
Accountant	P03	211
Clerical Assistant	Scale ½	366
Clerical Assistant	Scale ½	366
Clerical Assistant	Scale ½	211
Clerk Typist	Scale ½	243
Clerical Assistant	Scale ½	180
Clerk Typist	Scale ½	155
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale ½	61
Driver/Workshop Cleaner	Scale 1	140
Research & Admin Asst	Scale 3	364
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	211
Payroll Clerk	Scale 3	117
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	57
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	29
Clerk Typist/Receptionist	Scale 3	36
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	71
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	64
Clerk/Typist	Scale 3	204

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Clerk/Typist	Scale 3	162
Clerk/Typist	Scale 3	50
Clerk/Typist	Scale 3	366
Clerk/Typist	Scale 3	113
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	281
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	105
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	41
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	78
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	57
Clerical Asst	Scale 3	113
Clerical Assistant	Scale 4	154
IT Technical Person	Scale 4	190
Asst Estates Officer	Scale 6	29
Comms Workshop Mgr	Scale 6	85
Workshop Mechanic	Scale 6	366
Schools Liaison Officer	S01	197
Driving Instructor – BTC	S01	366
Training Resources Officer	S01	366
Estates Officer	S02	180
Policy Officer	S02	90
Policy Officer	S02	21
Manuel Technician	Manual Tech	113
Storeperson	Storeperson	56
	<b>Total 07/08</b>	<b>6736</b>

**NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2008/09**  
**TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED = 84**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	365
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	72
Service Delivery MS Project Manager	P01	109
Sen Quality & Audit Officer	P01	358
Quality & Audit Officer	P01	12
Quality & Audit Officer	P01	6

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Quality & Audit Officer	P01	63
MGM Accountant	P02	156
Asst Finance Officer	P03	51
Accountant	P03	365
P/T Project Accountant	P10	147
Educationalist	S01	44
Driving Instructor - BTC	S01	365
Training Resources Officer	S01	365
Educationalist	S01	24
Estates Officer	S02	256
Policy Officer	S02	267
Policy Officer	S02	72
Driver / Workshop Cleaner	Scale 1	123
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	365
Clerical Assistant Scale	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	289
Telephonist / Receptionist	Scale 1/2	81
CAD Technician	Scale 3	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	221
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist (18 hrs)	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist / Receptionist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	135
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	359
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	131
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	215

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	3
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	80
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	98
Clerk Typist (18 hrs)	Scale 3	54
HR Policy Administrator	Scale 3	272
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	268
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	2
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	4
CAD Technician	Scale 3	208
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	131
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	7
Clerical Assistant	Scale 3	182
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	173
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	139
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	147
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	139
Clerk Typist / Receptionist	Scale 3	12
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	79
Clerical Assistant	Scale 3	38
Clerical Assistant	Scale 3	79
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	65
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	224
Clerk Typist	Scale 4	351
Clerk Typist (16 hrs)	Scale 4	270
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	23
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	37
Technical Officer -	Scale 4	54
Technical Officer -	Scale 4	64
Equip Project Co-ordinator	Scale 5	365
Workshop Mechanic	Scale 6	214
Comms Workshop Mgr	Scale 6	365
Asst Estates Officer	Scale 6	365
Personal Secretary - DCFO	Scale 6	57

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Workshop Mechanic	Scale 6	35
Storeperson	Storeperson	365
Storeperson	Storeperson	95
	<b>Total 08/09</b>	<b>15739</b>

**NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2009/10**  
**TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED = 84**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	12
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	128
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	91
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	233
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	212
Manual Technician	Manual Tech	157
Sen Quality & Audit Officer	P01	87
MGM Accountant	P02	365
Asst Finance Officer	P03	122
Sen Quality & Audit Officer	P03	276
Accountant	P03	206
Accountant	P03	205
Sen Quality & Audit Officer	P03	78
Sen Quality & Audit Officer	P03	192
Accountant	P03	206
P/T Project Accountant	P10	365
Educationalist	S01	227
Workshop Supervisor	S01	96
Educationalist	S01	115
Workshop Supervisor	S01	17
Driving Instructor - BTC	S01	365
Training Resources Officer	S01	365
HR Policy Officer	S02	113
Policy Officer	S02	147
Assistant Parts Person	Scale 1	365



<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	3
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	33
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	59
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	38
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	143
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	188
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1/2	98
Clerk Typist / Receptionist	Scale 3	365
Receptionist	Scale 3	211
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	20
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	143
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	122
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	285
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	150
CAD Technician	Scale 3	66
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	185
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	29
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	131
HR Policy Administrator	Scale 3	36
CAD Technician	Scale 3	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	136
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	69
Clerk Typist (18 hrs)	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	150
CAD Technician	Scale 3	365
Receptionist	Scale 3	68

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	325
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	38
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	59
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	212
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	206
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	160
HR Policy Administrator	Scale 3	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 3	365
Clerk/Typist	Scale 3	79
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist (21.25 hrs)	Scale 3	162
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	262
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	6
Technical Officer	Scale 4	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	34
Clerk Typist	Scale 4	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	71
Equip Project Co-ordinator	Scale 5	346
Comms Workshop Mgr	Scale 6	365
Asst Estates Officer	Scale 6	206
Workshop Mechanic	Scale 6	365
Storeperson	Storeperson	365
	<b>Total 09/10</b>	<b>17669</b>

**NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2010/11**  
**TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED = 93**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	260
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	33
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	53

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	365
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	183
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	365
Mobile Mechanic	Mobile Mechanic	365
Management Accountant	P02	365
Assistant Capital Accountant	P03	365
Internal Auditor	P03	365
Assitant Management Accountant	P03	79
Financial Accountant	P03	365
Assistant Management Accountant	P03	284
Internal Auditor	P03	189
Economist	P06	100
Economist	P06	4
Economist	P06	165
Project Accountant	P10	365
Educationalist	S01	151
Educationalist	S01	93
Workshop Supervisor	S01	365
Driving Instructor	S01	365
Training Resources Officer	S01	365
HR Policy Officer	S02	156
Corporate Comm Officer	S02	186
Employment Policy Officer	S02	123
Employment Policy Officer	S02	52
Data Input Clerk	Scale 1	365
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	142
Clerk Typist	Scale 1	156
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	5
Parts Assistant	Scale 1	193
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	191
Driver/Transport/Cleaner	Scale 1	33
Clerical Officer	Scale 1	200
Parts Assistant	Scale 1	365

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Clerk Typist	Scale 1	70
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	5
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	365
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	11
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	70
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	359
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	46
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	318
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	29
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	213
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	291
Estates Admin Officer	Scale 3	156
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	234
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	2
CAD Tech	Scale 3	149
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	18
CAD Technician	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	141
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	78
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	51
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	198
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	149
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	164
CAD Technician	Scale 3	221
HR Policy Administrator	Scale 3	65
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	200

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	218
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	178
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	37
Purchasing Assistant	Scale 3	365
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	365
Technical Officer	Scale 4	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	58
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	365
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	365
Admin Support	Scale 4	32
HR Policy Administrator	Scale 4 (18.5)	337
GIS Analyst	Scale 6	149
Communications Support Technician	Scale 6	87
Assistant Estates Engineer	Scale 6	178
Communications Support Technician	Scale 6	196
GIS Analyst	Scale 6	157
Assistant Estates Engineer	Scale 6	16
Estates Engineer	Scale 6	198
Assistant Estates Engineer	Scale 6	130
Pensions Administrator	Scale 6	326
Storeperson	Storeperson	365
	Total 10/11	19881

**NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2011/12**  
**TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED = 78**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	366
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	366
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	366
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	366
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	272

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Manual Tech	Manual Tech	202
Mobile Mechanic	Mobile Mechanic	366
Mobile Mechanic	Mobile Mechanic	102
Mobile Mechanic	Mobile Mechanic	195
Assistant Management Accountant	P02	366
Assistant Capital Accountant	P03	85
Financial Accountant	P03	366
Assistant Management Accountant	P03	366
Internal Auditor	P03	366
Economist	P06	372
Project Accountant	P10	366
Driving Instructor	S01	57
Training Resource Officer	S01	57
Workshop Supervisor	S01	366
Management Accounting Technician	S01	250
Corporate Communications Officer	S02	366
Employment Policy Officer	S02	366
Estates Engineer	S02	185
Diversity Officer	S02	132
Data Input Clerk	Scale 1	302
Parts Assisstant	Scale 1	366
Clerical Officer	Scale 1	366
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	146
Clerk Typist	Scale 1	366
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	212
Clerical Assistant	Scale 1	35
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	50
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	50
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	297
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	50
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	43
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	322

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
CAD Technician	Scale 3	366
Purchasing Assistant	Scale 3	64
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	366
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	64
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	366
CAD Technician	Scale 3	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	43
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	50
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	43
Estates Admin Officer	Scale 3	64
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	366
Purchasing Assistant	Scale 3	269
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	195
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	195
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	139
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	40
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	42
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	366
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	366
Technical Officer	Scale 4	64
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	366
HR Policy Officer	Scale 4	366
Clerk Typist	Scale 4	87
Technical Officer	Scale 4	195
Equipment Technician	Scale 5	356
Physical Training Advisor	Scale 5	55
Pensions Administrator	Scale 6	351
Temp Estates Engineer	Scale 6	54
GIS Analyst	Scale 6	22

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service (Days)</b>
Comms Support Technician	Scale 6	366
Uniformed Appointment Officer	Scale 6	366
Assistant Estates Engineer	Scale 6	366
Estates Engineer	Scale 6	195
Statistics Officer	Scale 6	76
Assistant Estates Officer	Scale 6	55
Storeperson	Storeperson	366
	Total 11/12	18578

NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2012 – to date  
TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED = 51

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service 12/13</b>
Manual Technician	Manual Technician	214
Manual Technician	Manual Technician	214
Manual Technician	Manual Technician	214
Manual Technician	Manual Technician	214
Manual Technician	Manual Technician	214
Manual Technician	Manual Technician	171
Mobile Mechanic	Mobile Mechanic	214
Mobile Mechanic	Mobile Mechanic	214
Assist Management Accountant	P03	214
Internal Auditor	P03	214
Assis Management Accountant	P03	214
Project Manager	P04	136
Temp Project Accountant	P10	214
Workshop Supervisor	S01	214
Corporate Communications Officer	S02	214
Employment Policy Officer	S02	214
Uniformed Appointments Officer	S02	214
Estates Engineer	S02	214
Corporate Communications Officer	S02	164
Clerical Officer	Scale 1	214
Clerk Typist	Scale 1/2	214
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	24



<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service 12/13</b>
CAD Technician	Scale 3	214
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	214
Financial Accountant	Scale 3	214
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	214
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	214
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	216
CAD Technician	Scale 3	214
Telephonist/Receptionist	Scale 3	214
Purchasing Assistant	Scale 3	214
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	171
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	141
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	80
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	65
Clerk Typist	Scale 3	29
Clerical Officer	Scale 3	22
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	214
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	214
Clerical Officer	Scale 4	214
Parts Assistant	Scale 4	171
HR Policy Administrator	Scale 4	214
Equipment Technician	Scale 5	214
Physical Training Advisor	Scale 5	214
Communications Support Technician	Scale 6	214
Temp Estates Engineer	Scale 6	214
Assistant Estates Officer	Scale 6	214
Pensions Administrator	Scale 6	204

**NIFRS AGENCY STAFF 2012 - DATE**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Length of Service</b>
GIS Analyst	Scale 6	108
Statistics Officer	Scale 6	87
Storeperson	Storeperson	214
	<b>Total as at 31.10.12</b>	<b>9493</b>

## Fire and Rescue Service

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what procedures are in place within the Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that all drivers, including agency workers, have the appropriate licence to drive the vehicle to which they are assigned; and whether he can confirm that there have been no breaches of the road traffic laws in relation to driving licence classification.

**(AQW 16296/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The NIFRS' Occupational Road Risk Policy outlines the procedures for checking Driving Licences.

All employees, including agency staff, who may be required to drive as part of their work activities are subject to regular licence checks by their unit head/line manager. The driving licences are confirmed as being current and applicable to the categories of vehicles required to be driven.

In addition to the above, NIFRS Human Resources Department checks the licence details supplied by the Employment Agency for Agency workers and retain a copy for record purposes.

NIFRS uses checking protocols to ensure that Road Traffic Laws are not breached.

Having checked their records, NIFRS can confirm that, currently, there is no indication of NIFRS personnel having breached the road traffic laws in relation to driving licence classification. However, there is an onus upon individuals employed by NIFRS to inform their Line Manager of any change to their licensing conditions.

## Benzodiazepine Withdrawal Programme

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of people currently undertaking a Benzodiazepine Withdrawal programme; (ii) when the programme was first introduced; (iii) the number of patients who have been removed from the Benzodiazepine withdrawal programme due to an adverse reaction to the drug; (iv) the number of people who have had Benzodiazepine consumption or withdrawal stating as a contributory factor to their death.

**(AQW 16299/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The long term use of benzodiazepine drugs can be harmful and can affect the day to day life of patients. Benzodiazepine withdrawal programmes are currently provided by Health and Social Care Trusts in conjunction with local GPs and pharmacists and follow evidence-based benzodiazepine withdrawal protocols. I am advised that prescribing rates for benzodiazepine are significantly higher in North Belfast than others areas of Northern Ireland. As a result a benzodiazepine withdrawal programme was first introduced in the Belfast area in November 2003 following UK wide initiatives to reduce the prescribing of benzodiazepines by GP's to patients. I am advised by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that the number of individuals currently on a withdrawal programme in the Trust area is 60.

Information detailing the number of patients who have been removed from a withdrawal programme or the number of people who have had Benzodiazepine consumption or withdrawal detailed as a contributory factor to their death is not held centrally or collected routinely.

## Sleep Apnea

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what services are available for patients suffering from sleep apnea.

**(AQW 16301/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Patients with suspected obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) are usually referred to a consultant in a respiratory out-patients clinic or the main Regional Respiratory Clinic at Belfast City Hospital. Once a diagnosis of OSA has been confirmed the patient may be referred for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) treatment.

The Regional Respiratory Clinic provides diagnostic testing and reporting for OSA, including Oximetry and Limited Polysomnography (sleep study), as well as CPAP treatment and subsequent monitoring and review for complex and non-complex patients.

### **Funding Grants**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to explain the delay in the award of funding grants to charities that provide support and services to people suffering from eating disorders; and when he will be able to confirm if such grants will be awarded for the next financial year. **(AQW 16302/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Officials are assessing budgetary requirements for health and social care in 2013/14. Once this has taken place I will consider the level of funding that should be made available to voluntary and community organisations, including Eating Disorders Association (NI).

Organisations are in receipt of funding for 2012/13.

### **Department Funding**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what funding his Department provides to charitable organisations which provide support and services for people suffering from eating disorders.

**(AQW 16304/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department provides an annual grant (currently £25,000) towards the central administrative expenditure of the Eating Disorders Association (NI).

### **Local Fire Officers: Uniforms**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether uniforms, including shoes, are provided to local fire officers.

**(AQW 16314/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Uniform items, including shoes, are provided to all uniformed personnel within NIFRS.

### **Fire Service: Uniforms**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether fire stations have to buy safety shoes and then invoice for payment; and how many applications for items of uniform are outstanding.

**(AQW 16316/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** NIFRS Uniform Stores provide uniform items, including shoes from centralised stores.

Recently however, stocks of some sizes of safety shoes were depleted pending approval of a business case for certain items of uniform. To ensure the Health and Safety of individual employees an interim measure was introduced, with effect from 5 November 2012, which agreed that NIFRS District Commands could purchase a limited number of NIFRS specification safety shoes locally.

This approval for the business case has now been given and it is intended that orders will be placed shortly to bring stock levels back to normal.

Information is not held centrally for applications for items of uniform that are outstanding.

## **Link Road from the A5 to the New Hospital in Omagh**

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has considered the benefits of a link road from the A5 to the new hospital in Omagh; and whether he has had any discussions with the Minister for Regional Development on this issue.

**(AQW 16346/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I recognise the importance of good transport links to hospital services. My Department has already provided funding for road widening and improvements to the Donaghane Road as part of the Omagh hospital development through enabling works totalling £17million, which are currently in progress.

Additionally tenders for a new link road and bridge linking the Donaghane Road to the Bankmore Road/Cornagrade Road Roundabout will be issued to contractors shortly.

When complete, both development, funded through my capital budget, will provide a significant portion of the Southern sector of the Omagh outer ring road and will greatly increase access from the A5 to the hospital site and bring substantial benefits to the wider Omagh area.

I am planning to meet Minister Kennedy in the coming weeks to discuss the potential for a further access link road from the A5 to the new hospital.

## **Public Awareness Campaign Focusing on HIV**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when his Department last undertook a public awareness campaign that focused on HIV.

**(AQW 16373/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Raising public awareness of HIV is included in wider sexual health campaigns, the most recent being undertaken by the Health Promotion Agency in 2007. The Public Health Agency is currently developing a proposal for a sexual health public information campaign in support of my Department's Sexual Health Promotion Strategy and Action Plan which will include a focus on raising awareness of HIV for those most at risk; and on tackling discrimination and stigma associated with HIV.

## **HIV Rapid Testing Services**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what developments there are to ensure that HIV Rapid Testing services are available to everyone.

**(AQW 16374/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In 2008 and 2010 the Chief Professional Officers in my Department issued guidance on HIV including HIV testing, to ensure that patients have access to advice and testing across a range of healthcare settings where appropriate. All patients, where there is a clinical indication, may avail of urgent laboratory test analysis.

A sub-group of the regional Sexual Health Improvement Network, established to oversee implementation of my Department's Sexual Health Promotion Strategy and Action Plan, has identified those most at risk of HIV and is considering opportunities for HIV testing in the Health and Social Care sector and other settings. In addition the Public Health Agency has provided funding to a voluntary organisation for the provision of a rapid HIV testing service for a specific high risk group; and is currently considering an approach from another organisation to reintroduce its HIV rapid testing service.

## **National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidelines**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the announcement that the Executive will follow National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines, how his Department will allocate a specific budget for anti-tnf biologics for each indication.

**(AQW 16378/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has formal links with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) whereby Technology Appraisals and Clinical Guidelines published by the Institute are reviewed for their applicability to Northern Ireland (NI) and, where appropriate, endorsed here. To date 18 NICE technology appraisals on anti-tnfs have been endorsed by my Department for implementation in Northern Ireland. In 2012/13 the budget allocation for anti-tnfs is estimated to be £35m.

### Places Approved for Care

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the number of places, in each district council area, that remain approved for care in (i) nursing homes; (ii) private residential homes; and (iii) statutory residential homes.

**(AQW 16380/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is not available.

Information is available on the number of registered places in nursing homes and residential care homes in each HSC Trust. This information was requested from the Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and is detailed in Table 1 below.

**TABLE 1: NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLACES, BY TYPE OF HOME AND HSC TRUST AT 8TH NOVEMBER 2012**

HSC Trust	Number of Registered Places at 8th November 2012			
	Nursing Homes		Residential Homes	
	Statutory	Independent*	Statutory	Independent*
Belfast	10	2,040	334	858
Northern	0	3,153	388	603
South Eastern	0	2,469	280	878
Southern	9	2,318	129	293
Western	0	1,707	210	483
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11,687</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>3,115</b>

**Source:** Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)

\* Independent refers to both private and voluntary providers.

### Multi-Agency Support Team for Schools

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which schools within the East Antrim area (i) are included in the Multi-Agency Support Team for Schools (MASTS); (ii) have indicated that they would wish to receive support from MASTS, but have not yet been included; and (iii) have not indicated a wish to join the MASTS project.[R]

**(AQW 16381/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am advised by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust that:

- (i) 34 Schools are included in the MASTS scheme
- (ii) 21 Schools have indicated that they would wish to receive support from MASTS, but have not yet been included
- (iii) 9 Schools have not indicated a wish to join the MASTS Project

The names of the 64 East Antrim schools are set out in the table attached.

Please find table below in response to AQW 16381/11-15 outlining the schools in the East Antrim area who;

- i) Are included in MASTS support
- ii) Have indicated that they would wish to receive MASTS support but are not yet included
- iii) Have not indicated a wish to join the MASTS project

<b>i)</b>	<b>ii)</b>	<b>iii)</b>
Abbott's cross PS	Ballyclare PS	Ballycarry PS
Acorn Integrated PS	Cairncastle PS	Ballyhenry PS
Ashgrove NS	Carrick Model PS	Carnmoney PS
Ashgrove PS	Corran Integ PS	Holybank PS
Ballyclare NS	Doagh PS	Kilbride Central PS
Ballyhenry NS	Gaelscoil Eanna PS	St Anthony's PS
Ballynure PS	Glynn PS	St MacNissi's PS, Larne
Carnlough Integrated PS	Kilcoan PS	St Mary's on the Hill PS
Carrickfergus Central PS	Kings Park PS	Tildarg PS
Eden PS, Larne	Larne & Inver PS	
Earlview PS	Linn PS & NS	
Fairview PS, Ballyclare	Olderfleet PS	
Glengormley Integ PS	St Anthony's NS, Larne	
Greenisland PS	St MacNissis PS, N'abbey	
Mallusk PS	St Nicholas' PS	
Monkstown NS	Sunnylands PS	
Mossgrove PS	Toreagh PS	
Mossley NS	Upper Ballyboley PS	
Mossley PS	Whiteabbey PS	
Moyle PS, Larne	Whitehead PS & NS	
Mullaghdubh PS	Woodlawn PS	
Oakfield PS		
Parkgate PS, Ballyclare		
Rathcoole PS		
Silverstream PS & NS		
St .Bernards PS Glengormley		
St .James PS Whiteabbey		
Straid PS, Ballyclare		
Sunnylands NS, Carrickfergus		

i)	ii)	iii)
The Thompson		
Tir na n Og PS, Ballyclare		
Victoria PS		
Whitehouse PS & NS		
Woodburn PS		
34	21	9
<b>Total Schools in the East Antrim area = 64</b>		

### Care is Not a Commodity Report

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the Care is not a Commodity report by the UK Homecare Association stating that 28 percent of homecare visits commissioned from independent and voluntary sector providers are for 15 minutes or less and that 59 percent of all the visits commissioned are 30 minutes or less, what action he will take over the commissioning of short homecare visits by the Health and Social Care Trusts.

**(AQW 16408/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Services provided are based on assessed need, not on minimising the length of visits.

My Department has issued Minimum Standards for Domiciliary Care Agencies (last updated in August 2011). The regulations and minimum standards for domiciliary care agencies focus on ensuring that people using the services provided are protected and the care is quality assured. The standards promote a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to providing quality care that is service user-centred.

My Department has also previously published the 'Survey of Home Care Service Users Northern Ireland 2009'. Nearly nine tenths (86%) of respondents rated the service they received as either 'very good' or 'good', with the majority (89%) of respondents reporting that their care worker(s) had spent the amount of time they were supposed to at their home over the 7 days prior to the survey. Nearly three quarters (72%) of respondents thought they were receiving an adequate number of hours.

### Cancelled or Missed Medical Appointments

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the cost to the Health Service of cancelled or missed medical appointments, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16411/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The cost to the Health Service of cancelled or missed medical appointments can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, information on the number of consultant led appointments attended, cancelled by the patient (Could Not Attend) and missed by the patient (Did Not Attend), in each of the last four years, is shown in the table below.

Financial Year(1)	No. of Appointments	No. of Cancelled Appointments	No. of Missed Appointments
2008/09	1,523,802	182,694	184,792
2009/10	1,503,529	180,067	172,877
2010/11	1,502,611	186,260	171,740

<b>Financial Year(1)</b>	<b>No. of Appointments</b>	<b>No. of Cancelled Appointments</b>	<b>No. of Missed Appointments</b>
2011/12	1,513,998	184,718	157,781

**Source:** Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR) Part 1

Note (1): My department began collecting outpatient cancellation data on an appointment basis from the beginning of 2008/09. Consequently, information on the number of missed and cancelled appointments is only available from 2008/09.

### **Alleged Neglect of Gerry McGeough**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in relation to the alleged neglect of Gerry McGeough, to detail the issues with his medication which arose on 1 October 2012. **(AQW 16433/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Mr McGeough manages his own medication and is also responsible for reordering it. All prisoners who are responsible for their own medication are made aware of the need to re-order medication at least 48 working hours before it is required. Mr McGeough did not request his medication until Saturday, 29th September; therefore it could not be ordered until 1st October and was issued on the 2nd October. This service is in keeping with what is available in the community and on this occasion Mr McGeough failed to provide sufficient notice for the medication to be re-ordered in time.

### **Referrals and Assessments of Children**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of referrals and assessments of children carried out by Social Care services over the last three years, broken down by geographical area; (ii) the number of children who have been assessed to be in need in each area; and (iii) the number of children in each area who are the subject of a child protection plan. **(AQW 16453/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The figures requested are detailed in Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3, respectively. These and other children's social care activity statistics for Northern Ireland are published on the DHSSPS website at:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib/statistics\\_and\\_research-cib-pub/children\\_statistics/stats-cib-children\\_order.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats-cib-children_order.htm)

**TABLE 1**

#### **REFERRALS AND ASSESSMENTS BY HSC TRUST (2009/10 TO 2011/12)**

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>2009/10</b>		<b>2010/11</b>		<b>2011/12</b>	
	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Assessments</b>	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Assessments</b>	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Belfast HSC Trust	6,416	4,434	6,879	5,478	7,260	5,584
Northern HSC Trust	7,851	5,827	9,271	6,494	8,897	6,928
South Eastern HSC Trust	6,596	4,867	6,503	4,925	6,874	5,407
Southern HSC Trust	6,021	4,912	7,022	5,452	7,047	5,669
Western HSC Trust	4,809	3,767	4,772	4,031	5,438	4,507



HSC Trust	2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Referrals	Assessments	Referrals	Assessments	Referrals	Assessments
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>31,693</b>	<b>23,807</b>	<b>34,447</b>	<b>26,380</b>	<b>35,516</b>	<b>28,095</b>

**Source:** DHSSPS Children Order Returns N1 & N2; Children may be referred more than once; years reported cover the period from 1 April to 31 March.

**TABLE 2****CHILDREN ASSESSED TO BE IN NEED BY HSC TRUST (2009/10 TO 2011/12)**

HSC Trust	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast HSC Trust	4,434	5,382	4,031
Northern HSC Trust	2,654	2,631	4,116
South Eastern HSC Trust	2,516	2,852	3,266
Southern HSC Trust	3,542	3,822	4,288
Western HSC Trust	3,348	3,707	3,631
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>16,494</b>	<b>18,394</b>	<b>19,332</b>

**Source:** DHSSPS Children Order Return N6; excludes children awaiting assessment; years reported cover the period from 1 April to 31 March.

**TABLE 3****CHILDREN ON THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER AT 31 MARCH (2010 TO 2012)**

HSC Trust	2010	2011	2012
Belfast HSC Trust	586	555	474
Northern HSC Trust	372	452	458
South Eastern HSC Trust	709	686	529
Southern HSC Trust	461	473	363
Western HSC Trust	229	235	303
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>2,127</b>

**Source:** DHSSPS Children Order Return CPR1; all children whose names are on the Child Protection Register are required to have a Child Protection Plan in place;

**Out-of-Hours Ambulance Cover**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what out-of-hours ambulance cover is in place in the (i) Magherafelt District Council area; and (ii) Cookstown District Council area.

**(AQW 16455/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) provides 24/7 emergency ambulance services 52 weeks a year. The shift profiles for the emergency response resources in the ambulance stations operating in Magherafelt and Cookstown District Council areas are shown in the tables below.

**MAGHERAFELT DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**MAGHERAFELT AMBULANCE STATION**

Monday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>
Tuesday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>
Wednesday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>
Thursday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>
Friday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>
Saturday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>
Sunday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0800 to 1830hours  1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours  1 x A&amp;E 0900 to 2000hours  1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours  1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0800hours</p>

One rapid response vehicle (RRV) provides 10 hours of cover daily distributed between 0800 hours and midnight.

**COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COOKSTOWN AMBULANCE STATION**

Monday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Tuesday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Wednesday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Thursday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Friday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Saturday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Sunday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours

One RRV provides 10 hours of cover daily distributed between 0800 hours and midnight.

It is important to note that the NIAS at all times deploys the nearest available resource to emergency calls and it is quite possible that the response to an incident in either of these District Council areas could be provided by a resource based in another area.

**Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the membership of the Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention; and to outline the work that has been carried out by the Group.

**(AQW 16461/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Ministerial Co-ordination Group is chaired by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and membership includes: OFMDFM (Junior Ministers); DE (Minister) DARD (Minister); DCAL (Minister); DRD (Minister); DEL (Minister); DOJ (Minister); DSD (Minister); PHA (Chief Executive); Suicide Strategy Implementation Body (Chair) and DHSSPS (Officials).

The role of the Group is to ensure that suicide prevention is a priority across relevant Government Departments and to enhance cross-departmental co-operation on the issue. Its functions are to: monitor and report progress on relevant departmental actions on suicide prevention; determine additional actions; consider wider actions for reducing risk factors associated with suicide; and consider cross-departmental actions to improve the psychological resilience of vulnerable groups.

The Group has helped to ensure a multi-agency response to a suicide cluster in the Colin area which, in turn, has led to the development of emergency community response plans across all areas of Northern Ireland. It has also directed a number of departments to work together to develop a joint programme for addressing suicide and mental wellbeing through sporting and rural organisations. This work is currently progressing.

The Group has also identified a range of ongoing activity within departments that is relevant suicide prevention. This includes the development of rural "health checks", suicide awareness raising by the

National Union of Students, joint health and education work on a pupils' emotional health and wellbeing programme, and Department of Justice support for the prison "Listeners" scheme.

### Impact of Welfare Reform on Suicide Rates

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions have taken place between his Department and the Department for Social Development on the impact of Welfare Reform on suicide rates.

**(AQW 16462/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has not discussed the potential impact of welfare reforms on suicide with the Department of Social Development. However, I intend to put this issue on the agenda for the next meeting of the Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention. The Minister for Social Development is a member of this group.

The Protect Life Strategy stresses the importance of training in suicide awareness and mental health issues for frontline staff who deal with potentially vulnerable people. I would therefore encourage Social Security Agency staff to avail of the training that is available.

I should also note that there is substantial evidence that work is good for mental health and wellbeing. Should the welfare reforms help in placing more people in paid or voluntary work, then this will generally benefit their long term mental health.

### Under 18s with Mental Health Issues

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the secure accommodation which is available for under 18s with mental health issues.

**(AQW 16463/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Beechcroft, the Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Service, based in Belfast, provides inpatient care for under 18s with mental health issues. There is no secure accommodation within the facility.

### Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people (i) diagnosed with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome; and (ii) awaiting surgery related to this condition in each Health and Social Care Trust area in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16486/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

(i) Information on the number of people diagnosed with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome is not available.

It is however possible to detail the number of admissions to hospital in each of the last five years where Polycystic Ovary Syndrome was recorded as the primary diagnosis; this information is shown in the table below:-

HSC Trust	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast	*	5	9	5	*
South Eastern	*	*	*	*	0
Northern	5	6	*	7	*
Southern	8	10	6	*	8
Western	*	*	*	*	5

HSC Trust	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Northern Ireland	19	25	21	21	20

**Source:-** Hospital Inpatient System

Figures do not include patients who attended an Accident and Emergency Department and were not subsequently admitted. Deaths and discharges have been used to approximate admissions.

\* Cells containing values less than five have been masked to protect patient confidentiality

(ii) Information on the waiting times for patients awaiting surgery related to Polycystic Ovary Syndrome is not available, as waiting time information is collected on the basis of the type of procedure the patient is waiting for, rather than the condition that the patient is diagnosed with.

## Rathmoyle Site

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the actions that the Northern Health and Social Care Trust has taken in regard to the Rathmoyle site over the last twelve months; and what correspondence it has had with the Housing Executive on the issue.

**(AQW 16500/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am advised by the Northern Trust that they submitted a revised business case to the Northern Area Supporting People Partnership (NASPP) in May 2012. The NASPP is a collaborative arrangement, principally between the Trust, the Health and Social Board and the NIHE, in the planning and developing of supported living schemes.

The Trust has also provided NIHE with maps of the Rathmoyle site and now awaits their nomination of a housing association to take forward the development of this scheme.

The Trust also intends to engage fully with service users and their families on possible options to meet the future day care needs of those currently attending Rathmoyle Resource Centre.

## Rathmoyle Residential Home, Ballycastle

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people used the services of Rathmoyle Residential Home, Ballycastle, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16501/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** This information is not available centrally within the DHSSPS and was requested directly from the Northern Health & Social Care Trust.

Table 1 below details the number of people who used the services of Rathmoyle Residential Home in each of the last five years.

**TABLE 1**

Year	Long Term Admissions	Respite	Total
2008	6	11	17
2009	4	12	16
2010	9	8	17
2011	4	14	18
2012	0	20 To Date	20 To Date

**Source:** Northern HSC Trust

## **Rathmoyle Residential Home, Ballycastle**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he will provide additional care in the community in parallel with the changes to Rathmoyle Residential Home, Ballycastle.

**(AQW 16502/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am advised by the Northern Trust that they intend to reinvest the resources released from the closure of the home towards providing care and support to the residents of the Supported Living facility, when completed.

In addition, the Trust is currently developing a re-ablement domiciliary service for the Ballycastle area with the aim of reducing long-term dependency on domiciliary care and making existing resources available to a greater number of people.

The Trust has also developed a range of Intermediate Care services designed to support people at the time of hospital discharge or to prevent hospital admission. These will include Assessment Beds, Community Rehabilitation and Stroke Teams and a Hospital Diversion Team, all aimed at supporting more people at home rather than in nursing or residential homes.

It is the Trust's intention to fully engage with service users and their families on possible options to meet the future daycare needs of each person currently attending Rathmoyle Resource Centre, as part of the planning process.

## **Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse**

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what level of financial support his Department has provided to support each action plan to tackle domestic and sexual violence and abuse since 2005.

**(AQW 16506/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department has made available financial support of circa £11m since 2005 specifically for the purpose of tackling domestic and sexual violence.

A further £1.5m capital has also been provided by my Department to build a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at Antrim Area Hospital, which is due to open April 2013.

## **Tackling Violence at Home; Action Plan Number 1, 2005-2007**

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what level of funding his Department has provided to Women's Aid since 'Tackling Violence at Home; Action Plan Number 1, 2005-2007', broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

**(AQW 16507/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department provides funding for organisations and projects with a regional focus and in this context NI Women's Aid Federation has received funding of approximately £2.46m since 2005 in respect of tackling domestic and sexual violence. It is not possible to break this down by HSC Trust area.

My Department also made funding of £46k available to Foyle Women's Aid for the delivery of a specific project 'Risk to Response'.

## **Late Payment Directive 2011/7/EU**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that the revised Late Payment Directive 2011/7/EU is coming into effect in March 2013, why the Health and Social Care Regional Procurement Board has determined that its payment terms would move to standard terms of 30 days payment with effect only from September 2013.

**(AQW 16519/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The decision to move to standard 30 days payment terms with effect from September 2013 was made at a meeting of the Regional Procurement Board in June 2012. Subsequently, the consultation was launched in September 2012 on implementing the Late Payment Directive 2011/7/EU in the UK from March 2013. Legal advice is being sought to determine the impact of the revised Late Payment Directive on the timing of the implementation of the standard 30 days payment terms.

### **Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Employee**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the claim in the BBC investigation that the former Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) employee, John McGrath, ran his own company called Benco, (i) what investigation was carried out into Benco's operations; (ii) whether other NIFRS employees were investigated for involvement in Benco; (iii) what happened to Mr McGrath's records of NIFRS uniforms and equipment; and (iv) did the recent investigations check records dating back prior to Mr McGrath's death.

**(AQW 16521/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) As Benco Ltd was a private company dealing mainly with other private companies Internal Audit did not have the authority to investigate business transactions between two private companies. However, where the allegations suggested contact between Benco or one of its customers and the NIFRS, Internal Audit attempted to establish if the allegation could be verified.
- (ii) At no time was it alleged either through the investigative process or associated interviews that any other NIFRS personnel were involved with Benco.
- (iii) Records of NIFRS uniforms and equipment are held on the NIFRS stores system. Internal Audit was not aware of any personal records held by Mr McGrath.
- (iv) My Department looked at NIFRS store activities during 2008/09. Checks were carried out on equipment issued to NIFRS personnel and any variances were thoroughly investigated.

### **Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service: Orange Halls**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many Orange Halls are currently being investigated for using materials originally purchased for Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) training purposes; (ii) how many NIFRS staff members, past and present, are being investigated for using NIFRS materials to furnish or heat Orange Halls; and (iii) whether any of the current allegations were raised by a Board member up to ten years ago.

**(AQW 16522/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It would be inappropriate to comment in detail on the scope of an ongoing investigation. I can confirm however, that some allegations I have received date back many years.

### **Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff members who had previously retired, or been made redundant, are working for the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service as full-time employees or agency workers.

**(AQW 16523/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The following table outlines the current number of Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service(NIFRS) staff who had previously retired and re-appointed as full-time employees or agency staff:

<b>Staff who had previously Retired and Re-appointed as NIFRS Full-Time Employee</b>	<b>Staff who had previously Retired and Re-appointed as Agency Staff</b>
3	2

I can confirm that no NIFRS staff members have been made redundant.

## Department's Budget

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any of his Department's budget has been pooled with those of other Departments or with agencies outside the remit of his Department; and to provide further details.

**(AQW 16527/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** None of my Department's budget has been pooled with those of other Departments or with agencies outside the remit of my Department, on the basis that there is no enabling legislation to facilitate such an approach. Notwithstanding this, my Department does work collaboratively with other Departments on a range of joint initiatives in order to address common needs and objectives.

## Health and Social Care Board

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which services the Health and Social Care Board is commissioning on a cross-departmental basis.

**(AQW 16528/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The commissioning of health and social care services by the Health and Social Care Board is not conducted on a cross departmental basis. It is in response to a Commissioning Plan Direction issued by my Department setting out my priorities to the commissioners on an annual basis. The Direction sets out the framework within which the HSCB and the PHA commission health and social care services to meet the identified needs of the population within the available resources.

In response to the Direction, the Health and Social Care Board produces in conjunction with the Public Health Agency a Commissioning Plan which identifies the health and social services to be commissioned from a range of service providers, and the resources to be deployed.

## Degree in Social Pedagogy

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the value of a degree in social pedagogy for people who are employed in the children's sector.

**(AQW 16533/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** All social workers must have a Degree in Social Work to practise in Trusts' Children's Services. Following qualification, social workers will receive further training appropriate to their job role.

The principles and methods of social pedagogy are relevant for social workers working with children in care settings. Training in social pedagogy equips social workers with additional skills and approaches to practice, but it is not necessary to study this to degree level.

The principles and methods of social pedagogy underpin one of several therapeutic models currently being used by social workers in residential childcare in NI. Its value as a method of working with looked after children has been positively evaluated and specific training is available for social workers who use this approach in practice.

## Policy on Sexual and Domestic Violence

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what training is given to (i) social workers; (ii) GPs; and (iii) Accident and Emergency staff to ensure that they comply with his Department's policy on sexual and domestic violence; and what enquiry targets they have in place.

**(AQW 16535/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) All social work students receive training in assessing and managing risk, which includes situations where domestic and/or sexual violence is suspected. Training for social workers at post qualifying



level depends on their job role. The Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland includes training on sexual and domestic violence as these are important aspects for social workers and other disciplines to consider when assessing risk.

- (ii) The Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence has published a joint Action Plan for 2012/13. One of the key actions of this plan is to introduce routine enquiry in GP surgeries; this is planned to commence by September 2013.
- (iii) The joint Action Plan also introduces a new initiative of a Targeted Enquiry on domestic violence in Accident and Emergency Units. This will include training for nursing, medical and radiography staff. The training is scheduled to commence in January 2013 for two Trusts who will pilot the new procedures from April 2013.

The roll out of this training will be monitored by the Regional Strategy Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence who will ensure that training is delivered to the required standards to all relevant staff in all its member organisations.

### **Expense Claims in the Fire and Rescue Service**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much money has been paid out as a result of the improper claims highlighted in the report on whole-time expense claims in the Fire and Rescue Service.

**(AQW 16540/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** No money has been paid out as a result of improper claims. The investigation into the whole-time recruitment overtime and expense claims indicated that there was insufficient evidence to categorise the issues identified as being actual, attempted or suspected fraud.

### **Out-of-Hours Ambulance Cover**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what out-of-hours ambulance cover is in place in the (i) North Down Borough Council area; and (ii) Ards District Council area.

**(AQW 16557/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) provides 24/7 emergency ambulance services 52 weeks a year. The shift profiles for the emergency response resources in the ambulance stations operating in North Down Borough Council and Ards District Council areas are shown in the tables below.

#### **NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL BANGOR AMBULANCE STATION**

Monday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Tuesday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Wednesday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 0930 to 2100hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours

Thursday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1030 to 2200hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Friday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Saturday	1 x A&E 0730 to 1930hours 1 X A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 1930hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Sunday	1 X A&E 0800 to 1930hours 1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours

Two rapid response vehicles (RRVs) provide 16 hours of cover daily distributed between 0700hours and 0200hours.

**ARDS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ARDS AMBULANCE STATION**

Monday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 0930 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours
Tuesday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 0730 to 1930hours 1 x A&E 0930 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours
Wednesday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 0730 to 1930hours 1 x A&E 1030 to 2200hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Thursday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1030 to 2200hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours
Friday	1 x A&E 0800 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1030 to 2000hours 1 x A&E 1930 to 0730hours 1 x A&E 2000 to 0800hours

Saturday	<p>1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours</p> <p>1 X A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours</p> <p>1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours</p> <p>1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0700hours</p>
Sunday	<p>1 X A&amp;E 0800 to 2000hours</p> <p>1 x A&amp;E 0730 to 1930hours</p> <p>1 x A&amp;E 1930 to 0730hours</p> <p>1 x A&amp;E 2000 to 0700hours</p>

One RRV provides 10 hours of cover daily distributed between 0800 hours and midnight.

It is important to realise that NIAS at all times deploys the nearest available resource to emergency calls and it is quite possible that the response to an incident in either of these Council areas could be provided by a resource based in another area.

### **New Adult Hospice Facility**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what contribution his Department is making, or intending to make, to the provision of the new adult hospice facility.  
**(AQW 16559/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Due to budgetary constraints, no capital funding for the voluntary and community sector is available within my Department at present.

However, I have asked my officials to look urgently at the possibility of introducing a capital grant scheme.

The NI Hospice regional organisation currently receives Departmental core funding to support central administrative costs, amounting to £134k per annum. In addition, it receives funding for the provision of palliative care services from various HSC bodies. In year ending March 2011, this amounted to £3.2m.

### **Multi-Agency Support Teams**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of Multi-Agency Support Teams; and whether he intends to further the scheme.  
**(AQW 16588/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I remain committed to providing the best possible service to those children who are most in need and the use of multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approaches is in line with policy across all Departments, where it can deliver better outcomes and where appropriate resources are available.

The Health and Social Care Board, in association with the Public Health Agency, have initiated a review of the Multi Agency / Multi Disciplinary Teams to ensure that resources are being used effectively.

That regional review is well under way and is focused on the development of a principles-based regional model. A key aim is to capture the good practice already in existence and share it across the teams in order to achieve a standardised regional service across Northern Ireland.

### **Custodial Settings Due to Mental Health Issues**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for each of the last five years, to detail how many under 18s have been placed in custodial settings due to mental health issues, without having committed an offence, broken down by (i) location; (ii) year; and (iii) age.  
**(AQW 16590/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is assumed that this question relates to the number of persons under 18 who have been detained under the Mental Health Order (NI) 1986. Information on the number of persons detained under the Order broken down by age is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, information is available on the total number of persons detained in mental health hospitals under the Order. This information is detailed in the table below.

Table 1: Compulsory Admissions Under Mental Health Order (NI) 1986 by Hospital/HSC Trust (2008/09 – 2011/12)

Hospital/HSC Trust	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Beechcroft CAMHS	11	14	14	20
Knockbracken Healthcare Park	156	167	192	89
Mater Infirmorum	40	43	41	68
Muckamore Abbey	16	38	39	24
Windsor House	41	26	47	23
Belfast HSC Trust	264	288	333	224
Causeway	13	51	45	64
Holywell	170	167	213	214
Whiteabbey PNU1	27	15	-	-
Northern HSC Trust	210	233	258	278
Ards2	119	26	-	-
Downshire	49	51	52	37
Lagan Valley PNU	36	31	46	40
Ulster MHU	-	79	75	27
South Eastern HSC Trust	204	187	173	104
Bluestone	121	124	140	184
Longstone	*	*	7	*
St Luke's	*	*	58	*
Southern HSC Trust	188	196	205	252
Gransha	76	64	*	78
Lakeview	-	-	*	*
Tyrone & Fermanagh	67	75	60	52
Waterside	-	-	*	*
Western HSC Trust	143	139	95	134
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>992</b>

1 Whiteabbey PNU closed 23rd December 2009.

2 All mental health services in the Ards Hospital were transferred to a new facility in the Ulster Hospital (Ulster MHU) on 3rd June 2009.

- 3 In order to avoid personal disclosure an ‘\*’ represents a cell count of less than 4. In addition, where the anonymised figure can be deduced from the totals, the next smallest figure has also been anonymised.

### **Cars Supplied by the Fire and Rescue Service for Staff**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many cars are supplied by the Fire and Rescue Service to staff; (ii) to list the positions of the staff who are in receipt of these cars; (iii) whether the Service has a preferred supplier of cars; and (iv) when the contract (a) was awarded; and (b) will expire.

**(AQW 16603/11-15)**

#### **Mr Poots:**

- (i) Currently Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have 101 cars allocated to members of staff.
- (ii) The attached list details the post and role of each staff member allocated with a car. See Annex A
- (iii) NIFRS does not have a preferred supplier for cars. The procurement of cars is carried out via a Further Competition under Government Procurement Service (GPS) Framework Agreement RM859.
- (iv) The current framework runs from 01February 2011 to 31January 2014.

#### **ANNEX A**

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CAR ALLOCATION BY RANK AND POSTING**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Posting</b>	<b>Number</b>
Chief Fire Officer	Chief Fire Officer	1
Assistant Chief Fire Officer	Support Services	1
Assistant Chief Fire Officer	Safety Services	1
Area Commander	Operations	1
Area Commander	Training and Organisational Development	1
Area Commander	Area Command, North, South, East and West	4
Group Commander	Occupational H&S and Welfare, Community Development	1
Group Commander	Operations Secretariat	1
Group Commander	Community Development	1
Group Commander	Operations Risk Management	1
Group Commander	Technical Development	1
Group Commander	Emergency Response	1
Group Commander	Training & Organisational Development	1
Group Commander	Operations	4
Group Commander	Safety	4
Group Commander	Personnel & Training	4
Group Commander	World Police & Fire Games (short-term issue)	1

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Posting</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assistant Group Commander	Community Development	2
Assistant Group Commander	Communications Officer	1
Assistant Group Commander	Operations Assurance	1
Assistant Group Commander	Operations Risk Management	1
Assistant Group Commander	Emergency Response	1
Assistant Group Commander	Emergency Planning	1
Assistant Group Commander	Health and Safety	1
Assistant Group Commander	Technical Development	1
Assistant Group Commander	Training & Organisational Development	1
Assistant Group Commander	Safety	4
Assistant Group Commander	District Commander	13
Station Commander	Operations	13
Station Commander	Safety	13
Station Commander	Personnel & Training	13
Station Commander	District Command	1
Multi-user	Desertcreat Project team-short term issue	1
Multi-user	Desertcreat Project team- short term issue	1
Multi-user	SRT (Specialist Rescue Team)	1
Multi-user	Estates	1
Multi-user	Regional Control Centre	1

### **Supply of Tyres to the Fire and Rescue Service**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the supply of tyres to the Fire and Rescue Service is on a contractual basis; (ii) to name the current supplier; and (iii) when the contract (a) was awarded; and (b) will expire.

**(AQW 16604/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The supply of tyres to Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service is from a Framework Contract set up by the Central Procurement Directorate, Department of Finance and Personnel.
- (ii) The Framework Contract is with several suppliers:
  - ATS Euromaster;
  - Charles Hurst;
  - Goodyear;
  - Modern Tyres;
  - Philip White;
  - Wells Tyres.

NIFRS currently uses several of the above suppliers based on a mix of lowest cost and then the nearest location of supplier to the vehicle/workshop requiring the tyres.

(iii) The Framework Contract runs from 25 November 2010 to 24 November 2014.

### **Fire and Rescue Service Code of Conduct**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline (i) the section of the Fire and Rescue Service Code of Conduct that allows senior personnel to receive corporate gifts; (ii) whether this section of the Code of Conduct has been changed in the last five years; and (iii) if so, when and by whom it was changed.

**(AQW 16605/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

(i) Section 6 of the NIFRS Staff Code of Conduct Code sets out guidance on the acceptance of corporate gifts, and states the following:

#### **Integrity**

6 Staff of the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service should not use their official position to receive, agree to accept or attempt to obtain any payment or other consideration for doing, or not doing, anything or showing favour, or disfavour, to any person. They should not receive benefits of any kind from a third party which might reasonably be seen to compromise their personal judgement and integrity. Under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1916, employees of public bodies may be required to prove that the receipt of payment or other consideration from someone seeking to obtain a contract is not corrupt.

Further guidance is also set out in the Guidance on Offers and the Acceptance of Gifts, Hospitality Awards, Prizes and Sponsorship (September 2009).

(ii) and (iii)

NIFRS Staff Code of Conduct has not been amended since August 2006.

### **Liverpool Care Pathway**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any Health and Social Care Trusts or hospitals have received financial rewards for placing terminally-ill patients on the Liverpool Care Pathway.

**(AQW 16641/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** No Health and Social Care Trust or hospital in Northern Ireland has received financial rewards for placing terminally ill patients on the Liverpool Care Pathway.

### **Suicide Rates**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 15479/11-15, what plans he has to facilitate the co-ordination of these services and resources.

**(AQW 16651/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Public Health Agency is responsible for implementing the Protect Life Strategy. The co-ordination of suicide prevention and mental health promotion services and resources is undertaken by the Agency with the support of the Belfast Trust, and working in conjunction with local community groups.

The Public Health Agency contracts the East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) to provide support for people bereaved through suicide and to supply information on suicide prevention in East Belfast in order to increase co-ordination and joined up working in that part of the city. It has been agreed that a strategy to address suicide should be developed for East Belfast. The Agency is working with EBCDA to establish how this can best be taken forward and to determine the associated resource implications. EBCDA are hosting another public meeting on 19 November 2012 to progress this work.

## Card Before You Leave Scheme at Accident & Emergency Sites

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the Card Before You Leave Scheme at Accident & Emergency sites.

**(AQW 16652/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has undertaken an evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of the Card Before You Leave scheme. The report of the evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Any issues emerging from this review will be progressed through the joint Public Health Agency (PHA) and HSCB Self Harm Working Group.

## Regional Service

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the Regional Health and Social Care Board is pressing ahead with its preparations for the introduction of a Regional Service, given that it is still in discussion with NIPSA and that a grievance has been lodged.

**(AQW 16653/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The New Regional Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service proposes moving from a model which largely relies on volunteers to provide the service outside working hours to a managed service with salaried staff. This enhances the model currently provided by the Belfast Trust, incorporates the South Eastern Trust, and extends to cover Northern Ireland. A single team, managed by the Belfast Trust, will be established, and will operate as a managed network across the 5 Trusts. This will not only provide improved governance and management arrangements, but will also provide a local presence where there is a 'call out'. These new arrangements are due to come into effect on 1 February 2013. As with any new arrangements, development has to continue in tandem with ongoing discussions with interested bodies. The lodgement of grievances must be dealt with within the grievance process.

## Referrals to Neurology Services

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many referrals to neurology services have been made in each of the last three years; (ii) the average waiting time to receive a neurology appointment; and (iii) whether one neurologist is sufficient to cope with the demand for the service.

**(AQW 16726/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The table below details the total number of referrals for a first consultant-led appointment in the Neurology specialty in each of the last three years.

Financial Year	Total No. of Referrals
2009/10	15,600
2010/11	15,275
2011/12	14,904

**Source:** Departmental Return Referrals

- (ii) Outpatient services in the Neurology specialty are provided at all HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. Waiting times for a first outpatient appointment are collected by my Department on a quarterly basis by aggregate time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate average waiting time, but the median waiting time band, a similar statistical measure, can be provided. The median waiting time for a first outpatient appointment in the Neurology specialty at 30th June 2012, the most recent quarter for which official statistics are available was the 'greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 9 weeks' (> 6 to 9 weeks) time band.



Inpatient services in the Neurology specialty are provided at the Belfast and South Eastern HSC Trusts. My Department collects waiting times for inpatient admission on a patient level basis each quarter. This allows the average waiting times to be calculated. The average waiting time for inpatient admission in the Neurology specialty at 30th June 2012, the most recent quarter for which official statistics are available was 44.4 weeks.

Data on waiting times for a first outpatient appointment and inpatient admission, presented by HSC Trust, specialty and time band, are published on a quarterly basis in the Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics publications – Outpatient Waiting Times and Inpatient Waiting Times, respectively. Data relating to the position at 30th September 2012 are available from 29th November 2012 and can be found at the following link:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/hospital-stats/waiting\\_times\\_main/stats-waiting-times.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/waiting_times_main/stats-waiting-times.htm)

- (iii) The Health and Social Care Board is presently undertaking an evaluation of the recommendations contained in the Review of Adult Neurology Services in Northern Ireland. A summary report on progress towards the implementation of the recommendations (May 2012) indicated that there were 22.6 Working Time Equivalent (WTE) consultant neurologists in post in HSC Trusts across Northern Ireland.

### Consultation on District Nursing Service for Today and Tomorrow

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the consultation on 'District Nursing Service for Today and Tomorrow' has not been published.

**(AQW 16769/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The consultation on 'A District Nursing Service for Today and Tomorrow' A Review of District Nursing in Northern Ireland has not been published to date as the consultation responses are still being considered by my Department in the context of major strategies, including 'Transforming Your Care' which were launched after the document was first developed. The final document will be issued in the New Year.

### Freedom of Information Requests

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department in each year since 2007; (ii) the proportion of requests each year that were not answered within the time limit; (iii) the number of requests currently outstanding by more than (a) one to two months (b) three to four months; (c) five to six months; (d) seven to twelve months; and (e) more than twelve months.

**(AQW 16780/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested from 2007 to 2011 is shown below.

Year	Number of FOI Requests Received by DHSSPS	% Late
2007	143	14
2008	150	15
2009	140	8
2010	112	8
2011	171	12

The Department currently has one Freedom of Information request outstanding by more than one to two months. There are none outstanding for the periods quoted at b), c), d) and e) above.

## Guidance Document on Abortion

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has a publication date set for the release of the guidance document on abortion so that health professionals do not have to operate in a legal vacuum.

**(AQW 16843/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There is not a legal vacuum - it is not possible to confirm a publication date at this time for guidance for professionals on termination of pregnancy. I will only publish guidance when I am content that it is fit for purpose and compatible with criminal law.

## Inpatient Beds at the Mid-Ulster Hospital

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) acute; and (ii) non-acute inpatient beds that were available at the Mid-Ulster Hospital, at 14 November 2012; and in which wards they were situated.

**(AQW 16895/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** At 14 November 2012, there were i) 27 acute and ii) 3 non-acute inpatient beds at the Mid-Ulster Hospital. All of these beds were situated in the MUTS (Elderly) Ward.

## Department of Justice

### Gerry McGeough

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether Gerry McGeough is on dirty protest; (ii) when the protest commenced; and (iii) about what he is protesting.

**(AQW 16235/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice ):** The information requested constitutes sensitive personal data as defined at section 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998. The disclosure of such information is likely to breach the data subject's rights under the Act and would be incompatible with the Data Protection Principles. The information cannot therefore be provided as requested.

### NIPS: Code of Conduct and Discipline

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 14790/11-15, whether the document or its content has been supplied to any individual, body or agency, including the judiciary and legal representatives.

**(AQW 16239/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** With the exception of the responses previously provided to the Member on this matter, the Northern Ireland Prison Service holds no record of the document or its contents being supplied to any other individual, body or agency, including the judiciary and legal representatives.

### Alleged Payment of Prisoner Drug Debts

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 11413/11-15, to detail (i) whether a full investigation has been conducted in relation to the allegations; (ii) the level of staff who carried out the investigation; and (iii) how long it took.

**(AQW 16241/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The allegation in question was thoroughly investigated.

The investigation was led by a Governor 3 assisted by a Governor 5 and two Principal Officers.

The investigation commenced on 27 April 2011 and concluded on 15 July 2011.

## Serious Case Reviews

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has the authority to request a serious case review of a case of serious risk, even if it does not fall within the terms of Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland guidance.

**(AQW 16244/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The basis for instigating a serious case review under the public protection arrangements is provided for in the guidance to agencies issued under Article 50 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008. That guidance requires the agencies to commission a serious case review in defined circumstances. While I could ask the agencies to hold a review, I do not believe that there are grounds for a serious case review in this instance.

## Prisoners at Hydebank Wood

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Justice to detail how many prisoners at Hydebank Wood were placed in cellular confinement for a period of seven days or more during (a) 2009; (b) 2010; (c) 2011; and (d) 2012, including instances in which a prisoner was placed in cellular confinement on more than one charge, meaning that more than seven days were spent in confinement consecutively, broken down by (i) the number of consecutive days each prisoner spent in confinement at any one time; (ii) the starting and finishing date; (iii) gender; and (iv) the adjudication reasons for the confinement in each case.

**(AQW 16290/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:**

**2009**

Adjudication Date	Gender	Prison Rule 38 Paragraph	Award in days
03/01/2009	Male	22 Disobeys an order	10
22/01/2009	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	10
25/01/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
28/01/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
29/01/2009	Male	4 Commits any other assault	10
02/02/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
24/02/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
08/03/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
09/03/2009	Male	4 Commits any other assault	7
14/03/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	8
12/04/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
21/04/2009	Male	14 Damage prison property	10
23/04/2009	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
02/05/2009	Male	7 Endangers H&S	7
17/05/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
31/05/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
31/05/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
09/07/2009	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
13/07/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
14/07/2009	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	14
20/07/2009	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	14
20/07/2009	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	14
20/07/2009	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	14
22/07/2009	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
30/07/2009	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	14
07/08/2009	Female	12 Unauthorised article	7
23/08/2009	Male	19 Prepares/manufactures/ drugs etc	7
07/09/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
10/09/2009	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
17/09/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
21/09/2009	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
14/11/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
24/11/2009	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
<b>26/11/2009</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>12 Unauthorised article</b>	<b>7</b>
08/12/2009	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
14/12/2009	Male	4 Commits any other assault	10
18/12/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
22/12/2009	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
28/12/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	8
28/12/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
28/12/2009	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
<b>Total no. of inmates - 32</b>			

**2010**

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
16/01/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
18/01/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
19/01/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
27/02/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	14
01/03/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
02/03/2010	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	8
02/03/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
02/03/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
02/03/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
06/04/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
27/04/2010	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
30/04/2010	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
11/05/2010	Male	7 Endangers H&S	7
03/06/2010	Male	7 Endangers H&S	7
08/06/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	9
11/06/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
16/07/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	10
21/07/2010	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	7
28/07/2010	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
30/07/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
02/08/2010	Male	7 Endangers H&S	10
02/08/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	10
02/08/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	10
02/08/2010	Male	7 Endangers H&S	10
19/08/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	14
21/08/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
24/08/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
25/08/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	10
01/09/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
16/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
20/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
23/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
24/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
26/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
26/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
27/09/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
04/10/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
04/10/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
07/10/2010	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
24/10/2010	Male	4 Commits any other assault	10
24/10/2010	Male	7 Endangers H&S	10
01/11/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
05/11/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
05/11/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
11/11/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
11/11/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	14
24/11/2010	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	8
02/12/2010	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
13/12/2010	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	10
28/12/2010	Male	12 Unauthorised article	14
29/12/2010	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	8
<b>Total no. of inmates - 32</b>			

**2011**

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
10/01/2011	Male	11 Fails to comply with a condition of Compassionate Temporary Release	7
11/01/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	14
26/01/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	10
29/01/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
31/01/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
07/02/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
07/02/2011	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	10
08/02/2011	Male	24 Good order and discipline	7
25/02/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
25/02/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
08/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
14/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	
15/03/2011	Male	22 Disobeys an order	11
15/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
15/03/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	11
15/03/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
20/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
<b>20/03/2011</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>12 Unauthorised article</b>	<b>7</b>
21/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
21/03/2011	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	7
21/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
22/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
22/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
28/03/2011	Male	23 Disobeys any rules/regulations	7
28/03/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
04/04/2011	Male	4 Commits any other assault	8
21/04/2011	Male	7 Endangers H&S	14
23/04/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
27/04/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
29/04/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
03/05/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
18/05/2011	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	10
18/05/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
19/05/2011	Male	24 Good order and discipline	10
23/05/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
24/05/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
24/05/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
24/05/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
07/06/2011	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	7
07/06/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
13/06/2011	Male	19B Presence of Drugs	7
16/06/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
18/06/2011	Male	7 Endangers H&S	10
20/06/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
20/06/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	10
21/06/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
22/06/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
23/06/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
02/07/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	12
02/07/2011	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
02/07/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
11/07/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
11/07/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
20/07/2011	Male	4 Commits any other assault	10
20/07/2011	Male	4 Commits any other assault	10
21/07/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
02/08/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
07/08/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
14/08/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
15/08/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	8
20/08/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
23/08/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
29/08/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
03/01/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
09/09/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	8
12/09/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
22/09/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
26/09/2011	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	7
03/10/2011	Male	18 Commits indecent or obscene	14
09/10/2011	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
09/10/2011	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
14/10/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
14/10/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7



<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
21/10/2011	Male	22 Disobeys an order	7
24/10/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
24/10/2011	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
03/11/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
03/11/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
20/11/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	10
22/11/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
25/11/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
04/12/2011	Male	12 Unauthorised article	9
05/12/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
05/12/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
18/12/2011	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
19/12/2011	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
22/12/2011	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
24/12/2011	Male	19 Prepares/manufactures/ drugs etc	7
29/12/2011	Male	25 Attempts or incites/assists another prisoner to commit or attempt to commit an offence against Prison Discipline	7
<b>Total no. of inmates - 54</b>			

**2012**

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
02/01/2012	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
03/01/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
03/01/2012	Male	7 Endangers H&S	7
03/01/2012	Male	7 Endangers H&S	10
15/01/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
15/01/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
16/01/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
16/01/2012	Male	19C refuses to provide sample	7
18/01/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
05/02/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
07/02/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
08/02/2012	Male	4 Commits any other assault	7

<b>Adjudication Date</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Prison Rule 38 Paragraph</b>	<b>Award in days</b>
08/02/2012	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	12
20/02/2012	Male	16 Foul and abusive	7
27/02/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
27/02/2012	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	10
01/03/2012	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	7
01/03/2012	Male	19C refuses to provide sample	7
09/03/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
09/03/2012	Male	2 Assaults an officer/staff member	7
15/03/2012	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
16/03/2012	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	8
07/04/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
23/04/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
25/04/2012	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
25/04/2012	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
27/04/2012	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
07/05/2012	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
22/05/2012	Male	15 Absents himself	7
02/06/2012	Male	5 Fights or Wrestles	7
06/06/2012	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
22/06/2012	Male	14 Damage prison property	7
30/06/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
11/07/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
19/07/2012	Male	3 Assaults any other person/prisoner	7
29/07/2012	Male	12 Unauthorised article	7
<b>Total no. of inmates - 24</b>			

The following tables detail the number of prisoners at Hydebank Wood who were placed in cellular confinement for a period of seven days or more on one or more occasion during 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 (up to and including 8 November 2012) together with their gender and the adjudication reason. Information in relation to the start and end date of the confinement and instances where a prisoner was placed in cellular confinement on more than one charge meaning that more than seven days were spent in confinement consecutively is not readily available and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### **Attacks on Nurses within the Prison Service**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the number of attacks on nurses within the Prison Service; (ii) the penalties imposed on prisoners as a result of the attacks; (iii) the number of occasions when the panic alarms issued to nurses failed to activate; (iv) the number of the incidents which have been recorded in the accident books of prisons; (v) the number

of nursing staff currently on sick leave as a result of such attacks; and (vi) what support the nurses received from management and occupational health.

**(AQW 16333/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Member will wish to note that responsibility for healthcare staff transferred to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) in April 2012. The information requested has therefore been divided into the two periods, before and after this transfer.

**Pre-April 2012**

- (i) The number of assaults on nurses within the Northern Ireland Prison Service is set out in the table below:

	<b>Hydebank Wood YOC &amp; Prison</b>	<b>Magilligan</b>	<b>Maghaberry</b>
2010	0	0	2
2011	0	0	11
2012 (Jan – March)	0	0	6

- (ii) Four of these assaults resulted in a prisoner being charged. Two prisoners were found guilty at adjudication and two charges were later withdrawn.

The following penalties were awarded to both prisoners found guilty at adjudication:

- loss of telephone
- loss of gym/sports
- loss of TV/video/DVD
- loss of tuckshop
- loss of cell crafts
- loss of earnings
- cellular confinement.

- (iii) There are no known incidents of the panic alarm or emergency call button on a radio failing to operate.

- (iv) Five incidents of assault were recorded in the accident book at Maghaberry prison.

- (v) There is currently one member of staff on sick leave as a result of such assaults.

- (vi) Support available to staff involved in an assault includes:

- The services of a dedicated Welfare Officer;
- The services of a 24 hour confidential counselling helpline; and
- one to one counselling via the NIPS Employee Assistance Programme.

In addition, in accordance with the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Sick Absence Procedures, staff are offered ongoing support and advice from the Welfare Officer throughout their period of sick absence.

Both Maghaberry senior management, and the South Eastern Trust, have been in regular contact with the member of staff who is currently off sick as a result of an assault. The NIPS Director General has also written to the nurse to express her sympathy and to offer counselling and support during this time.

**Post – April 2012**

DHSSPS have advised that since 1 April 2012:

- (i) three nurses have been assaulted
- (ii) two incidents were reported to the PSNI and are being dealt with accordingly. One incident was not taken further;
- (iii) there has been one occasion when a panic alarm failed to activate;
- (iv) there have been two incidents involving South Eastern Trust nurses recorded on incident report forms;
- (v) one member of nursing staff is currently on sick leave as result of an attack and
- (vi) the following support was provided to the SET nurses involved in an assault:
  - reassurance was given by managers on duty at the time of the incident
  - first aid was offered;
  - one case was referred to Occupational Health Services;
  - Care-Call has been used by one individual through Occupational Health Services; and
  - telephone contact and support has been maintained for the member of nursing staff currently on sick leave.

In addition, all SET nursing staff have been reminded of incident reporting mechanisms and reporting procedures.

**Non-Natural Deaths in Custody**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to all non-natural deaths in custody in the last 10 years, including those classified as suicide, to detail the ruled cause of death in each case.

**(AQW 16393/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There have been 28 non-natural deaths recorded by the Northern Ireland Prison Service between 1 November 2002 and 12 November 2012. This number includes three deaths which occurred outside prison but which were recorded by the last known establishment due to the circumstances (the death of a prisoner on temporary release which occurred in police custody and two prisoners who were found at their homes after having been recently released from prison).

Of the 28 non-natural deaths recorded by the Northern Ireland Prison Service the Coroner has conducted inquests into 13 of these deaths and the following table contains a breakdown of the ruled causes of death. Inquests have not yet been carried out on the remaining 15 non-natural deaths.

<b>Ruled Cause of Death</b>	<b>Number of Deaths</b>
Hanging	6
Poisoning	4
Ligature Compression of the neck and suffocation	1
Aspiration/Pneumonia	1
Suicide (hanging)	1
No verdict received	15

Having given due consideration to the families involved I have not included individual names.

## Northern Ireland Prison Service Governor

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) whether, between 2005 and 2010, a Northern Ireland Prison Service governor was dismissed for gross misconduct and later granted ill-health retirement on the recommendation of the Prison Service; (ii) the date of dismissal and retirement; (iii) the nature of the gross mis-conduct; and (iv) any criminal convictions, court proceedings or informal police action taken.

**(AQW 16396/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I can confirm that between 2005 and 2010 no Prison Governors were dismissed for gross misconduct and subsequently granted ill-health retirement.

## Kenneth Douglas

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether convicted murderer Kenneth Douglas has been returned to custody; and why this was deemed necessary.

**(AQW 16398/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Mr Douglas was returned to custody on Sunday 28 October 2012 after he was arrested and charged with a number of criminal offences.

## Foreign Nationals Released from Custody

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Justice to detail whether any foreign nationals have been released from custody following the lack of access to a suitable interpreting service.

**(AQW 16400/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** No foreign national prisoner has been released from custody due to the lack of access to a suitable interpreting service.

## Grooming of a Child for Sexual Purposes

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many cases currently in the court system involve charges in relation to the grooming of a child for sexual purposes, broken down by (i) court division; and (ii) court level.

**(AQW 16431/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The table below sets out the number of cases involving charges relating to the grooming of a child for sexual purposes currently before the Crown Court and Magistrates' Courts broken down by County Court Division.

Courty Court Division	Cases before the Crown Court	Cases before the Magistrates' Court	Total
Belfast	5	1	6
Fermanagh & Tyrone	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

## Supporting Prisoners at Risk

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) how many staff have been trained in Supporting Prisoners at Risk since its inception; (ii) whether the training is available for all Prison Service staff; (iii) whether the training is updated as and when required; and (iv) who delivers the training.

**(AQW 16432/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Since its launch in 2009, Supporting Prisoners At Risk (SPAR) training has been delivered to over 600 staff. All new entrants to the Prison Service receive SPAR training and it is also included in other training programmes for existing staff.

SPAR training has been subject to significant review and has been updated on a number of occasions. It is delivered by NIPS Training Officers and, on occasions, line managers.

### **Body Orifice Security Scanner**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has the powers, under the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007, to authorise or operate Body Orifice Security Scanner chair equipment as an alternative to full body searches in HMP Maghaberry, given that it is a high security facility.

**(AQW 16440/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Body Orifice Security Scanner (BOSS) chair has been in use within Maghaberry Prison since 2010 as part of a multi-layer approach to searching. It is not an alternative to full body searching.

The authority to search prisoners derives from the Prison Act (NI) 1953 and Prison Rules.

### **Prison Service Protection Scheme**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice how many Prison Service staff have required security measures through the Prison Service Protection Scheme in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16442/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As the question refers to the personal security of prison staff it would not be appropriate to provide details.

### **Prison Service Protection Scheme**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice how many Prison Service staff applications for security measures through the Prison Service Protection Scheme were refused in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16443/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As this question refers to the personal security of prison staff it would not be appropriate to provide details.

### **Prison Service Staff: Security Measures**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice how many Prison Service staff have had security measures withdrawn in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16457/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As this question refers to the personal security of prison staff it would not be appropriate to provide details.

### **Types of Protests in HMP Maghaberry Roe House**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many types of protests are underway in HMP Maghaberry Roe House; and how many prisoners are taking part in each protest.

**(AQW 16465/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There is one protest ongoing in Roe House, Maghaberry which includes 11 republican prisoners currently on a dirty protest.

## Compensation to Families of Prisoners Who Died by Suicide Whilst in Custody

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how much has been paid in compensation to the families of prisoners who died by suicide whilst in custody, in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 16467/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The total amount of compensation paid to the families of prisoners who committed suicide whilst in custody in Northern Ireland over the last 10 years is £65,000.

To provide a more detailed breakdown of this figure, which may lead to the identification of the families and the amount received by them, would be in breach of the first Data Protection Principle of the Data Protection Act 1998.

## BOSS scanning equipment

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice why the BOSS scanning equipment was piloted in HMP Magilligan and HMP Hydebank but not in HMP Maghaberry, which was the source of the initial criticism by the Roe House inmates; and which legislation applies to this decision.

**(AQW 16469/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** A BOSS chair has been in use in Maghaberry Prison since 2010.

Two separate Millimetre Wave pilots are being conducted in Magilligan and in Hydebank Wood. The objective of the pilots is to determine whether advances in technology can lessen the need for full body searches in favour of effective and less intrusive methods, consistent with the PRT recommendation 8, for the benefit of all prisoners and prison staff across all three establishments, and to develop a multi-layered approach to searching and prison security.

## Tackling Violence at Home: Action Plan 2010-2011

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister of Justice what financial provision he (i) made available to support the Tackling Violence at Home: Action Plan 2010-2011; and (ii) is making available to support the Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse: Action Plan 2012-2013.

**(AQW 16549/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department of Justice and the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety jointly lead on the domestic and sexual violence strategies and their associated action plans. The Department of Justice primarily supports the Protection and Justice Strand of the action plans.

Departments allocate funding on a financial year basis. It should be noted that the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan covered an eighteen month period from October 2010 until March 2012. During this period my department made available £637,500 to support the Action Plan.

The joint Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Action Plan also covers a period of eighteen months, from April 2012 until September 2013. For this period my Department has presently made available £731,000 to support the Action Plan.

The Member will be aware that the development and delivery of identified projects and programmes frequently cross a number of funding years. It is only when work commences to deliver the actions within the Action Plan that it is possible to obtain a clear understanding of the exact costs and timeframe for delivery. As a result actual spend may not equate to that which was first allocated.

## Police and Criminal Evidence Regime

**Mr Anderson** asked the Minister of Justice whether he intends to keep Northern Ireland in line with the Police and Criminal Evidence regime in England and Wales.

**(AQW 16567/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Before the devolution of justice, the Police and Criminal Evidence regimes in Northern Ireland and England and Wales developed largely in parallel. However, most of the subject matter of the Police

and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 is now the responsibility of the Assembly and, whilst there is certainly merit in maintaining a degree of parity with England and Wales, there is also scope to develop policy, with consultation and Assembly scrutiny, to meet specific local requirements.

### Retired Staff of Her Majesty's Prison Service

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice how the serving and retired staff of Her Majesty's Prison Service are notified of an increased terrorist threat to them; and how this differs from the system used to inform retired members of the PSNI and RUC.

**(AQW 16573/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As this question concerns the personal security of prison staff it would be inappropriate to provide the details requested.

### Prison Officers

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the protection afforded to Prison Officers who are supervising prisoners in hospitals; and whether any review has taken place to enhance security and the role of PSNI officers following the murder of David Black.

**(AQW 16789/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The security of prison staff, both on and off duty, is kept under constant review. The Prison Service continues to liaise closely with PSNI regarding the implications for staff safety when prison staff are required to undertake external escort duties.

### Injury on Duty Pension for Police Officers

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister of Justice how many police officers receive an Injury on Duty pension, broken down by age group.

**(AQW 16800/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The table below provides details of the number of police officers in receipt of an Injury on Duty pension, broken down by age group.

Age group	Number of recipients
30-40	19
40-50	485
50-60	850
60-70	608
70-80	205
80-90	33
90+	2

Information provided by PSNI Pensions Branch

### Prison Officers

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice why notices have appeared on staff and security information boards in prisons and on the Oasis system threatening prison officers with dismissal if they make contact with MLAs or other public representatives.

**(AQW 16833/11-15)**



**Mr Ford:** I am unaware of any notices appearing in prisons, or on the Oasis system, that have threatened prison officers with dismissal if they make contact with MLAs or other public representatives.

Prison officers, as indeed any member of the public, are at liberty to contact their local MLA or other public representative.

## Department for Regional Development

### **Car Parks: Exchange Rate**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the current exchange rate offered to people who pay in Euros at car parks; (ii) when this rate was set; and (iii) how often the rate is reviewed,

**(AQW 16390/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** Officials from my Department's Roads Service have advised that, for those Pay and Display machines which accept Euro coins, the exchange rate which applies is 1.769 Euro to £1 sterling. This rate, which has applied since 2005, is programmed into the machines and has not been subject to periodic review.

When Euro coins are inserted into a Pay and Display machine, the amount of parking time which can be purchased is displayed on the machine before the transaction is completed.

Following the recent commencement of a new parking enforcement and car park management contract, Roads Service intends to review the Pay and Display euro exchange rate in the near future.

### **Winter Weather**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department has taken to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the Foyle constituency to deal with winter weather.

**(AQW 16391/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has adequate resources to deal with the forthcoming winter period. Roads Service receives meteorological forecasts from the Met Office and this is supplemented by information from a number of weather stations, specifically designed to provide information on winter conditions.

With regard to the Foyle Constituency, the salting of the primary route network is served by the Woodburn Depot in Londonderry. Seven gritters operate from this Depot and are supported by 29 members of staff, who are deployed on a rota basis after working hours, from the end of October 2012 until the middle of April 2013. Over 3,000 tonnes of rock salt is available in the Depot, which can be regularly replenished, ensuring that adequate stock levels are maintained throughout the winter season.

In order to facilitate members of the public in potentially difficult areas that are not part of a salting route, Roads Service has distributed 255 grit/salt boxes in urban areas and 1,116 grit/salt piles in rural areas. These are available for use on a self help basis. In addition, arrangements are also in place to mobilise additional resources from private contractors, farmers and other agencies, to remove snow from the public highway, should conditions dictate.

Throughout the winter period, an on-call Lead Communicator within Roads Service, will provide details of road conditions to the media to ensure that the public are kept informed of any changing circumstances.

## **Badger Setts at the Derrygowan Road, Randalstown**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department has dealt with any badger setts at the Derrygowan Road, Randalstown, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16401/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has carried out carriageway repairs at a badger sett, at one location on the Derrygowan Road, in the last five years.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency, issued a licence under the Wildlife Order 1985, in September 2012, and Roads Service carried out its repairs in October 2012.

## **Double Yellow Lines**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the legal status of double yellow lines where there is no 'T' bar at the end; and the legal advice given to parking adjudicators in assessing whether double yellow lines meet the legal requirements.

**(AQW 16415/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that double yellow lines are prescribed under the Traffic Signs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, and indicate a prohibition on waiting at any time on that side of the road. However, the legal status of the end marking is not referred to.

The end marking is solely intended to indicate where the prohibition starts and ends. Its presence, or indeed absence, does not affect the meaning of the double yellow lines in indicating a prohibition on waiting.

I should advise that my Department does not give legal advice to the adjudicators in the Northern Ireland Traffic Penalty Tribunal.

## **Public Appointments**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail all the public appointments made during the last Assembly mandate, broken down by community background.

**(AQW 16446/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Between May 2007 and May 2011 17 ministerial appointments were made. 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 period. They do not include councillor appointments.

Details of the community background of the full range of public appointments made each year in the Department for Regional Development are included in the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report published each year by OFMDFM.

## **Translink's Procurement Procedure**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline Translink's procurement procedure for the use of external contractors.

**(AQW 16471/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink advise that procurement standards are applied to all external contracts in N I Railways, Ulsterbus and Citybus (Metro) to enable a consistent approach across Translink.

Translink is a Centre of Procurement Expertise (CoPE), appointed and monitored by the Procurement Board for Northern Ireland. CoPE status is granted by the Procurement Board following a third party accreditation exercise that assesses the extent to which CoPEs meet the high standards of good practices. Translink must satisfy a set level of procurement competency against set criteria which

include Best Value for Money, Best Practice, People Procurement Expertise and Regulatory Compliance. Translink is expected to comply with best practice principles for public procurement.

For the purposes of procurement legislation, Translink operates under the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006. This legislation states how procurement is to be carried out over certain threshold values which are:

Services/Supplies	£348,000
Works	£3,600,000

Contracts above these values are subject to the procedures in the Regulations, including the requirement to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

Procurement requirements for items over an estimated value of £30,000 are advertised on esourcingni and also on the Translink website to facilitate open competition. Translink standards are used to pre-qualify, invite to tender and evaluate submitted tenders; all of which is subject to an internal approval process.

Further information on Translink tenders and procurement policy can be found on the website. [www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk).

## Translink Fleet

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the impact on services as a result of the age of the Translink fleet.

**(AQW 16474/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Both the Ulsterbus and Metro fleets are currently projected to be ahead of the Regional Transportation Strategy targets set for fleet age by 31 March 2013. This reflects past investment in new buses. Average bus fleet ages in Translink now compare favourably with the average elsewhere in England, Scotland and Wales. Further investment in the future will be required to maintain in this position. Translink continues to provide its full network of services and allocates its current fleet to maximise accessibility and quality of service.

## E-Car Charging Points

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development when each E-car charging point became operational; and how many times each point has been used.

**(AQW 16496/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The 41 22kw AC public charge posts, each with 2 charge points, were installed by the ecar project in March 2012 and commissioned during March and April 2012. One charge post, in Corporation Square Car Park in Belfast, has since been removed because of vandalism.

Launch events were held in the relevant council areas to officially launch and publicise the charge posts in each area.

Belfast	29 March 2012
Armagh	18 April 2012
Newry	18 April 2012
Larne	2 May 2012
City of Derry	10 May 2012

Three rapid 50kw DC charge posts, which can charge a suitable electric vehicle to 80% in 20-25 minutes, were also installed in March. Following testing and the resolution of some technical issues,

these were commissioned in April and May 2012. A fourth rapid charge point was installed and commissioned in August 2012.

The total number of charging events for each charge post is only available from July, when the Charge Point Management System became live. The number of charging events from July to 30 September 2012 is contained in the attached table.

#### NUMBER OF CHARGING EVENTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

Charge Point Location	Charge Point Name	ID number	Number of events
Belfast	Little Victoria Street Car Park	SC22	1
Belfast	Corporation Square Car Park	SC24	
Belfast	Little Donegall Street	SC23	1
Belfast	Cromac Street Car Park	SC33	
Belfast	Hope Street North	SC3	3
Belfast	Adelaide Street on street	SC19	15
Belfast	Dublin Road on street	SC8	1
Belfast	Lower Crescent on street	SC21	
Belfast	Central Station car park	SC9	4
Belfast	Cairns Hill Park and Ride	SC35	2
Armagh	Linenhall Street car park	SC2	1
Armagh	Lonsdale Street car park	SC15	
Armagh	Cathedral Road Recreational Centre	SC40	
Armagh	Palace Demense	SC4	1
Newry	Bagenal's Castle	SC5	1
Newry	Bridge Street car park	SC28	1
Newry	Basin Walk car park	SC10	1
Newry	Monaghan Street car park	SC32	
Newry	Hill Street on street	SC30	
Newry	Canal Court Merchants Quay	SC37	2
Newry	Newry Train station	SC41	2
Londonderry	Victoria Market car park	SC27	
Londonderry	Bishop Street car park	SC39	
Londonderry	Railway Yard	SC6	
Londonderry	Strand Road	SC7	
Londonderry	Carlisle Road on street	SC25	
Londonderry	The Diamond on street	SC34	3
Londonderry	Templemore Leisure Centre	SC26	

Charge Point Location	Charge Point Name	ID number	Number of events
Fermanagh	Down/Market/Cross Street	SC18	1
Fermanagh	Eden Street	SC13	7
Fermanagh	Quay Lane North	SC11	1
Fermanagh	Wellington Street	SC16	5
Fermanagh	Queen St,Carpark, Enniskillen	SC17	
Fermanagh	Cross Street, Carpark, Lisnaskea	SC31	2
Fermanagh	Main Street, Irvinestown – DRD	SC29	
Fermanagh	Main Street, Belleek – DRD	SC12	
Larne	Narrow Gauge Road	SC14	1
Larne	Agnew Street	SC20	2
Larne	Riverdale	SC1	
Larne	Carnlough Havelock Place	SC36	1
Cookstown	Southwest College	SC38	1
Dungannon	Rapid Charge Point		6
Maghera	Rapid Charge Point		15
Newry	Rapid Charge Point		28
Portrush (from August 2012)	Rapid Charge Point		7

### Ballysallagh and Conlig Reservoirs

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development why the angling leases for the Ballysallagh and Conlig Reservoirs are being put up for renewal.

**(AQW 16544/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the angling lease for the Ballysallagh and Conlig reservoirs, currently held by Bangor Angling Club, is valid for two years and expires on 31 March 2013. NIW is not obliged to automatically renew the lease with Bangor Angling Club.

NIW is currently considering outsourcing the management of fishing at its reservoirs to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) which wishes to increase its public fishing estate. DCAL has the capacity and expertise to manage fishing on all available NIW reservoirs and, if outsourcing is agreed, DCAL will become responsible for the renewal of leases.

### Ballysallagh and Conlig Reservoirs

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has for the Ballysallagh and Conlig Reservoirs.

**(AQW 16545/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that Ballysallagh and Conlig Reservoirs are surplus to its requirements and will be disposed of at some time in the future. In disposing of surplus assets, NIW must ensure that it obtains the best price, achieves value for money

and maintains high standards of propriety. Any sale is dependent on a number of factors, not least the market conditions at the time of the sale and the level of expressions of interest.

NIW has not yet identified a timeframe for offering Ballysallagh and Conlig Reservoirs to the market.

### **Translink: Staff Uniforms**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost to Translink for providing staff uniforms in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16546/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink advise that the cost of providing staff uniforms in each of the last three years is as detailed in the table below:

April 2011/March 2012	£565,286
April 2010/March 2011	£611,071
April 2009/March 2010	£661,403

### **Taxi Parking Spaces in the Derry City Area**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many taxi parking spaces are available in the Derry City area.

**(AQW 16623/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that there are 28 taxi parking spaces in the Londonderry city area.

### **Press Officers**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many press officers his Department employs.

**(AQW 16706/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Four Information (Press) Officers are employed in my Department.

### **Repairing of Street Lighting**

**Dr McDonnell** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline any delays in the repairing of street lighting in the Belfast constituencies.

**(AQW 16761/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that there has been a delay in awarding a number of street lighting contracts covering the Belfast area, arising from a challenge received during the procurement process. Regrettably, this has led to a delay in repairing some street lighting defects, although I should stress that emergency repairs continued to be attended to.

I understand that the contracts were awarded on 25 October 2012, and arrangements are currently being made to clear insurances and health and safety plans to allow this important work to proceed.

### **Infrastructure Projects**

**Mr Sheehan** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the possible enhanced opportunities for funding of our infrastructural projects arising from Ireland having the EU Presidency from January to June 2013.

**(AQO 2877/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Hosting the Presidency of the Council of the European Union is an important role for any Member State. It comes with a lot of responsibility, as the host nation must undertake a number of functions that are essential for the smooth operation of the European Union as a whole. However, the Presidency does not have operational responsibility for EU funding programmes. Responsibility for the operation of EU funding programmes rests with the appropriate managing authorities, the European Commission and its agencies.

During its six month term the hosting Member State is Chair of the Council of the European Union meetings. The Presidency organises these meetings and has the responsibility of moving Council work forward as much as possible by helping Member States reach agreement that supports the interests of the EU as a whole.

The Member State hosting the Presidency has a duty to act as an honest broker as well as a responsibility to be impartial on all matters.

However, while recognising that the Irish Government's Presidency will not directly enhance funding opportunities for infrastructural projects, it undoubtedly comes at an opportune time to help progress shared priorities emanating from EU proposals, which have similar implications for the transport sector in both jurisdictions.

### **A5 Western Transport Corridor: Construction Jobs**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has had any engagement with representatives of the construction sector in relation to the A5 Western Transport Corridor project and the associated jobs being put on hold.

**(AQO 2878/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The ongoing legal challenge to the A5 Western Transport Corridor project has delayed construction, which was intended to commence in October 2012. While some preliminary works are ongoing, I cannot say when the main construction will start as this is entirely dependent on when the courts decide on the legal challenge.

In relation to jobs being put on hold, I am acutely aware that this delay is adding to the current pressure on construction jobs across Northern Ireland. I am, however, aware of concerns within the wider construction sector and from organisations such as CBI, CEF and QPANI.

### **Cullybackey Train Station: Park-and-Ride Scheme**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister for Regional Development, given his commitment to park and ride schemes to encourage people to use trains, what plans and funding he intends to put in place to ensure that Cullybackey Train Station has a park and ride scheme.

**(AQO 2879/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department recently published a report following a Strategic Review of Park & Ride and has now established a Park and Ride Programme Board which co-ordinates the work of the Department and Translink in identifying and providing suitable new Park & Ride facilities for both rail and bus service users.

The Park and Ride Programme Board are currently finalising the details of those schemes which are to be delivered up to 2015. Whilst some funding has been secured in my Department's budget, the implementation of Park and Ride schemes will take place in a constrained budgetary context and this may impact on the ability to deliver the priority projects identified.

I understand that you have already raised the issue of Cullybackey in correspondence directly with Translink. I have been advised that following a feasibility study, Translink has identified a potential site for Park and Ride facilities near the train station. However, as this would require capital funding to take forward, it is unlikely that Translink would be in a position to progress this project in the near future due to funding constraints. As you are no doubt aware, Park and Ride facilities are available at both Ballymena and Ballymoney.

However, you are correct to highlight the importance of focusing on ways of increasing rail users. In fact the Strategy pursued in investing in new trains, track investments and minimising fares has been hugely successful. Rail passenger journeys have increased to over 10 million last year, a level not seen since 1967.

### **Unadopted Roads**

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his initial assessment of the report from the Committee for Regional Development on Unadopted Roads.

**(AQO 2880/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As the Member will be aware, I was recently provided with an advanced draft of the Committee for Regional Development's report on Unadopted Roads which, I understand, is due to issue in final form in the coming days. This is an important issue and I sympathise with homeowners who are left with unfinished or inadequate private roads and sewerage systems.

When it is published, I will examine its findings and recommendations in conjunction with my officials and carefully consider what needs to be done in light of those findings.

### **Motorbike Racing: Admission Charges**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on his Department's consideration of introducing admission charges for motor bike racing events.

**(AQO 2881/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that discussions are ongoing with motor sport representatives and officials are due to meet with representatives from the 2&4 Wheel Motorsport Steering Group Limited, on 26 November, to hear details of their proposals for enabling admission charges to be levied.

My officials will contact you when they are ready to formally consult on any proposed amendments to The Roads Races Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

### **Unadopted Housing Developments and Roads**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department has received any proposals to deal with the plethora of unadopted housing developments and roads.

**(AQO 2882/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Roads Service works within current legislation to achieve the satisfactory completion of roads within new housing developments. To achieve this, my officials liaise with developers and other responsible parties, as required, to agree proposals to have the works completed and, when appropriate, will use the available legal enforcement powers.

As you will be aware, the Committee for Regional Development has recently been conducting an Inquiry into Unadopted Roads in Northern Ireland. When the Inquiry report is published, I will examine its findings and I will carefully consider what needs to be done in light of those findings.

### **Car Parking: Lagan Valley**

**Mr B McCrea** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of how the moratorium on car parking charges will assist businesses in the Lagan Valley constituency.

**(AQO 2883/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I am pleased to have announced the Executive decision to freeze car parking charges within the current budget period. I believe this will be to the benefit of traders and shoppers in towns and cities across Northern Ireland, including those in Lagan Valley.



I believe that the freeze on car-parking charges, combined with the package of measures to support retailers and consumers I announced on 5 November, will give a much-needed boost to our local economy and encourage people to get the most out of our town and city centres, particularly in the run-up to Christmas.

These recent announcements complement and augment my decision in September of last year not to introduce on-street parking charges to around 30 towns and cities across Northern Ireland. Taken together, these measures will provide a confidence boost to traders and those who shop and work in our towns and cities.

### **Strangford to Portaferry Bridge**

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department's recent estimate for the cost of a Strangford to Portaferry bridge was collated.

**(AQO 2884/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Department's recent cost estimate of £300 million for a Strangford to Portaferry Bridge was based on the cost of recently proposed or constructed bridges of a similar nature worldwide. The estimate includes for infrastructure linkages, such as viaducts and other improvements.

As well as costs associated with the engineering and structural elements of such a project, additional resources would need to be directed towards dealing with the related environmental issues. In my response to one of your recent Assembly questions on this subject (AQW 15495/11-15 refers), I outlined the many and various environmental designations held by the Strangford Lough area, and the likelihood that an Article 6 Assessment, under the terms of the EU Habitats Directive, would be required as part of any scheme to build a bridge across the lough.

### **A5: Funding**

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps have been taken to ensure that funding for the A5 road scheme has been ring-fenced.

**(AQO 2885/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As you will be aware, the Department for Regional Development was served with an Originating Summons on 10 September 2012, seeking a legal review on the decision to proceed with the A5 scheme. Whilst it was originally anticipated that the construction phase of this scheme would commence in mid-October 2012, the exact timing of the works will now be dependent on legal process.

My Department will robustly defend this action and has instructed Senior Counsel. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for 29 November 2012.

I can assure the Member that my Department's officials are liaising closely with their counterparts in the Department of Finance and Personnel, regarding the financial implications of a delayed start to the scheme.

## **Department for Social Development**

### **Benefit Uptake Campaign 2011-12**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister for Social Development how many pensioners benefited from his Department's Benefit Uptake Campaign 2011-12; and how this number compares to the previous three years.

**(AQW 16227/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** The table below shows the number of older people (aged 60 or over) who have benefitted from Benefit Uptake Programmes since 2008/09.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Older people benefitting</b>
2008/09	3,602
2009/10	1,558
2010/11	1,369
2011/12	4,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,627</b>

Since 2005 my Department has delivered annual Benefit Uptake Programmes, involving a range of direct and indirect targeting approaches. These are delivered in partnership with the independent advice sector and with a range of community based organisations.

In 2008/09, a direct targeting exercise was supplemented by a significant mailshot exercise targeting all State Pension recipients not receiving State Pension Credit to encourage a claim for State Pension Credit. This involved over 69,000 households.

In 2011/12 the “Make the Call” advertising campaign was added to the range of approaches. This involved widespread media publicity of a Freephone service for older people inviting them to have a benefit entitlement check.

I remain committed to the uptake of benefits and recently announced the 2012/13 Make the Call Benefit Uptake Programme. This will involve further direct targeting, the Make the Call advertising campaign, innovation and partnership working. I also intend to bring forward a three year Strategy for Improving Benefit Uptake by the end of the year.

### **Woodlands or Parks in Towns**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what funds or grants are available through his Department to help create woodlands or parks in towns.

**(AQW 16237/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** There is no specific funding or grant scheme for this purpose but where such amenities are part of an agreed plan for an area they may attract funding from the Department.

The development and greening of public spaces is a significant feature of the Department's regeneration work. The Department owns and maintains parks, other public spaces and woodlands at a number of locations in town, city centres and Neighbourhood Renewal areas.

The Department also funds organisations that encourage and facilitate volunteering. Volunteers play a significant role in the creation and maintenance of open spaces in their communities.

### **Volunteering**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the value of volunteering.  
**(AQW 16240/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The tremendous value of volunteering is reflected in almost every aspect of everyday life – the communities we live in, our physical environment, our sport and leisure activities, where we work and worship, our schools and hospitals all benefit from volunteers. Altogether the economic value of formal volunteering with organisations is estimated to be worth around £500M annually. Volunteering is of immense value to society and to the volunteers themselves who are motivated for many different reasons and personally benefit in many different ways.

I recognise the remarkable contribution made by volunteers in our society. I am strongly committed to encouraging the growth of volunteering and in March 2012 my Department published Join in, get involved: Build a better future which is the first ever Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland.

## Comber Town Regeneration Committee

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the level of support nominally allocated and related by his officials to Comber Town Regeneration Committee regarding funding for 'Public Realm Improvements and Traffic Management Scheme for Comber Town'; and to detail the level of commitment to funding he will make towards this scheme.

**(AQW 16248/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Plans for a public realm improvement scheme in Comber are still at an early stage of development and no funding has been committed to the scheme at this stage. However, my Department has included £1 million in its forward work programme for a public realm scheme in Comber during 2013/15, subject to funding being available and all necessary approvals being in place.

## Northern Ireland Housing Executive

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development where the three new regional offices will be located as a result of structural changes within the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

**(AQW 16275/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has confirmed that their three new regional offices will be located as follows:-

- Belfast Regional Office: 32-36 Great Victoria Street, Belfast;
- South Region has two locations: Strangford House, Newtownards, and Marlborough House, Craigavon; and
- North Region also has two locations: Twickenham House, Ballymena, and Richmond Chambers, Londonderry.

## Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of claimants from the Foyle constituency who (i) received no points at their Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance; and (ii) had the decision overturned on appeal.

**(AQW 16303/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

**i) Since the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance in October 2008 a total of 117,554 customers have participated in the Work Capability Assessment process. It is not possible, due to system limitations, to detail how many customers in the Foyle constituency from 2008 scored zero points.**

Following implementation of the Medical Services Referral System it became possible to provide this information from June 2011 to October 2012. During this period 1,850 customers in the Foyle constituency were awarded zero points following an examination for Employment and Support Allowance.

ii) It is not possible, due to system limitations, to detail how many customers in the Foyle constituency who scored zero points in their Work Capability Assessment subsequently had the decision overturned following an appeal.

## Work Capability Assessment

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of claimants who (i) received no points at their Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance; and (ii) had the decision overturned on appeal.

**(AQW 16305/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

**i) Since the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance in October 2008 a total of 117,554 customers have participated in the Work Capability Assessment process. It is not possible, due to system limitations, to detail how many of the customers from 2008 scored zero points.**

Following implementation of the Medical Services Referral System it became possible to provide this information from June 2011 to October 2012. During this period 27,380 customers were awarded zero points following an examination for Employment and Support Allowance.

ii) It is not possible, due to system limitations, to detail how many customers scored zero points in their Work Capability Assessment and subsequently had the decision overturned following an appeal.

### **Housing Payments of Universal Credit**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister for Social Development whether, following welfare reform, housing payments of universal credit that are made in error, or due to fraudulent activity, will be reclaimed from landlords.

**(AQW 16320/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Welfare Reform Bill provides for regulations which will enable overpayments paid direct to the landlord to be recoverable from the landlord in specific circumstances. These are where the tenant has left the property and the landlord has failed to inform the Department; any universal credit housing element has been overpaid and is above the rental liability or the landlord has misrepresented or failed to provide information, which has led to the overpayment occurring.

### **Contract for Assessing Personal Independence Payments**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail each of the differences in the tender documentation for the contract for assessing Personal Independence Payments and between those in Great Britain; and whether he can give an assurance that the successful tender will have sufficiently reflected Northern Ireland's unique mental health pressures.

**(AQW 16325/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The tender documentation used for the Personal Independent Payment assessment service for Northern Ireland was issued as a specific Lot within a single set of tender documents which sought responses across 4 lots/ regions of the United Kingdom.

Social Security Agency officials were involved in the development and approval of the tender documentation for Northern Ireland to ensure that all Northern Ireland differences in legislation and policies were fully reflected.

In Lot 4 which was about services in Northern Ireland responses bidders were asked to detail how their solution identified and took account of the management of specific customer needs and barriers including mental health and were asked to provide specific information on the role of mental health champions. The champion's role is to provide advice and support to Health Professionals on health conditions and disabilities affecting mental, cognitive, intellectual and behavioural function.

This was in addition to a range of questions which were common across all four Lots.

### **Social Fund**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many applications have been made to the Social Fund in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 16337/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Due to system limitations it is not possible to provide figures for all elements of the Social Fund scheme. However it is possible to provide figures on the numbers of applications for the 'discretionary' element of Social Fund by parliamentary constituency. Discretionary Social Fund includes Budgeting and Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants. The numbers of these applications by constituency for the last three financial years are set out in the table below.

Constituency	Financial Year		
	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Belfast East	16,045	17,334	16,857
Belfast North	45,936	45,518	42,207
Belfast South	15,411	15,969	15,111
Belfast West	43,867	44,866	46,283
East Antrim	16,013	14,536	14,623
East Londonderry	17,622	16,873	14,161
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	12,661	13,099	13,691
Foyle	34,655	35,822	33,453
Lagan Valley	10,219	9,772	8,969
Mid Ulster	13,125	13,501	13,447
Newry And Armagh	18,790	18,245	18,439
North Antrim	14,915	14,657	13,349
North Down	9,065	9,478	8,856
South Antrim	10,797	10,816	10,581
South Down	17,029	17,936	17,385
Strangford	11,064	10,751	10,542
Upper Bann	22,066	22,321	23,003
West Tyrone	18,161	17,908	17,320
Unknown	7,865	8,137	8,241

## Welfare Reform

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development what discussions he has had with his officials to assess the number of new jobs that will need to be created to address the reduction in disposable income in the economy as a result of Welfare Reform.

**(AQW 16341/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I have not had any discussions with my officials on this subject as my Department is not responsible for assessing the number of new jobs that are needed in the Northern Ireland economy. My Department has not taken forward any work on projecting whether there will be any reduction in disposable income as a consequence of Welfare Reform.

## Housing Benefit

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how many (i) employed; and (ii) unemployed people are in receipt of Housing Benefit.

**(AQW 16345/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** At 1 October 2012 based on a total housing benefit caseload of 164,724, the number of people employed who were in receipt of Housing Benefit was 15,458. At the same date the number of people unemployed who were in receipt of Housing Benefit was 23,588.

## Homelessness

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are deemed homeless.  
(AQW 16359/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** For the period 1 April to 30 June 2012, the number of cases presenting as homeless was 5047 with 2001 being accepted as statutorily homeless. These are the most up to date figures available from the Housing Executive.

## Boiler Replacement Scheme

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development how many application forms for the current Boiler Replacement scheme have been (i) requested from; and (ii) sent out by the Housing Executive.  
(AQW 16363/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Boiler Replacement Scheme commenced on the 3rd September 2012.

As of Friday the 2nd November 2012, the Housing Executive has received 20,683 enquiries and issued 12,821 application forms.

## Boiler Replacement Scheme Application Helpline

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development how many phone calls have been received by the Boiler Replacement Scheme application helpline.  
(AQW 16364/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Since my announcement in May 2012 of the Boiler replacement Scheme commencing in September 2012 a total of 21,777 telephone calls have been received to the application helpline.

## Boiler Replacement Scheme

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development how many completed application forms have been received for the current Boiler Replacement Scheme.  
(AQW 16365/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** As of Friday the 9th November 2012 a total of 6,131 completed application forms have been received for the Boiler Replacement Scheme. In addition the Housing Executive have had to return more than 600 application forms that were not completed correctly.

## Boiler Replacement Grants

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development how many boiler replacement grants have been issued since September 2012.  
(AQW 16366/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** As of Friday the 9th November 2012 the Housing Executive has issued 642 approvals to commence boiler replacement works.

## Pay-As-You-Go Oil Pilot Scheme

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Pay-As-You-Go Oil Pilot Scheme; and whether he plans to implement this scheme.  
(AQW 16367/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Officials from my Department have been working with Kingspan Renewables and Carillion Energy Services to test a Pay as You Go for Oil scheme. I am very keen for this technology to be rolled out and my officials have been having on-going discussions with both Kingspan Renewables and Carillion Energy Services around the development of the product which could be rolled out in future energy efficiency schemes. I have asked officials to progress this important initiative as quickly

as possible as I believe the installation of Pay as You Go for Oil systems would significantly help households who struggle to pay for a fill of oil.

I am disappointed that it is taking so long to get this up and running but there are important issues to be resolved including the cost of the product and running costs.

### Volunteering Strategy

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the long term development of a volunteering strategy.

**(AQW 16368/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I recognise the tremendous contribution made by volunteers in our society and I remain strongly committed to encouraging the growth of volunteering. My Department published the first ever Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland in March 2012. The new Strategy called Join in, get involved: Build a better future has five key objectives:

- Recognising the value and promoting the benefits of volunteering
- Enhancing the accessibility and diversity in volunteering
- Improving the volunteering experience
- Supporting and strengthening the volunteering infrastructure
- Delivering the Volunteering Strategy

The Volunteering Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan that sets out a programme of work that is currently underway to achieve these objectives. It is envisaged that a Volunteering Strategy Steering Group will be established comprising key volunteering stakeholders which will monitor the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

### Evictions for Non-Payment of Rent

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive tenants have been evicted for non-payment of rent in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16403/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The number of Housing Executive tenants that have been evicted for non-payment of rent in each of the last three years is as follows:-

2009/10	9
2010/11	25
2011/12	12

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

### Social Fund

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how many applications from North Down have been made to the Social fund in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 16404/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Due to system limitations it is not possible to provide figures for all elements of the Social Fund scheme. However it is possible to provide figures on the number of applications for the 'discretionary' element of Social Fund in the North Down constituency. Discretionary Social Fund includes Budgeting and Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants. The numbers of these applications in the North Down constituency for the last three financial years are set out in the table below.

Year	Discretionary Social Fund Applications
2011/12	9,065
2010/11	9,478
2009/10	8,856

### New Applicants for Pension Credit

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of new applicants for pension credit in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 16410/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information requested is set out in the table below.

Year	Number of State Pension Credit Applications Received
2011-2012	8515
2010-2011	11225
2009-2010	12539
2008-2009	14262
2007-2008	8240

### Boiler Replacement Scheme

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development to explain the delay in sending out application forms for the boiler replacement scheme.

**(AQW 16425/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I launched the Boiler Replacement Scheme in September with a budget of £12m available over the next 3 years. This equates to about 5,500 boiler replacements each year and the Housing Executive's Grant Office were resourced to deal with these numbers.

The scheme has been very popular and already 20,683 enquiries have been received in less than 2 months. I have instructed NIHE to allocate additional resources, both in terms of budget and staff available to deal with the huge number of enquiries. NIHE have advised that they anticipate the effect of the additional staff will be evident in 3-4 weeks. To date, 12,821 application forms have been issued and 5,149 have been returned. These are very large numbers compared to the anticipated 5,550 cases per year.

NIHE have confirmed to me that the Grants Offices are reducing the backlog of enquiries awaiting the issue of application forms and this will accelerate as the additional staff are added to the offices. However, enquiries continue to be received at the rate of approximately 1,000 per month.

NIHE have assured me that they continue to issue application forms to enquirers as soon as possible and any additional funding required will be allocated to the scheme.

### Volunteering Projects

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the volunteering projects that his Department has promoted, in each of the last three years, which are specific to the Ballymena council area.

**(AQW 16426/11-15)**



**Mr McCausland:** My Department currently provides funding of £1M for a number of volunteer centres across Northern Ireland to promote, support and develop volunteering. Under this funding Volunteer Now provides support to volunteer involving organisations in the Ballymena council area. In addition the Department's Small Grants Programme has provided funding of almost £24K in the past 3 years in the Ballymena council area to help support volunteers in small local organisations with, for example, volunteer expenses, training costs and running costs. Small Grants have been issued to the following groups in the Ballymena council area:

<b>Small Grants Programme - 2009/10</b>	
Ballykeel 2 Residents Association	£800
Ballymena & District Carers Group	£700
Ballymena Citizens Advice Bureau	£700
Ballymena Evergreens Club	£1,000
Bannside Community Safety Group	£1,100
Carnlough Community Association	£800
Cloney Rural Development Association	£800
Glenarm Youth Club	£1,100
Shopmobility Ballymena Ltd	£800
The Rectory Residents Association	£700
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2010/11</b>	
Ballykeel 2 Residents Association	£600
Ballymena & District Carers Group	£600
Ballymena Evergreens Club	£960
Ballymena ME & Fibromyalgia Support Group	£660
Carnlough Community Association	£1,038
Glenarm Youth Club	£966
Harryville Partnership Initiative	£1,100
Rectory Residents Association	£1,050
Shopmobility Ballymena Ltd	£1,050
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2011/12</b>	
Antrim Coast Lions Club	£1,500
Ballymena Area Children's Contact Service	£1,102
Carnlough Community Association	£1,500
Cullybackey Development Agency	£1,000
Glenarm Village Committee	£1,500
Rectory Residents Association	£450

## Volunteering Projects

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the volunteering projects that his Department has promoted, in each of the last three years, which are specific to the Ballymoney council area.

**(AQW 16429/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department currently provides funding of £1M for a number of volunteer centres across Northern Ireland to promote, support and develop volunteering. This includes Causeway Volunteer Centre which provides support to volunteer involving organisations in the Ballymoney Council Area. In addition the Department's Small Grants Programme has provided funding of £11K in the past 3 years to help support volunteers in small local organisations with, for example, volunteer expenses, training costs and running costs. Small Grants have been issued to the following groups in the Ballymoney council area.

<b>2010/2011</b>	
Road of Hope	£500
Asian Over 50's Club	£511
Carnary Community Association	£500
Stranocum & District Development Group	£380
Glebeside Community Association	£650
Ballybogey Community Association	£600
<b>2011/2012</b>	
Ballybogey Community Association	£300
Rasharkin Community Association	£1000
Glebeside Community Association	£750
Cloughmills Community Action Team	£1045
<b>2012/2013</b>	
Dervock & District Community Association	£300
Balnamore Community Association	£500
Armoy Community Association	£400
Glen Rural Community Group	£380
Armoy Community Association Over 55's	£400
Stranocum & District Community Association	£330
Stranocum & District Development Group	£410
Glebeside Community Association	£400
Castle Youth Club	£380
Castle Community Association	£450
Carnary Community Association	£350

## Volunteering Projects

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the volunteering projects that his Department has promoted, in each of the last three years, which are specific to the Moyle council area. **(AQW 16430/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department currently provides funding of £1M for a number of volunteer centres across Northern Ireland to promote, support and develop volunteering. Under this funding Causeway Volunteer Centre provides support to volunteer involving organisations in the Moyle council area. In addition the Department's Small Grants Programme has provided funding of almost £5K in the past 3 years in the Moyle council area to help support volunteers in small local organisations with, for example, volunteer expenses, training costs and running costs. Small Grants have been issued to the following groups in the Moyle council area:

<b>010/2011</b>
Good Morning Ballycastle £500
Ballycastle Concern Group £600
Bushmills Residents & Environmental Forum £500
<b>2011/2012</b>
Good Morning Ballycastle £750
Ballintoy Young at Heart Club £300
Mother Goose Community Playgroup £500
<b>2012/2013</b>
Ramoan Friendship Group £500
Bushmills Traders Association £455
Solas Moyle £500

## Housing Executive Properties: Fibre Insulation

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties contain fibre insulation; and how many of these properties are known to be damp and sunken. **(AQW 16434/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not collate figures relating to the number of its dwellings which contain fibre insulation. They also do not record repair issues which relate to insulation materials and they are therefore unable to confirm how many dwellings where such materials may be damp and sunken.

However, the Housing Executive has confirmed that most of their dwellings would have had wall insulation carried out during the 1980s and 1990s. Their Home Energy Conservation Strategy Annual Progress Report (2012) indicated that 91% of Housing Executive homes have some form of wall insulation with 9%, mainly solid dwellings, having none.

## Housing Condition Survey

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how many walls have a boroscope inserted to check the condition of the insulation during a housing condition survey. **(AQW 16435/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I assume the Member is referring to the Housing Executive's House Condition Survey, in which case there would be no boroscopic inspections as it is a non-intrusive survey.

### **Boiler Scrappage Scheme**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how many new boilers have been installed under the Boiler Scrappage Scheme.

**(AQW 16436/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** As of the 9th November 2012 there has been 642 approvals issued to householders to start boiler replacement works with householders allowed up to 3 months to have the work completed. Householders are being encouraged to have replacement works carried out as quickly as possible once approval has been received. The number of boiler replacements should increase rapidly over the coming months as more approvals are issued and completions carried out.

### **Personal Independent Payment Assessors**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the procurement process for the award of a contract to the Personal Independent Payment assessors, to outline any variations between the contract being tendered for in Northern Ireland and the contract being tendered for in Great Britain.

**(AQW 16438/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Invitation to Tender documentation for the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Service for Northern Ireland was issued as a specific Lot within a single set of tender documents which sought responses across 4 lots/regions of the United Kingdom. The service requirement and supporting Terms and Conditions contained in the tender documentation are the basis of the complete contract.

Social Security Agency officials were involved in the development and approval of the tender documentation to ensure they fully reflected all of the differences in Northern Ireland legislation and policies.

When completing their tender responses, bidders were asked to respond to a number of generic questions across all Lots together with Lot specific questions.

In Lot 4, which covered services to be provided in Northern Ireland, bidders were asked to detail how their solution identified and took account of the management of specific customer needs and barriers including the use of mental health and other condition specific champions, the staff resource needed to deliver and manage the Assessment Service and how they would source sufficient, appropriate and accessible premises for Assessments.

### **Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister for Social Development whether the appeals service for Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance is moving to the Court House in Derry; and if so, for what reasons.

**(AQW 16439/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Appeals Service has increased utilisation of Londonderry Courthouse in addition to the continued use of a number of other local venues. The use of courthouses for social security benefit appeals is not unusual, as hearings can be and are already heard in courthouses throughout Northern Ireland. Business levels are increasing and will continue to rise with the advent of Welfare Reform.

The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service is now responsible for the operational effectiveness of The Appeals Service and it is incumbent upon them to ensure maximum utilisation of the courts estate and efficient use of public funds. Londonderry Courthouse provides an independent and dignified environment with informal facilities suitable for benefit appeal hearings.

## **The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order (1985)**

**Mr McDevitt** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on his review of The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order (1985); and whether any amendments are proposed to the legislation to relax the law in line with other parts of the UK.

**(AQW 16485/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I am currently completing a review of the gambling law within Northern Ireland and expect to bring proposals to the Executive in the near future. Any proposal to change the law will depend upon the agreement of my Executive colleagues.

## **Housing Executive: Gardens**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what requirements there are on the Housing Executive to ensure that gardens are in a good state of repair before a property is handed over to a tenant.

**(AQW 16489/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive currently applies the common practice that gardens are tidied and grass cut if overgrown when a change of tenancy occurs. The current Housing Executive Maintenance Repairs Policy Manual sets out lettable standards which include the following in respect of gardens:-

- Gardens – grass and hedges to be trimmed if appropriate.

## **Detection of Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse**

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the training measures his Department provides to Housing Executive employees to increase awareness and detection of sexual and domestic violence and abuse.

**(AQW 16504/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has been implementing the Child Safeguarding Policy over the past two years. During this time procedures have been set up to support staff and third parties to report abuse and this has been supplemented by an intense staff training programme with over 100 separate courses delivered to 1,800 staff. To complement Child Safeguarding, the Housing Executive's Board recently approved a Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding policy which they are currently in the process of implementing. In relation to domestic violence, the Housing Executive's homelessness strategy aims to put in place all practical measures towards the elimination of domestic violence and abuse.

Through their employee relations policies, the Housing Executive aims to support and assist staff who may be/or who have experienced sexual and /or domestic violence on a personal basis.

## **Families Rehoused as a Result of Sexual or Domestic Violence and Abuse**

**Ms Brown** asked the Minister for Social Development how many families have been rehoused in social housing as a result of sexual or domestic violence and abuse since 2007; and of those rehoused, how many were directly detected by Housing Executive staff.

**(AQW 16505/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not record the reason for an applicant being rehoused. They have also advised that it is not possible to determine how many cases of sexual or domestic violence and abuse were directly detected by their staff.

However, the table below details applicants who presented and were accepted as homeless due to sexual or domestic violence since 2006/07: -

**HOMELESS DUE TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Year	Presenting as Homeless	Accepted as Homeless
2006/07	767	645
2007/08	783	635
2008/09	891	698
2009/10	906	800
2010/11	1010	829
2011/12	896	697

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

**Transfer of St Patrick's Barracks**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development whether the St Patrick's Barracks will have been transferred to his Department by 11 November 2012.

**(AQW 16551/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** No, St Patrick's Barracks did not transfer to my Department on 11 November 2012. However, the legal processes for the conveyance of the former military housing from OFMDFM to my Department is well underway and should be completed in the coming weeks.

**Transfer of St Patrick's Barracks**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the reasons for the delay in the transfer of St Patrick's Barracks to his Department.

**(AQW 16553/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The transfer and development of significant parcels of surplus public sector land such as St Patrick's Barracks are subject to a number of stages that can, on occasion, result in a protracted process prior to completion.

These processes include undertaking necessary valuations, site investigations and negotiations between all interested parties; the preparation and approval of business cases to authorise the level of public expenditure; and the development and agreement of the appropriate concept or masterplan frameworks. I understand that a number of queries regarding site contamination, leases and a right of way have impacted on these processes however, as I outlined in my response to AQW 16551/11-15, the transfer of 47 military houses to my Department is due to complete in the coming weeks.

**Housing Executive: Gardens**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what is the Housing Executive's policy in relation to the preparation of gardens before re-letting to a new tenant.

**(AQW 16555/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I would refer the Member to the answer in AQW 16489/11-15

**Volunteering Projects**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the volunteering projects that his Department has promoted, in each of the last three years, which are specific to the (i) Ards; and (ii) North Down council areas.

**(AQW 16556/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department currently provides funding of nearly £1M for a number of volunteer centres across Northern Ireland in order to promote, support and develop volunteering. Under this funding Volunteer Now provides support to volunteer involving organisations in the Ards and North Down council areas. In addition the Department's Small Grants Programme has provided funding of almost £43K in the past 3 years in the Ards and North Down council areas to help support volunteers in small local organisations with, for example, volunteer expenses, training costs and running costs. Small Grants have been issued to the following groups in the Ards and North Down council areas:

<b>North Down 29k</b>	
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2009/10</b>	
Bangor & North Down Samaritans	£1,100
Bangor Abbey Players	£1,100
Bangor Drama Club	£1,100
Fibromyalgia North Down & Ards	£1,100
Loughview & Redburn Forum	£1,100
North Down & Ards Samaritans	£1,100
Oi Yin Women's Group	£1,100
Recon	£1,100
The Square Centre	£1,100
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2010/11</b>	
Bangor & North Down Samaritans	£1,100
Bangor Abbey Players	£1,100
Bangor Drama Club	£1,100
Fibromyalgia Support North Down & Ards	£1,100
Growing Connections	£1,100
North Down & Ards Council of Trade Unions	£1,100
Redburn Loughview Community Forum	£1,100
The Recon Group	£1,100
The Square Centre	£1,100
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2011/12</b>	
Bangor Abbey Players	£1,500
<b>CRUSE Breavement Care (North Down &amp; Ards)£1,500</b>	
Fibromyalgia Support North Down & Ards	£1,500
Growing Connections NI	£1,497
North Down & Ards Road Safety Committee	£1,000
Redburn Loughview Community Forum	£1,500
Square Centre Kilcooley	£1,000

<b>ARDS 14K</b>	
Small Grants Programme - 2009/10	
Comber Youth for Christ	£1,100
Conlig Village Association	£1,100
Movilla Abbey Senior Citizens	£1,100
North Down Council for Trade Unions	£1,100
Chirpy Chicks Playgroup	£1,100
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2010/11</b>	
Movilla Abbey Coffee House and Senior Citizens Luncheon Club	£1,100
Movilla Abbey Tots	£1,100
<b>Small Grants Programme - 2011/12</b>	
2nd Donaghadee Scout Group	£1,425
Home-Start Ards Comber & Peninsula Area	£1,236
Kiltonga Christian Centre	£722
Millisle Youth Forum	£1,500
Movilla Abbey Coffee House and Senior Citizens Luncheon Club	£1,000

### Neighbourhood Renewal Funds

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Social Development whether money allocated for salaries from Neighbourhood Renewal funds can be used to pay for staff to take higher education courses that are funded by that programme; and how many people in the Foyle area have availed of this provision in the last five years.

**(AQW 16558/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Money allocated for salaries from the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund must only be used towards salaries and associated costs including, where appropriate, Employer National Insurance Contributions and Pension contributions.

My Department is unaware of any instances where Neighbourhood Renewal funding, allocated to a project for the payment of salaries, has been used to pay for people in the Foyle area to take higher education courses.

### Housing in the Greater Dungannon Area

**Ms McGahan** asked the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown of the assessment of need in terms of housing in the greater Dungannon area.

**(AQW 16578/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The housing need projection for five years to 2017 has identified a need for 397 units across the Dungannon District as outlined in the table below. Projections are calculated using waiting list trends, supply trends and other demographic and local information. Please note that Dungannon 1 comprises the area principally to the north of Dungannon town and part of the town centre. Dungannon 2 comprises the remaining area to the south of Dungannon town.



**SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT FOR DUNGANNON BY SETTLEMENT**

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Social Housing Need (Units) 5 Year Projection (2012-17)</b>
District Town:	
Dungannon 1	247
Dungannon 2	0
Moygashel	8
<b>Local Town:</b>	
Coalisland	80
<b>Villages:</b>	
Ackinduff/ Sheer's Place	2
Augher	2
Aughnacloy	0
Ballygawley	2
Benburb	2
Bush	4
Caledon	0
Cappagh	4
Castlecaulfield	6
Clogher	6
Donaghmore	15
Fivemiletown	0
Granville/ Brantry	0
Killyman/ Laghey	6
Mountjoy	2
Moy	7
Newmills	4
<b>Total Social New Build Requirement Dungannon District</b>	<b>397</b>

**Kitchen Replacement Schemes**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 15874/11-15, how many dwellings, out of the 80 that were removed from the Kitchen Replacement Scheme, have already been surveyed; and when the kitchen replacement work on these dwellings will commence.

**(AQW 16586/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** It was necessary to withdraw the 80 dwellings from the scheme prior to the Contractor's Date of Possession as the Housing Executive did not have asbestos surveys carried out for them. The Housing Executive has prioritised asbestos surveys for these properties in order that they are reinstated in the kitchen scheme and the speed with which they can achieve this will depend on their asbestos consultant's success in gaining access to the properties to carry out the surveys.

The Housing Executive assures me that they are confident that the kitchen replacement works for these 80 dwellings will be completed within the current scheme duration.

### **Employment and Support Allowance Assessments**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) whether ATOS pays for travelling expenses incurred when an Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimant cannot attend an assessment centre due to the unsuitability of the premises; (ii) how many ESA claimants have had to be assessed at an alternative centre; (iii) the total cost of providing transport to alternative centres; (iv) the name of each taxi company that has carried out this work; and (v) the total paid to each taxi company for the provision of these services in each month since the introduction of the Work Capability Assessment.

**(AQW 16593/11-15)**

#### **Mr McCausland:**

- (i) Any customer travelling to any Medical Examination Centre for assessment in relation to benefit claims may claim travelling expenses for their journey. Atos Healthcare makes the payment to the customer and customer expenses are then reclaimed by Atos from the Social Security Agency on a monthly basis.
- (ii) Less than 4% of assessments have had to be assessed at an alternative centre (1,375 out of 37,497). This figure includes Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit Reassessment customers as it is not possible to distinguish between the two sets of customers.
- (iii) The total cost of providing transport to alternative centres up to 31 October 2012 was £21,987.
- (iv) To date, Atos Healthcare has used a number of taxi firms to transport customers to assessment centres depending on the customer's address and locality of the centre to be attended. The companies used to date are:
  - Fonacab, Belfast;
  - TC Taxis, Ballymena;
  - Kare Kabs, Bangor;
  - S B Taxis, Portadown; and
  - City Cabs, Foyle.
- (v) The total paid to each individual taxi company for the provision of these services cannot be provided as contractual arrangements with the MSS Supplier deem this as commercially sensitive information.

### **Public Realm Scheme in Waterloo Place, Derry**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Social Development why space for a bus stop was not included in the public realm scheme in Waterloo Place, Derry.

**(AQW 16609/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** A bus stop has been provided as part of the public realm scheme in Waterloo Place in Londonderry. During the design work on the public realm scheme, the provision of a lay-by at this bus stop was considered. However, following consultation with interested parties, it was decided that this feature should not be included. This was because it was felt that including a bus lay-by would detract from the overall aesthetic appearance of the scheme and would encourage illegal parking, which is one of the issues which the scheme aimed to address. In addition, it can be difficult for buses parked in lay-bys to pull back into the traffic stream, which can lead to timetabling delays. A further benefit of the final design is that it helps to ensure that the local traffic, for which the road is primarily provided, moves through this well used pedestrian area in a slow and safe manner giving priority to pedestrians as necessary.

The bus route has been in operation for almost 2 years and there is no evidence that the bus stop is causing undue delay to other road users.

### **Winter Fuel Allowance**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the eligibility criteria for the Winter Fuel Allowance.

**(AQW 16610/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** A Winter Fuel Payment is paid to eligible customers each winter to provide help with fuel bills. This year customers are eligible if they were born on or before 5th July 1951 and are ordinarily resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland for at least 1 day in the qualifying week. The qualifying week for 2012 is 17th-23rd September.

Customers who are resident in a European Economic Area outside the United Kingdom who acquired entitlement to a United Kingdom Winter Fuel Payment prior to moving, retain their entitlement.

### **Winter Fuel Allowance**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development when the Winter Fuel Allowance payments will be due.

**(AQW 16611/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** A Winter Fuel Payment is paid to eligible customers each winter to provide help with fuel bills. Release of payments started on the 3rd November and will continue to the 18th November 2012 with payments crediting to customers accounts by 27th November. The specific release dates are determined by the benefit the customer is entitled to.

For the small amount of customers who are applying for the payment for the first time, the Winter Fuel Payment Centre will make these payments during the period 17th November and 9th December to successful applicants who made their claim before 21st September 2012. Payments will be issued during the period 9th February to 2nd May 2013 for successful applications received after 21st September and before the closing date of 31st March 2013.

### **Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support Allowance Appeals**

**Mr Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development why Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support Allowance appeals are being heard at the Derry City Court House.

**(AQW 16697/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service is now responsible for the operational effectiveness of The Appeals Service and it is incumbent upon them to ensure maximum utilisation of the courts estate and efficient use of public funds. Londonderry Courthouse provides an independent and dignified environment with informal facilities suitable for benefit appeal hearings.

The Appeals Service has increased utilisation of Londonderry Courthouse in addition to the continued use of a number of other local venues. The use of courthouses for social security benefit appeals is not unusual, as hearings can be and are already heard in courthouses throughout Northern Ireland. Business levels are increasing and will continue to rise with the advent of Welfare Reform.

### **People with Special Needs Taking Part in Sporting and Leisure Pursuits**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he can guarantee that people with special needs can take part in sporting and leisure pursuits knowing that their participation will not affect the benefits that they receive.

**(AQW 16732/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** An individual's entitlement to a social security benefit depends on the evidence submitted in support of their claim and whether they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the

particular benefit. I am fully supportive of those individuals with special needs engaging in sporting and leisure activities to enable them to lead full and independent lives. Participation in such activities will have no effect on benefit entitlement except where this is inconsistent with the evidence submitted in support of a claim.

### **Welfare Reform Bill**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQO 2639/11-15, to provide a copy of the letter from the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith, and any letter which was sent in response.  
**(AQW 16735/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** It is not normal practice to routinely publish correspondence between Ministers. I can confirm that I did receive a letter from the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith on Welfare Reform on the 24th May 2012 in which he re-iterated the financial implications under the Statement of Funding Policy of any increased costs being accrued to the Exchequer and the UK Government's position on this matter.

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