

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 21 December 2012

Volume 80, No WA3

Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister WA 305

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development WA 308

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure WA 313

Department of Education WA 321

Department for Employment and Learning..... WA 345

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment WA 354

Department of the Environment..... WA 363

Department of Finance and Personnel WA 383

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety..... WA 394

Department of Justice WA 409

Department for Regional Development..... WA 422

Department for Social Development WA 433

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission..... WA 449

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

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

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

Assembly Members

Agnew, Steven (North Down)
Allister, Jim (North Antrim)
Anderson, 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 21 December 2012

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

The Exception of Teachers from The Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998

Mr Kinahan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the 2004 Equality Commission report 'The Exception of Teachers from The Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998'; and of its recommendation that the exception of the recruitment of secondary school teachers from fair employment law and practice is stopped.

(AQW 14987/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): This is a policy issue under discussion between OFMDFM and DE, who share responsibility for elements of the policy. We have no further comment to make on this at this time.

Delivering Social Change: East Belfast

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, further to their announcement on the signature projects of Delivering Social Change, how the six signature programmes will affect the East Belfast constituency.

(AQW 15372/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The lead departments responsible for the signature projects will be developing Programme Delivery Plans in the coming weeks, with the aim of having work rolled out at the earliest possible opportunity. We anticipate that all zones will benefit in some way from the projects.

PEACE III Funding for the Maze Project

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) who was the lead partner in any application for PEACE III funding in respect of the Maze project; (ii) when any such application was approved by the SEUPB Steering Committee; and (iii) where the minutes of this Steering Committee meeting are available.

(AQW 17092/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation is the lead partner for the PEACE III funding in respect of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre project at Maze/Long Kesh.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) Steering Committee approved the application for the Peace III funding on 15 December 2011.

Minutes of PEACE III Theme 2.2 Steering Committee meetings are produced by, and available from SEUPB.

Childcare Strategy: Welfare Reform

Mr McClarty asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the introduction of Welfare Reform will affect the Childcare Strategy.

(AQW 17300/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In developing the Childcare Strategy, we are aiming to create an environment where childcare is accessible to all parents and to achieve a level of childcare provision that meets the needs of parents and children.

The potential impact of Welfare Reform is one of the significant factors we have taken into account in planning the Childcare Strategy. We recognise that Welfare Reform could result in a potential increase in demand for childcare places and that the Childcare Strategy will need to respond to this demand.

Strategy for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the forthcoming Strategy for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration complies with the Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies which was published by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe High Commissioner on National Minorities on 7 November 2012.

(AQW 17328/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Ljubljana Guidelines provide guidance on how States can work towards increasing integration and social cohesion while ensuring protection and promotion of human rights, including the rights of distinct communities to have their identities protected.

The forthcoming Strategy for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration is being developed primarily to address the continuing division and tensions within our society. This includes issues around cultural identity and the expression of cultural identity. At its very heart, therefore, are the principles that are outlined within the Ljubljana Guidelines.

The Strategy will tackle indigenous inter-community relations and address the increasingly diverse multi-cultural nature of our society alongside the new Racial Equality Strategy.

Victims and Survivors Service: Funding Applications

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) whether there will be an Independent Assessment Panel, or similar group, to assess applications to the Victims and Survivors Service for funding in 2013 to 2015; (ii) to list the names of people appointed to sit on the panel; (iii) the process by which they were appointed; and (iv) the criteria used to assess the suitability of the individuals appointed.

(AQW 17442/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Victims and Survivors Service is establishing two panels to assess the applications to the Service for funding in 2013 to 2015, an Independent Grant Funding Panel and an Independent Grant Funding Appeals Panel.

The overall objective of the panels is to ensure a fair, objective and impartial mechanism for funding applications to be considered.

Positions for both of the panels listed above have been publicly advertised and the appointment process has not yet concluded.

Childcare Strategy

Mr Durkan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Childcare Strategy.

(AQW 17451/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The current Programme for Government includes a commitment to publish and implement a Childcare Strategy to provide integrated and affordable childcare. The

Strategy will be aligned with the primary focus of the Programme for Government, which is to grow the economy and tackle disadvantage.

On 5 December 2012, we launched a public consultation on the Executive's proposed Childcare Strategy. The consultation document "Towards a Childcare Strategy" sets out the vision and principles for a future Childcare Strategy and provides an opportunity for those with an interest to help shape the development of the Strategy. The public consultation process runs until 5 March 2013 after which all comments received will be reviewed and a final Childcare Strategy developed. We have also recently taken decisions that would allow up to a further £4.5 million to be allocated from the central ring-fenced Childcare Fund to support actions on the ground as the Strategy continues to be developed.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to what extent proposals for capital or resource spending, under the Social Investment Fund, will be subject to the normal requirements for the submission of a business case.

(AQW 17602/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The nine Social Investment Steering Groups will prioritise eligible proposals across their zones, supported by their appointed consultants. Strategic proposals for capital and resource spending will be subject to the normal business case requirements before inclusion in the draft area plan for each zone. Area plans will be subject to scrutiny and verification by officials.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail how proposals for capital or resource spending under the Social Investment Fund will be evaluated to ascertain their robustness as business propositions.

(AQW 17605/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: All proposals submitted within the strategic area plans will be subject to economic appraisal in line with the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation.

Assets Management Unit

Mr D Bradley asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for a breakdown of the £87.7m of receipts identified by the Assets Management Unit.

(AQW 17631/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Asset Management Unit (AMU) within the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) has identified assets for disposal as follows, broken down by department:

£ Millions	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total	Actual 2011/12
DARD	0.27			0.27	0.52
DCAL	0.56	0.06		0.62	0.16
DE	1.50	1.71	1.25	4.46	0.64
DFP	0.40	0.09	2.90	3.39	0.58
DEL	0.45			0.45	
DETI					
DHSSPS	3.69	1.26	0.28	5.23	0.24

£ Millions	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total	Actual 2011/12
DOJ					
DOE					
OFMDFM			0.20	0.20	
DRD	1.35	1.60	19.10	22.05	0.7
DSD	16.67	16.67	16.67	50.01	
Totals	24.89	21.39	40.40	86.68	2.84

These projections are based on valuations undertaken by Land and Property Services in early 2012 and will be subject to adjusted valuations and the prevailing property market conditions at the time of disposal. Individual disposals depend on departmental schedules, economic appraisals and commercial considerations in terms of timing and expected price.

Receipts from April 2012 to October 2012 total £18.9m, with a number of additional disposals expected to be completed by the end of the financial year.

AQW 14987/11-15

Mr Kinahan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why they have yet to answer AQW 14987/11-15, which was due for answer on 17 October 2012; and when they will provide an answer to the question.

(AQW 17752/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We refer the Member to the answer to AQW 14987/11-15 issued on 17 December 2012.

Childcare Strategy: Departmental Research

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether their Department was required to conduct its own research on the issue of a childcare strategy; and to outline the rationale for not basing the strategy on the comprehensive and pre-existing research already available, such as that from Employers For Childcare.

(AQW 17931/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: It is essential that the Childcare Strategy is supported by research that is up to date and addresses all of the issues relevant to this policy area. This is why our Department has initiated its own childcare research rather than rely solely on the work of organisations outside government. This research aims to establish current and future demand for childcare, current childcare provision, its cost, any gaps in provision and the groups and communities most affected by these gaps.

It will also take full account of other, recent childcare research, including that of Employers for Childcare.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Mussel Beds in Carlingford Lough

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department owns the mussel beds lying on the Newry side of the proposed bridge over Carlingford Lough.

(AQW 17347/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): My Department does not own mussel beds on the Newry side of the proposed bridge over Carlingford Lough.

30 Day Payment Performance Targets

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how each of her Department's arm's-length bodies has performed on the 30 Day Payment Performance Targets; and whether any sector has been paid more quickly than others.

(AQW 17626/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My arm's-length bodies 30 Day Payment Performance is as follows:

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority	95%
Livestock and Meat Commission	97%
Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)	78%
Loughs Agency	98%

Figures are for 2011/12 financial year except for Loughs Agency which is 2011 calendar year.

As set out in the percentages above, payment performance is good across the ALBs. AFBI has taken action in the current financial year to improve performance, resulting in 92% of payments achieving the 30 day prompt payment target up to 30 November 2012.

Farmers' Debt with Banks

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the amount of financial debt that farmers have with banks and other lending Institutions.

(AQW 17640/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Bank borrowing is an important source of finance for the farming sector. The level of borrowing by farmers fluctuates from year to year, as the figures below indicate.

The following figures are estimates obtained from British Bankers Association data for the north of Ireland and relate to average bank lending to agriculture (including for land purchase) from banks and building societies in the north of Ireland and Britain bank clearing system.

2008	£837 million
2009	£879 million
2010	£855 million
2011	£804 million
2012	£821 million*

* The average for 2012 is based on the first three quarters of the calendar year only while the figures for previous years are annual averages for the calendar year. Note that non-bank lending, trade credit, hire purchase and leasing are not included in the above figures.

2009 Cockle Fishing Experiment

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many tonnes of cockles were destroyed in Belfast Lough after the 2009 Cockle Fishing Experiment.

(AQW 17643/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: While my Department has no record of any physical destruction of cockles in Belfast Lough after the 2009 Pilot Cockle Fishery, scientific assessments of the Holywood Bank beds since the 2009

pilot fishery, have identified year on year reductions in mature cockles, as summarised in the table below:-

Cockle fisheries throughout Britain and the north have been affected by mass mortality and a lack of significant recruitment in recent years, due possibly to influences such as water quality, predation by wading bird species, site dynamics, infection and natural mortality.

I hope you find this helpful.

	October 2010 (tonnes)	March/Apr 2011 (tonnes)	August 2011 (tonnes)	May-July 2012 (tonnes)
Fished area (East of pipe)	12.980	7.538	6.794	6.537
Fished area to West of pipe	9.400	39.971	35.434	2.465
Unfished area to West of pipe	105.653	36.862	27.616	2.563
Area outside designated Fishing area but within Survey area	76.769	17.793	18.871	13.470
Total	204.802	102.164	87.715	25.035

Rural Childcare Programme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of childcare places created through the Rural Childcare Programme; and (ii) the number of jobs created directly through the programme.

(AQW 17662/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: While DARD does not hold primary responsibility for Childcare service provision the Department developed and implemented the pilot Rural Childcare Programme as part of our wider rural poverty and social inclusion work between 2009 and 2011.

The projects supported through the programme created cumulative provision for: (i) 851 new childcare places; (ii) 157.5 permanent full time equivalent jobs and 16.5 temporary full time equivalent jobs.

Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme has now been restricted to priority habitats.

(AQW 17712/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) has not been restricted to priority habitats. It is a whole farm Scheme which means that participants must enter all owned eligible land, which is not leased out and is held by the farm business, into the Scheme. Whilst these areas may contain priority habitats, not all of the land will be classified as such. NICMS was oversubscribed in the 2008 and 2010 application periods. Therefore applications were prioritised based on a set of environmental criteria. This meant that applications with priority habitats were selected above applications which did not have these habitats. Prioritising applications in this way maximises environmental benefit to the countryside. The NICMS, however, continues to work towards its environmental aims relating to biodiversity, water quality, landscape and climate change across all land under agreement.

Environmental Protection Schemes

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department has any plans to invest in environmental protection and enhanced schemes.

(AQW 17713/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department currently funds environmental protection and enhancement measures through the on-going delivery of agri-environment schemes.

There are 12,100 farmers participating in DARD agri-environment schemes, managing some 450,000 ha of land. This represents 44% of the agricultural area, and approximately £25m of funding is paid to farmers in these schemes each year.

An agri-environment scheme for the next Rural Development Programme period 2014-2020 is being developed. The next scheme will continue to provide funding for environmental protection and enhancement.

The reform of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy is ongoing, and the outcome of this process will help to shape the parameters of the next agri-environment scheme. However, it is envisaged that the scheme will include measures which aim to sustain and enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, increase woodland creation, and help to mitigate against climate change.

Relocation of Forest Service Posts

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the proposal to relocate Forest Service posts.

(AQW 17757/11-15)

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

Forest Service is working through the business case requirements for the relocation of Headquarters to Co Fermanagh which will inform the requirements of the new premises.

Forest Service has identified 57 posts currently located in Headquarters that will need to be considered for relocation. Forest Service will work closely with DARD DHR to find alternative posts for existing staff who are not re-headquartered to Co Fermanagh. Forest Service will consult with TUS throughout the process.

Funding to Tyrone Gaelic Athletic Association

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the funding Tyrone Gaelic Athletic Association has received from her Department, or its arms length bodies, in each of the last 5 years.

(AQW 17815/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As the member will be aware the Quality of Life Axis (Axis 3) of the EU Rural Development Programme is delivered through the EU LEADER approach by seven Joint Council Committees (JCCs) working in partnership with a Local Action Group (LAG) in Council Cluster areas.

Assisting Rural Communities (ARC) North West (NW) is responsible for delivery across the council areas of Omagh, Strabane, Derry and Limavady, and has awarded two Letters of Offer to Tyrone County GAA Committee following two separate open, competitive calls for applications:

- Letter of Offer of 22 May 2012 for £250,000 grant assistance toward an environmental and heritage project.
- Letter of Offer of 27 November 2012 for £594,656 grant assistance toward a floodlit 3G multi-activity facility.

Ash Dieback Disease

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) to provide an update on the inventory of woodland which her Department is committed to publishing; and (ii) whether this inventory

will include types and species and all research which is being gathered at present regarding Ash Dieback disease.

(AQW 17998/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) A preliminary woodland register providing a summary of woodland area and type by county, with a further breakdown by townland, has been published on the Forest Service website. The register is currently being refined to take account of areas of woodland captured by the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) project, and, using satellite imagery and analytical techniques, to exclude areas of non-woodland. Forest Service will update the published register at the end of this business year.
- (ii) The preliminary woodland register records woodland type into the categories broadleaf, conifer, mixed conifer/broadleaf, open ground, short rotation coppice or awaiting replanting or natural regeneration. A breakdown by tree species is not included.

In response to ash dieback disease, Forest Service has developed a separate electronic data capture and monitoring system based on GIS technology. This new spatial dataset may be used in conjunction with our existing GIS dataset, on which the woodland register is based, to map the current and future extent of the disease.

Ash Dieback Disease

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) whether she will consider options for enlisting the help and support of the general public to report on the health of trees to help eradicate Ash Dieback; (ii) whether she is aware of the bid for £2.5 million by the Forestry Commission, the Food and Environment Research Agency, the National Trust and The Woodland Trust for funding from the EU Life Fund, for a five year project to enable tree health scientists to extend their research and knowledge of the health of the UK's trees; (iii) whether she is aware of plans by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to support this bid; and (iv) whether she has plans for a similar approach.

(AQW 18000/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) At the Chalara Stakeholder meeting in Parliament Buildings on Tuesday 11 December, I indicated that partnerships were key in responding to the disease. At this time of year, when the trees are not in leaf, I am focusing on engaging professionals in the forestry, horticulture and landscape industries, together with professionals in central and local government, by providing training on disease recognition and circulating the relevant information. As the causal link between symptoms and the disease are difficult, even for professional, to confirm at this time of year, I plan to delay greater involvement with the general public until next summer. By that time, we will have completed our immediate surveys linked to trade, and have started on wider surveillance around sites of known infection. In the mean time the Department has a help line for the general public where we take calls about trees of concern, our website has links to photographs of disease symptoms and we have posters in our forest parks about basic bio-security.

(ii), (iii) and (iv)

I am aware of the bid made for EU Life Funding and, if successful, we would expect that the research would improve our knowledge about Chalara ash die-back as well as other causes of ill-health in trees.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Departmental Contracts

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many apprentices have been employed through departmental contracts in this financial year; and what percentage this number represents of the total posts allocated.

(AQW 15258/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Under the Programme-Led Apprenticeship (PLA) programme, introduced by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in September 2009, NICS Departments contribute by providing work placements for participants. While DCAL does not currently provide placements my Department remains committed to providing work placements for participants on this PLA programme.

With regard to the Stadium Programme, which my Department is funding and supporting, contractors will be required to identify the creation of sustainable ring-fenced apprentice opportunities for a designated number of new apprenticeships recruited from those sectors of society assessed as suffering greatest socio-economic inequalities, within those areas assessed as suffering greatest objective need and deprivation.

In addition, 5% of the contractor's workforce (if the contractor has 20 or more employees) must be employed on formally recognised paid apprenticeships.

And, 5% of the workforce of each first tier subcontractor (with 20 or more employees) must be employed on recognised paid apprenticeships.

Additional apprenticeship requirement will be identified on both the redevelopment of the IFA New National Stadium and the UCGAA Casement Park, which will commensurate with the scale of investment.

Funding to Derry City Football Club

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department and its arm's-length bodies have awarded to Derry City Football Club in each of the last five years.

(AQW 15512/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Neither my Department nor its arms-length bodies have awarded any funding to Derry City Football Club over the last five financial years.

Administration Costs

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why has there been a 4.9 percent increase in her Department's administration costs in six months in 2012/13, as outlined in Table H of the Minister of Finance and Personnel's statement to the Assembly on 12 November 2012.

(AQW 16773/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: There has not been a 4.9% increase in my Department's administration costs in the first six months of 2012/13.

Table H refers to a change in the Department's budget for administration costs for the full financial year 2012/13. This budget has increased to support a number of new priorities.

The Department's overall budget has not increased to accommodate this support; reduced requirements have been identified in other areas that have allowed transfer of the necessary budget without impacting on front line service provision.

Ulster Orchestra

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department has provided the Ulster Orchestra in each of the last five years; and what this represents as a percentage of the overall funding accessed in each year by the Orchestra.

(AQW 17091/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department through the Arts Council provided the following funding to the Ulster Orchestra over the last five years:

Year	Amount	Percentage of overall funding
2011/12	£2,205,315	52%
2010/11	£2,211,720	53%
2009/10	£2,050,113	51%
2008/09	£2,050,113	52%
2007/08	£1,967,238	49%

Illegal Netting

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much illegal netting has been seized in Lough Neagh in each month since January 2012; and how many people have been caught using illegal netting by wardens.

(AQW 17136/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The table below details the number of illegal nets seized and their combined length.

DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers have detected 21 persons using illegal nets on Lough Neagh during this period.

SUMMARY OF ILLEGAL NETS SEIZED AT LOUGH NEAGH JANUARY - OCTOBER 2012

Month	Number of panel nets	Length of Panel nets seized	Number of Fyke Nets
January	1	1000M	0
February	13	11395M	0
March	8	3500m	0
April	0	0m	0
May	4	3600m	10
June	2	800m	0
July	3	550m	1
August	3	6600m	0
September	0	0m	0
October	29	7500m	2
Total	63	34945m	13

Cross-Community Engagement

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) what grants are available to encourage cross community engagement in soccer clubs; and (ii) the eligibility criteria for each grant. **(AQW 17187/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín: At present, Sport NI has no funding programmes open for application.

Cross-Community Engagement

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the number of grants awarded for cross-community engagement in soccer clubs; and (ii) to whom the grants were allocated, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 17188/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI does not provide funding specifically aimed at cross-community engagement in soccer clubs. However, in 2010 Sport NI amended the terms and conditions of its funding to include a clause in relation to equality and good relations. As a result, applicants must operate an equal opportunity policy during and after completion of the project. They must also take all reasonable steps to ensure that the facilities and premises assisted shall be run in an inclusive manner which will aspire to, and promote, good relations.

In the last 3 financial years Sport NI has made 82 awards to soccer clubs with 26 grants awarded in 2009/10; 39 grants in 2010/11 and 17 grants in 2011/12. Details of where grants were allocated, by constituency, are detailed in the table attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

Constituency	Award Date	Organisation Name	Total
Belfast East	2009/10	H & W Welders FC	£75,488
	2009/10	Knockbreda FC	£87,100
	2010/11	Cregagh Wanderers Youth FC	£3,127
	2011/12	Belfast United Women's Football Club	£6,385
	2011/12	Cregagh Wanderers Youth FC	£1,673
	2010/11	Glentoran FC	£30,000
	2010/11	Glentoran FC	£15,000
	2011/12	Glentoran FC	£14,350
Belfast East Total			£233,123
Belfast North	2009/10	Crusaders FC	£209,075
	2009/10	Crusaders FC	£231,631
	2009/10	Crusaders Youth FC	£9,021
	2010/11	Brantwood FC	£1,776
	2010/11	Crusaders FC	£8,000
	2010/11	St Patricks FC	£2,650
	2010/11	St Patrick's Young Men/Girls FC	£4,250
	2010/11	Shamrock FC	£2,273

Constituency	Award Date	Organisation Name	Total
	2010/11	Crusaders FC	£27,506
	2010/11	Crusaders FC	£29,984
	2010/11	Crusaders FC	£215,280
	2011/12	Crusaders FC	£431,300
	2011/12	Crusaders Youth FC	£1,386
	2011/12	Newington FC	£2,312
	2011/12	St Patricks FC	£1,053
Belfast North Total			£1,177,497
Belfast South	2010/11	Linfield FC	£9,675
	2010/11	Linfield FC	£43,906
	2011/12	Aquinas FC	£1,795
Belfast South Total			£55,376
Belfast West	2009/10	Sport and Leisure FC	£87,050
	2010/11	Donegal Celtic FC	£20,204
	2010/11	Donegal Celtic FC	£28,750
	2011/12	Glendowan Boys FC	£5,014
	2011/12	Sport and Leisure FC	£1,791
Belfast West Total			£142,809
East Antrim	2009/10	Greenisland FC	£3,076
	2009/10	Greenisland FC	£985
	2010/11	Carrick Rangers FC	£22,849
	2010/11	Larne FC	£23,325
	2010/11	Carrick Rangers FC	£29,911
	2010/11	Larne FC	£29,875
	2011/12	Carrick Rangers FC	£245,000
East Antrim Total			£355,021
East Londonderry	2009/10	Portstewart FC	£79,713
	2010/11	Coleraine FC	£29,850
	2010/11	Coleraine FC	£37,217
East Londonderry Total			£146,780
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	2009/10	Dungannon Swifts FC	£232,000
	2009/10	Ballinamallard United FC	£87,050
	2009/10	Ballinamallard United FC	£132,978

Constituency	Award Date	Organisation Name	Total
	2010/11	Lisnaskea Rovers FC	£4,987
	2011/12	Dungannon United Youth FC	£4,024
Fermanagh & South Tyrone Total			£461,039
Foyle	2010/11	Institute FC	£686,135
	2010/11	Institute FC	£121,865
Foyle Total			£808,000
Mid Ulster	2009/10	Moyola Park AFC	£83,079
	2010/11	Draperstown Celtic FC	£1,848
Mid Ulster Total			£84,927
Newry & Armagh	2009/10	Tullyvallen Rangers FC	£192,494
	2009/10	Newry City FC	£231,500
	2009/10	Laurelvale FC	£1,073
	2009/10	Newry City FC	£8,500
	2010/11	Armagh City FC	£84,080
	2010/11	Newry City FC	£28,737
	2010/11	Newry City FC	£29,950
	2011/12	Newry City FC	£2,335
Newry & Armagh Total			£578,669
North Antrim	2009/10	Ballymena United FC	£250,015
	2009/10	Ballymena United FC	£217,035
	2010/11	Ballymena United FC	£557,985
	2010/11	Ballymoney United FC	£5,033
North Antrim Total			£1,030,068
North Down	2010/11	1st Bangor Ladies FC	£1,813
North Down Total			£1,813
Constituency	Award Date	Organisation Name	Total
South Antrim	2009/10	Ballyclare Comrades FC	£232,000
	2010/11	Ballyclare Comrades FC	£29,682
	2010/11	Ballyclare Comrades FC	£29,970
	2011/12	Crumlin United FC	£232,600
South Antrim Total			£524,252
South Down	2009/10	Warrenpoint Town FC	£245,000
	2010/11	Tollymore United FC	£2,707

Constituency	Award Date	Organisation Name	Total
	2011/12	Castlewellan FC	£1,126
	2011/12	Moneyslane Football Club	£245,000
South Down Total			£493,833
Strangford	2009/10	Dungoyne Boys FC	£7,375
Strangford Total			£7,375
Upper Bann	2009/10	Glenavon FC	£347,000
	2009/10	Lurgan Celtic FC	£77,905
	2009/10	Annagh United FC	£84,872
	2009/10	Portadown FC	£314,495
	2010/11	Glenavon FC	£19,062
	2010/11	Portadown FC	£18,801
	2010/11	Portadown FC	£29,979
	2010/11	Glenavon FC	£5,342
	2010/11	Dollingstown FC	£30,000
	2011/12	Annagh United FC	£6,982
Upper Bann Total			£934,438
Grand Total			£7,035,020

Sport in the Community Project

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 16281/11-15, whether there is any direct duplication of provision between the Department for Social Development's Sport in the Community Project and the projects delivered by Sport NI.

(AQW 17273/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for checking that there is no duplication of existing provision rests with the owner of Project, in this case, the Department for Social Development (DSD). DSD has advised that "in managing all projects, the Voluntary and Community Unit applies the principles of the Urban Regeneration and Community Development (URCDG) Common Procedures which require checks on other funding to Groups making applications to URCDG funding to ensure that there is no duplication".

In addition, DSD has stated to DCAL that the primary purpose of it's Sport in the Community Project is to support its Volunteering Strategy, which aims to develop new volunteering opportunities, increase volunteer involvement and promote good practice in volunteer management. These objectives complement, but do not duplicate, the objectives of projects delivered by Sport NI.

Cost of the Event in Custom House Square

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to her response to AQW 13899-/11-15 where she stipulates 'This funding will be met from within the Department's Líofo budget' and her response to AQW 15953/11-15 where she stipulates 'There is no specific Líofo budget', which of these is correct.

(AQW 17274/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: AQW 15953/11-15 is correct - 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 Líofo's first Anniversary Birthday Event.

The answer provided to you in relation to AQW 13899/11-15 " The Líofo Birthday event at Custom House Square cost £17,972. This funding will be met from within the Department's Líofo budget" should for clarity purposes have emphasised that the costs were being met from the Líofo Birthday budget. There is no general Líofo budget.

As part of the June Monitoring Round, a number of reduced requirements were identified across the Department and its Arms Length Bodies. These available funds were allocated to allow priorities one of which was the Líofo birthday event.

Department Electricity Costs

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail her Department's electricity costs in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 17292/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department incurred the following electricity charges in the last three financial years:

2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
£234,973	£183,293	£119,388

Boddagh and Black Boddagh Fish in the Lough Neagh Basin

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 16550/11-15, whether the status report of stock levels in the Lough Neagh Basin and its tributaries will be recorded by species rather than by the generic term trout.

(AQW 17349/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Northern Ireland Trout Stock Status report under compilation by Agri-Foods and Biosciences Institute will be based on the distribution and numbers of juvenile brown trout recorded alongside salmon in electro-fishing of rivers under the Salmon Management Strategy (SMS). The Lough Neagh/Bann system tributaries covered by this analysis of SMS data will include the Rivers Main, Blackwater and Clady.

As the surveys are of juveniles in spawning and nursery areas, the report will not differentiate between migratory or resident groups. The progeny of river resident trout, lake growing trout with river spawning and sea growing trout with river spawning are all recorded and are not differentiated in the SMS data.

Antrim's Centre of Participation at Dunsilly

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what funding her Department has allocated to develop Antrim's Centre of Participation at Dunsilly.

(AQW 17408/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In October 2009, Sport NI provided £225,000 under its Places for Sport programme towards the construction of a full size sand carpet Gaelic pitch at Dunsilly. This pitch development was part of the first phase of the Centre of Excellence project. Sport NI has received no further applications for funding in relation to the Centre.

Funding Agreement: Odyssey Trust Company

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given that the Funding Agreement of 21 December 1998 relating to the Odyssey Trust Company (OTC) requires that none of the OTC directors, employees or service providers are paid salaries, fees or emoluments which exceed reasonable

and proper open market and arm's-length commercial rates, how her Department ensures that this obligation is being met in circumstances where the Department has not had access to the independent report commissioned by OTC.

(AQW 17476/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The independent remuneration report referred to in my response to AQW4288/11-15 was commissioned by the Trustees of the Odyssey Trust Company. While my Department does not hold a copy of this report it had full access to its findings and recommendations which were presented by the Remuneration Committee to the Board of Trustees. A senior departmental official attended this meeting.

Active Communities Sports

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the financial support given by her Department to the Active Communities Sports coaching in the last 2 years, and (ii) the projected spend for the rest of this Assembly mandate.

(AQW 17536/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI's Active Communities programme is a sports Lottery programme. My Department does not, therefore, provide exchequer funding to the programme.

In the last two financial years, however, Sport NI has provided £4,886,205 Lottery funding to Active Communities. Furthermore, an indicative Lottery budget of £7,515,736 is profiled for Active Communities for the period 1 April 2012 until 30 September 2014.

Bliain Na Gaeilge/The Year of Irish Language

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps she is taking to encourage Irish language communities and groups to participate in Bliain Na Gaeilge/The Year of Irish Language.

(AQW 17601/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department's Lófa Development Officer is working with Bliain na Gaeilge to ensure that where possible the Lófa initiative promotes Bliain na Gaeilge/ The Year of Irish Language. For example, Lófa and Bliain na Gaeilge are cooperating to develop a New Year's Resolution campaign in relation to learning Irish, Lófa sign-up links are embedded in the Bliain na Gaeilge website and Lófa is planning an Irish Language event in September 2013 and this will complement Bliain na Gaeilge.

My Department and Foras na Gaeilge are represented on the working group of Bliain na Gaeilge.

Foras na Gaeilge have approved a grant of €25,000 for promotional materials for Bliain na Gaeilge. Foras na Gaeilge will also actively promote activities related to Bliain na Gaeilge 2013 throughout the year and groups interested in organising celebratory events will be able to apply for funding under their small grants schemes in 2013.

30 Day Payment Performance Targets

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how each of her Department's arm's-length bodies has performed on the 30 Day Payment Performance Targets; and whether any sector has been paid more quickly than others.

(AQW 17620/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Performance against the 30 day prompt payment target by the Department's ALBs for the current year to date is as follows:

ALB	Success rate (%)
Arts Council	100
Ni Screen	98

ALB	Success rate (%)
Armagh Observatory and planetarium	100
National Museums	100
Museums Council	98
Libraries NI	98
Sport NI	99
World Police and Fire Games	100
The Language Body	95
Waterways Ireland	77

Records are not maintained on performance against the target across business sectors.

Late Payment

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how the late payment directive currently going through Westminster will affect her Department.

(AQW 17622/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Directive to which you refer (2011/7/EU) is based on already existing legislation in this country and will essentially extend the protections already enjoyed by local businesses across the European Union. The only difference is that the Directive provides for minimum compensation of approximately £31; current law provides for a three tiered payment depending on contract value.

The Directive will therefore have minimal impact on this Department and any other public authority.

Arts Council: Band Instruments

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when the Arts Council will commence a programme for the purchase of band instruments.

(AQW 17787/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Arts Council is likely to commence a programme for the purchase of band instruments in April 2013. The exact dates and times have yet to be agreed.

Department of Education

Teachers Suspended from Schools

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) principals; and (ii) teachers who have received (a) precautionary; and (b) medical suspensions from schools over the last five years, broken down by (1) sector; (2) gender; (3) primary or post-primary; and (4) the total number of weeks of each suspension.

(AQW 17453/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The table below provides details of the total number of suspensions from schools over the last five complete financial years, broken down by (1) sector, (2) gender, (3) primary or post-primary and (4) the total number of weeks of each suspension.

Details are not broken down by type of suspension as the Department does not hold this information. Suspension details for teachers and principals have been merged in order to prevent possible identification of individuals.

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
1	✓					✓			✓	0.3
2	✓					✓		✓		0.4
3		✓				✓		✓		0.6
4		✓				✓		✓		0.7
5		✓				✓		✓		0.9
6	✓					✓			✓	1
7			✓			✓		✓		1
8			✓			✓		✓		1
9			✓				✓	✓		1
10	✓					✓			✓	2
11		✓					✓		✓	2
12		✓				✓		✓		2
13		✓				✓		✓		2
14		✓				✓		✓		2
15		✓				✓			✓	2
16	✓					✓		✓		3
17	✓					✓				3
18	✓						✓			3

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
19		✓			✓				✓	3
20		✓				✓		✓		3
21		✓				✓		✓		3
22		✓			✓			✓		3
23		✓				✓			✓	3
24		✓				✓		✓		3
25										3
26		✓				✓		✓		3
27	✓					✓			✓	4
28		✓			✓				✓	4
29		✓			✓				✓	4
30		✓				✓		✓		4
31		✓			✓			✓		4
32		✓				✓			✓	4
33		✓				✓		✓		4
34		✓				✓			✓	4
35		✓				✓			✓	4
36		✓				✓		✓		4

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
37	✓				✓			✓		5
38	✓								✓	5
39		✓						✓		5
40		✓							✓	5
41		✓						✓		5
42		✓							✓	5
43	✓								✓	6
44		✓						✓		6
45		✓						✓		6
46		✓						✓		6
47		✓						✓		7
48		✓						✓		7
49		✓						✓		7
50		✓						✓		7
51		✓						✓		7
52	✓								✓	8
53	✓								✓	8
54										8

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
55		√					√		√	8
56	√				√				√	9
57	√					√			√	9
58		√					√	√		9
59		√					√	√		9
60	√					√			√	10
61	√						√		√	10
62		√					√	√		10
63		√					√		√	10
64	√						√		√	11
65		√				√		√		11
66		√					√	√		11
67		√					√	√		11
68	√						√	√		12
69		√				√			√	12
70		√					√	√		13
71		√					√	√		13
72		√					√	√		13

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
73		√			√				√	14
74		√				√			√	15
75	√					√	√			18
76		√				√	√			19
77	√				√				√	20
78		√				√	√			20
79	√					√	√			22
80		√				√		√		23
81		√				√	√		√	25
82		√				√	√		√	25
83	√				√				√	26
84		√				√				31
85										36
86										38
87										38
88	√					√			√	39
89	√					√			√	42
90		√				√			√	42

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
91		√					√	√		43
92		√			√			√		48
93	√						√	√		49
94	√						√	√		50
95		√			√			√		50
96										51
97		√					√	√		53
98	√				√			√		54
99		√			√			√		60
100		√					√	√		61
101	√						√		√	64
102	√						√		√	66
103		√					√	√		66
104	√					√		√		68
105	√						√	√		76
106	√					√			√	78
107		√					√	√		90
108	√					√			√	101

Principals/ Teachers	Education Sectors				Gender		School Type			Total Number of weeks suspended
	Controlled	Maintained	Grant- Maintained Integrated	Other-Main- tained	M	F	Primary	Post- Primary	Special	
109	√					√		√		105
110		√			√		√			115
111		√				√	√			115
112	√				√			√		117
113	√				√				√	121
114	√				√			√		126
115		√			√			√		147
Total*	38	71			39	70	61	35	13	N/A

* Totals shown sum to 109 because six teachers were suspended in the Grant Maintained Integrated & Other Maintained sectors. Details have not been included due to a risk of possible identification.

Controlled figures include controlled Integrated Overall figures do not include Voluntary Grammar Schools.

Raymond McCreesh Park in Newry

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the minutes of the Newry and Mourne District Council Technical/Environmental Services Committee meeting on 26 October 2009, what involvement the Southern Education and Library Board had in the development of the Raymond McCreesh Park in Newry.

(AQW 17663/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education & Library Board has no role in the development or management of the play park other than its involvement in the creation of an art installation designed by local primary school children and attached to a side wall on the site.

Welfare Reform

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has any plans to undertake an assessment of the projected costs to education as a result of the implementation of the welfare reforms; and to outline these assessments.

(AQW 17691/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Universal Credit (UC) will be introduced as part of the Welfare Reform Agenda and will replace a number of existing social welfare benefits including five of the benefits currently used to determine eligibility for free school meals and school uniform grants. These five benefits are the qualifying criteria for the majority of all claims for free school meals so an amendment to the Department's eligibility criteria will be required to facilitate the introduction of UC.

The projected costs will depend on the approach to be adopted which has not yet been decided.

Work is currently underway to assess the potential impact of the introduction of UC on areas of Departmental expenditure. I will be giving careful consideration to the findings of this analysis once it has been completed.

Science: The World Around Us

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education (i) for his assessment of the impact on the uptake and teaching of science following the incorporation of the teaching of science into 'The World Around Us' in 2006; (ii) for his assessment of the level of science taught in primary schools; and (iii) whether he has any plans to refocus the curriculum on the teaching of science.

(AQW 17692/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) assessment of the impact on the uptake and teaching of science following the incorporation of the teaching of science into 'The World Around Us' in 2006;

The revised curriculum, which is now in place in all grant aided schools, was introduced on a phased basis between September 2007 and June 2010 and is in the process of being embedded in schools here. It is therefore too soon to say what impact the incorporation of the teaching of science into 'The World Around Us' has had on the uptake and teaching of science.

My Department currently measures the uptake of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects using examination entries. An analysis based on examination entries at the end of Key Stage 4 indicates that the proportion of GCSE entries in STEM subjects increased by 2.4 percentage points over the period 2005/06 to 2010/11. Over the same time period, the proportion of entries in STEM A Level subjects increased by 3.4 percentage points. Across individual A-Level STEM subjects there has been an upward trend since 2004/05.

- (ii) for his assessment of the level of science taught in primary schools;

During the period of 2009-2012, the Education and Training Inspectorate Primary inspection findings indicate that in 77% of the World Around Us lessons observed, the quality of the teaching was good or better. This data includes the contributory subjects of science and technology, geography and history.

The results from the recently published Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) ranked our primary school performance in science 21st out of 50 countries surveyed, with a scale score significantly above the international average. The PISA 2009 results of our 15 years olds also placed our pupils above the OECD international average in science.

(iii) If there are any plans to refocus the curriculum on the teaching of science.

The revised Primary Curriculum contains a number of statutory 'Areas of Learning' and emphasises the development of the 'Cross-Curricular Skills' and the 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities'. Science and Technology (along with History and Geography) is one of the three contributory elements of the area of learning The World Around Us and I have no plans at this moment to seek a comprehensive review of the primary curriculum.

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education when the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools ended its mandatory requirement of a Certificate in Religious Education for all those seeking appointment to a permanent teaching position in a Catholic Maintained post-primary school; and to give the reason for this position.

(AQW 17750/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) requirement to possess a Certificate in Religious Education for all those seeking appointment to a permanent teaching position here applies to Catholic Maintained Primary and Nursery schools only. This is to recognise that Nursery and Primary schools have a pivotal role in preparing children to receive each of the Sacraments.

There has never been a requirement to possess the Certificate to work in Post Primary schools however some schools may seek the Certificate as a job related criterion.

Nursery Provision

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what long term actions are proposed to address nursery provision in North Down.

(AQW 17794/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: 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.

Of the 23,134 applications received from parents of target age children for 2012/13 pre-school places, 22,537 resulted in the offer of a funded place. Of the remaining applications:

- 24 were from parents who engaged fully with the process, but whose children remained unplaced at its conclusion;
- 31 were from parents who submitted late applications;
- 542 were from parents who chose not to engage fully with the admissions process by expressing further preferences when invited to do so.

I have increased the budget (4.13% higher than in 2012/13) available for the pre-school programme and my Department has liaised with Education and Library Boards (ELBs) so they can secure the estimated number of funded places required for the 2013/14 school year.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) PEAG is currently considering a further three voluntary/private settings located in Bangor for inclusion in the pre-school programme for 2013/14.

In addition, I am considering a development proposal which has been published by the SEELB for a 26 part-time place nursery unit at Ballymagee Primary School.

My officials will continue to work closely with the SEELB to respond to the demand for funded places in the North Down area.

Pre-School Applications

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many pre-school applications were received from residents of (i) BT 19; (ii) BT 20; (iii) BT 21; (iv) BT 22; and (v) BT 23 in each of the last three academic years.

(AQW 17824/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At the end of the Pre-School Admissions process for places in September 2012 the number of pre-school applications received from children in their final pre-school year, broken down by the relevant postcodes, is as follows:

(i)	BT19	445
(ii)	BT20	260
(iii)	BT21	82
(iv)	BT22	212
(v)	BT23	580

Applications for admission to places in 2010 and 2011 were not recorded by postcode and information for these years is therefore not available in the format requested.

Part-Time Schooling

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of young people who are currently educated in a mixture of part-time schooling and part-time home education; and for his assessment of this form of education.

(AQW 17848/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards have confirmed that they are not aware of any young people being educated in a mixture of part-time schooling and part-time home education. The Department does not hold information on the number of young people who are schooled in this manner in the voluntary grammar or grant maintained integrated sector.

The Department has not undertaken an assessment of flexi-schooling and has no plans to do so.

New Bangor Grammar School Site, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education whether his Department looked into the issue of road safety for pupils at the new Bangor Grammar School site.

(AQW 17891/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Board of Governors of Bangor Grammar School are the contracting authority for the new school and it is the responsibility of the school's Board of Governors to ensure the road safety for pupils at the new Bangor Grammar School site. The school's Project Manager for the new school build has, therefore, confirmed that as a result of extensive consultation with Planning Service and Roads Service the following traffic/pedestrian safety elements have been incorporated:

- Right turning lane into the school from the Gransha Road;
- Puffin pedestrian crossing off the Gransha Road;
- Traffic set down and pick up bays on the Gransha Road;

- Improved footpath works and street lighting to the school frontage;
- Bus parking and traffic set down /pick up areas within the school grounds;
- Extensive parking facilities for staff ,visitors and pupils;
- Segregated pedestrian and cycle routes within the school grounds;
- Dedicated bicycle parking within the school grounds;
- Overflow parking has been facilitated on the school playground for specific busy school events.

The works on the public road have now been completed and accepted by Road Service for adoption.

Nursery School

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education what plans he has to address nursery school provision in North Down.

(AQW 17893/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: 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.

Of the 23,134 applications received from parents of target age children for 2012/13 pre-school places, 22,537 resulted in the offer of a funded place. Of the remaining applications:

- 24 were from parents who engaged fully with the process, but whose children remained unplaced at its conclusion;
- 31 were from parents who submitted late applications;
- 542 were from parents who chose not to engage fully with the admissions process by expressing further preferences when invited to do so.

I have increased the budget (4.13% higher than in 2012/13) available for the pre-school programme and my Department has liaised with Education and Library Boards (ELBs) so they can secure the estimated number of funded places required for the 2013/14 school year.

The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) PEAG is currently considering a further three voluntary/private settings located in Bangor for inclusion in the pre-school programme for 2013/14.

In addition, I am considering a development proposal which has been published by the SEELB for a 26 part-time place nursery unit at Ballymagee Primary School.

My officials will continue to work closely with the SEELB to respond to the demand for funded places in the North Down area.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education, further to his statement that the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) will need to ensure that it has staff with knowledge and expertise in Irish-medium education, to detail the number of such staff required at each grade or level within the ESA and any employment criteria that will be applied to such posts.

(AQW 17906/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: An Irish Medium Education Project Manager has been seconded to the ESA Implementation Team (ESAIT) to advise ESAIT and my Department on the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Irish Medium Review. This Project Manager shall also advise on what may be required within ESA to promote and develop Irish-medium education. This work is ongoing.

Education and Library Board: Running Costs

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of running each Education and Library Board in the last financial year; and the estimated cost of the Education and Skills Authority in its first year.

(AQW 17907/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The cost of running each of Education and Library Board (ELB) in the last financial year is provided in their published annual accounts. The annual accounts for SEELB and SELB have not yet been laid. The running costs of the other three ELBs are detailed below:

ELB	Running Costs £'000
BELB	253,693
NEELB	315,912
WELB	313,334

Notes: This information is contained in Note 32 of the ELB Annual Accounts and relates to DE funded costs only in respect of Schools and Youth.

The budgets for 2013-14 have not yet been finalised. A high level estimate of the annual budget for the Education and Skills Authority in 2013-14 is c£1.8bn.

GCSE: Abolish and Replace

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the decision by the Secretary of State for Education to abolish and replace GCSEs.

(AQW 17934/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Decisions on any changes to GCSEs here are a devolved matter and I will ensure that all short term and long term impacts are considered as well as issues of equality. That is why I recently announced a fundamental review of GCSE and GCE A Level qualifications here. I have seen no evidence to date that there is any cause for concern but am open to considering new ideas. Until I receive the final report arising from this review I will make no decisions on the future of qualifications here.

My Department will remain in regular contact with the Department for Education and will consider any impact on pupils here of potential changes to GCSEs offered in England, should they be adopted.

I also note the outcome of the recent review of qualifications in Wales whereby GCSEs and GCEs will be retained and strengthened.

Centralised Body of Parent Representatives

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education, in light of recent studies that show Northern Ireland schools performing well in mathematics, whether his Department will now consider establishing a centralised body of parent representatives to ensure a coordinated approach and sharing of best practice.

(AQW 17962/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: With regard to the results from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), which were published on 11 December 2012, I have no plans to establish a centralised body of parent representative to ensure a coordinated approach and sharing of best practice.

TIMSS is an international comparison study of mathematics and science achievement at ages 9-10 (primary 6 children). The results show that primary school pupils are performing well above the international average in numeracy, where they are ranked 6th out of 50 countries surveyed. In science, our pupils are ranked 21st and also scored significantly above the international average.

Schools in the north of Ireland also took part in a parallel international comparison study of reading achievement at ages 9-10, called Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and were ranked 5th out of 45 participating countries.

It is clear that the characteristics of a good school, set out in 'Every School a Good School - a Policy for School Improvement', are being embedded in our school system: good teaching and good leadership with strong community engagement and a clear focus on the needs of the pupil. My policies aimed at raising educational standards, including the sharing of best practice, are having a direct and positive impact on pupil attainment.

The education authorities continue to work with schools to ensure the dissemination of best practice. In addition, ESaGS.tv provides a resource through which outstanding or very good practice highlighted in school inspection reports is made available to schools and teachers on demand and at the point of need.

Special Educational Needs

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education how many (i) pre-school; (ii) primary school; and (iii) post-primary school children living in the Strabane district have a statement of special educational needs for autism.

(AQW 17977/11-15)

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

Pupils resident in the Strabane district council area who are recorded as having Autism and also have a statement of special educational needs¹ – 2011/12

School type	Total pupils
Voluntary and Private preschools ²	0
Nursery schools ²	0
Nursery units and reception	0
Primary schools Year 1 - 7	23
Post-primary schools	11
Special schools	26
Total	60

Source: school census

Note:

- 1 Figures include pupils at stage 5 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice only.
- 2 Figures relate to nursery school and voluntary and private preschool centre location, as individual pupil address information is not held by the Department.

Special Educational Needs

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education how many (i) pre-school; (ii) primary school; and (iii) post-primary school children in Strabane, who have been diagnosed with autism, are awaiting a statement of special educational needs; and how many children with autism have been refused a statement in the last twelve months.

(AQW 17978/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am advised by the Western Education and Library Board of the following.

Awaiting Statement for Mainstream Schools	Numbers
Pre- School	0
Primary School	0
Post Primary School	0

Board declined to issue statement	Numbers
Pre- School	0
Primary School	5
Post Primary School	0

Western Education and Library Board

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education what support services the Western Education and Library Board provides for (i) pre-school; (ii) primary school; (iii) secondary school pupils with autism.

(AQW 17981/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am advised by the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) that the Board's Autistic Spectrum Advisory Service can provide pupils with a diagnosis of autism the following support at Pre-School and in Primary and Post Primary schools:

1. **Advice and information:** Telephone advice and information on general matters relating to Autism.
2. **Parent training:** Centre-based courses for families aimed at promoting a range of relevant skills.
3. **Parent consultation:** Advisory visit(s) and telephone advice to provide general advice and support to families.
4. **INSET (In Service Training):** Centre-based courses for pre-school professionals aimed at promoting the development of a range of relevant skills.
5. **School-based training:** Whole/part staff on-onsite tailored training for pre-school.
6. **Consultation with schools:** Advisory visit(s) telephone advice to provide general advice and support to school professionals.
7. **Transition/transfer support:** Range of support for pupils transitioning to formal education or transferring between educational phases. A range of support for pupils transferring to further educational, work or work placements is available post 16. Support may include training and advice to parents and professionals.

The WELB provides a number of autism specific classes at Key Stage 1. These classes provide support for pupils with a statement of special educational need, a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder and who are struggling with mainstream.

Western Education and Library Board

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of post-primary learning support and autism units that are in the Western Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 18010/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am advised by the Western Education and Library Board that there is one post primary Learning Support Class in the Board's area.

Severe Challenging Behaviour

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education what support services the Western Education and Library Board provides for Severe Challenging Behaviour, both in mainstream and special needs placements; and to detail the staffing composition of these services and the role of the Specialist Behaviour Team within each service.

(AQW 18011/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am advised by the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) that the Board has one Social Emotional and Behaviour Support Team (SEBD). The staffing composition of the SEBD Team is as follows.

Job Title	Number
Head of Behaviour Support Team	1
Assistant Advisory Officer	2
Advisory Teachers	2
Classroom Assistants	2
Outreach Teachers	6

The SEBD Support Team aims to provide advice and support on request from Principals to teachers in the management of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties in nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools.

The SEBD Support Team provides staff development training at both out-centres and within schools to build the capacity of staff in the area of SEBD. It promotes the WELB policy of diversity and inclusion practices by contributing to the WELB INSET (In Service Training) Programme. Courses offered reflect the needs expressed by schools and current priorities identified by the Department of Education.

The Team support schools in developing and reviewing positive behaviour management policies including safe handling and risk assessment/management.

The Team works collaboratively with other Board Services and other relevant agencies including Health and Social Services personnel on the development and implementation of programmes of support for pupils with SEBD. The Team promotes a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach in relation to addressing the needs of children with SEBD.

The work of the SEBD Team includes:

- Consultation and advice;
- Telephone advice;
- Classroom observation;
- Attendance at Multi Agency Support Team meetings;
- Advising on resources;
- Advice on Individual Education Plan development;
- Whole School Training;
- Classroom Assistant training;
- Auxiliary Staff training (including lunchtime supervisors);
- Promoting parental involvement;
- Collaborative work with other WELB services and external agencies;
- Contributing to S.E.B.D management at a regional level;

- Behaviour Policy Review/Procedure;
- Training and advice on De-escalation & Diffusion Strategies/Anger Management;
- Nurturing approaches and strategies;
- Training on Safe Handling/Risk Assessment/Risk Management; and
- Re-integration support programmes.

Class Size Limit

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education to outline the reasons for not setting a cap on class sizes in Primary 5 to 7.

(AQW 18012/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department requires schools to keep classes for the youngest children (years 1 to 4 in primary school) at 30 or fewer pupils. The Education and Library Boards administer this policy and are responsible for providing any additional funding to primary schools to enable the policy to be achieved.

The reason for a cap on classes for our youngest pupils is that evidence indicates that smaller class sizes in early years learning can have a positive impact on outcomes. Research also indicates that it is the quality of teachers and the instruction they provide is the key influence on learning outcomes.

It is the Department's policy to give as much autonomy as possible to schools. In terms of class sizes for pupils in Year 5-7, School Boards of Governors have a degree of flexibility, afforded to them under the Local Management of Schools arrangements. The Board of Governors has responsibility for determining their school's staffing complement and for managing the school's education budget and this would include taking decisions on class sizes. This allows the schools' Boards of Governors to determine how they use their delegated funding to maximum effect in accordance with their school's specific needs and priorities.

Student Application Problems

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the impact that results for A Level and Leaving Certificate students arriving on different dates have on students applying for courses on both sides of the border and what steps he has taken to resolve this matter.

(AQW 18018/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: A level and the Leaving Certificate results are made available in mid August each year. However, the dates vary. Both release dates are linked to Bank Holiday weekends: the Leaving Certificate results published 10 weeks after the June Bank Holiday with A levels results are published two Thursdays before the August Bank Holiday. There is, therefore, a gap between the publications of the two sets of results. For example, in Summer 2012, GCE results were released to candidates on Thursday 16 August, while the Leaving Certificate results were released on Monday 13 August.

Each year CCEA GCE results are sent in advance to both the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and the Central Applications Office (CAO). In Summer 2012 the results were sent to both on Thursday 9 August. In addition to CCEA arrangements, UCAS and CAO have procedures in place for all examinations data exchange where this is relevant. This means that both jurisdictions have procedures in place to take account of differences in release dates.

The variation in the date of the August bank holiday has caused challenges in the past. In 2009 the results issue date for A levels was later in August - 20 August. This caused concerns for some students applying for university places in the south, because the CAO results were available a week earlier. After this issue arose in 2009 it has been agreed across the GCE awarding organisations that results dates will not be so late again.

School Starting Age

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education whether any progress has been made on providing flexibility around the school starting age.

(AQW 18023/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have no plans to introduce flexibility to the school starting age at this time, but will keep this position under review. Whilst I am aware that we have one of the lowest school starting ages in Europe, the introduction of the Foundation Stage curriculum for pupils in Years 1 and 2 is already helping to address concerns about the young age at which our children start school.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is designed to allow teachers the freedom to reassert what has always been regarded as best practice i.e. that very young children should be allowed to learn at their own pace. At Foundation Stage it is not recommended that a child begins formal learning until teachers believe the child is ready. This focus on matching learning to a child's readiness is designed to ensure that every child can indeed fulfil his or her full potential.

The foundation stage provides teachers with greater flexibility to use their professional judgement and adapt their teaching to best meet the needs of their pupils and to provide for diagnostic assessment, which will provide greater opportunities for teachers to pick up earlier on pupils with particular difficulties.

In the Foundation Stage schools are required to provide opportunities for active learning through play and children are benefiting by being encouraged to learn through a wide variety of approaches. The use of play is recognised as a way to improve reading, writing and maths and stimulation through play in the early years is an important factor in the social and educational development of the child.

City and Guilds 6131 Certificate for Workshop Competence Course

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 17170/11-15, in Northern Ireland, where can a student, who completed their PGCE Course in England, obtain their City and Guilds 6131 Certificate for Workshop Competence Course.

(AQW 18048/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: It is regrettable that the PGCE courses offered in England and elsewhere do not train students to the City and Guilds 6131 Certificate for Workshop Competence Course (C&G 6131) standard.

The C&G 6131 course ensures that, in order to teach the curriculum here, teachers of Technology & Design are competent in handling the tools used to work with resistant materials such as wood and plastics. It is included as a module of the PGCE course in the north of Ireland and is designed and run by the Belfast Education & Library Board. Although accredited by City & Guilds, this is not a mainstream course and cannot currently be accessed through, for example, a Further Education College. It is therefore currently only available to PGCE students here.

My Department and the Department for Employment and Learning previously funded C&G 6131 courses in 2010-11 for existing teachers and students who returned to work here having completed their PGCE Course in England.

The Department is currently reviewing provision of the C&G 6131 course to ascertain if it could be made available to those who have not received the appropriate training from their Teacher Education provider. The review will also consider how and where training might be provided and how it should be funded. No final decision has been made and further exploratory work with the Belfast Board and the Department for Employment and Learning will be needed.

Bus Passes

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent on bus passes in the BT29 area in the last twelve months.

(AQW 18051/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been informed of the following by the North Eastern (NEELB) and South Eastern (SEELB) Education and Library Boards:

- (1) £969,290.04 has been spent on bus passes for eligible pupils in the BT29 area in the last twelve months - £696,795.47 by the NEELB and £272,494.57 by the SEELB.
- (2) The schools attended by children in the BT29 area in receipt of bus passes from both NEELB and SEELB in the last twelve months are:
 - Antrim Grammar School
 - Aquinas Grammar School
 - Ashfield Boy's School
 - Ballyclare High School
 - Ballyclare Secondary School
 - Ballymacrickett Primary School
 - Ballymena Academy
 - Belfast Metropolitan College - Castlereagh
 - Belfast Metropolitan College – Gerald Moag Campus
 - Belfast Metropolitan College – Titanic Quarter
 - Belfast Metropolitan College – Tower Street
 - Belfast Metropolitan College - Whiterock Building
 - Belfast Royal Academy
 - Cambridge House Grammar
 - Christian Brothers Secondary School
 - Colaiste Feirste
 - Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary School
 - Crumlin Integrated College
 - De la Salle College
 - Dominican College
 - Edmund Rice College
 - Fort Hill Integrated College
 - Friends' School
 - Hunterhouse College
 - Laurelhill Community College
 - Lismore Comprehensive
 - Little Flower Girls School
 - Lurgan Junior High School
 - Methodist College
 - Northern Regional College (Ballymena Campus)
 - Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey Campus)
 - Parkhall Integrated College
 - Rathmore Grammar School
 - Royal Belfast Academical Institution
 - Slemish Integrated College
 - South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)
 - St Colman's Primary School
 - St Colm's High School
 - St Dominic's High School
 - St Genevieve's High School
 - St Joseph's PS Crumlin
 - St Louis' Grammar School
 - St Louise's Comprehensive College
 - St Malachy's College
 - St Mary's CBS Grammar School
 - St Mary's High School
 - St Michael's Grammar School
 - St Patrick's Academy (Lisburn)
 - St Patrick's Academy, Learning Support Centre
 - St Patrick's College (Bearnageeha)
 - St Paul's Junior High School
 - St Rose's Dominican College
 - Victoria College
 - Wallace High School

- (3) the number of children in the BT29 area who claimed back money for their allocated bus passes, and the schools they attended in the last twelve months are:

101 pupils, 67 in the NEELB area and 34 in the SEELB area

- Antrim Grammar School
- Antrim Primary School
- Ballyclare High School
- Ballymacrickett Primary School
- Ballymacward Primary School
- Belfast Girls' Model School
- Belfast Metropolitan College - Gerald Moag Campus
- Belfast Royal Academy
- Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
- Cambridge House Grammar School
- Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary School
- Friends' School Preparatory
- Gaelscoil Gleann Darach (Crumlin)
- Hazelwood College
- Holy Child Primary School
- Hunterhouse College
- Loanends Primary School
- McKinney Primary School
- Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey Campus)
- Oakwood Integrated Primary School
- Parkhall Integrated College
- Parkhall Primary School
- Roundtower Integrated Primary School
- Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)
- St Benedict's College
- St Colm's High School
- St Comgall's Primary School
- St Dominic's High School
- St Genevieve's High School
- St Joseph's Primary School (Crumlin)
- St Louise's Comprehensive College
- St Mary's CBS Grammar School
- St Malachy's College
- St Therese of Lisieux Primary School
- Straidhavern Primary School
- Templepatrick Primary School
- Wallace High School

Bus passes may only be exchanged for allowances in the period prior to Boards receiving Translink's invoice (in late October each year). In this way, Boards ensure they do not pay twice for any pupil wishing to exchange.

Bus Passes

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education to list the schools attended by children, in the BT29 area, who received bus passes in the last twelve months.

(AQW 18052/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been informed of the following by the North Eastern (NEELB) and South Eastern (SEELB) Education and Library Boards:

- (4) £969,290.04 has been spent on bus passes for eligible pupils in the BT29 area in the last twelve months - £696,795.47 by the NEELB and £272,494.57 by the SEELB.
- (5) The schools attended by children in the BT29 area in receipt of bus passes from both NEELB and SEELB in the last twelve months are:
- Antrim Grammar School
 - Aquinas Grammar School
 - Ashfield Boy's School
 - Ballyclare High School
 - Ballyclare Secondary School
 - Ballymacrickett Primary School
 - Ballymena Academy
 - Belfast Metropolitan College - Castlereagh

- Belfast Metropolitan College – Gerald Moag Campus
- Belfast Metropolitan College – Titanic Quarter
- Belfast Metropolitan College – Tower Street
- Belfast Metropolitan College - Whiterock Building
- Belfast Royal Academy
- Cambridge House Grammar
- Christian Brothers Secondary School
- Colaiste Feirste
- Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary School
- Crumlin Integrated College
- De la Salle College
- Dominican College
- Edmund Rice College
- Fort Hill Integrated College
- Friends' School
- Hunterhouse College
- Laurelhill Community College
- Lismore Comprehensive
- Little Flower Girls School
- Lurgan Junior High School
- Methodist College
- Northern Regional College (Ballymena Campus)
- Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey Campus)
- Parkhall Integrated College
- Rathmore Grammar School
- Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- Slemish Integrated College
- South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)
- St Colman's Primary School
- St Colm's High School
- St Dominic's High School
- St Genevieve's High School
- St Joseph's PS Crumlin
- St Louis' Grammar School
- St Louise's Comprehensive College
- St Malachy's College
- St Mary's CBS Grammar School
- St Mary's High School
- St Michael's Grammar School
- St Patrick's Academy (Lisburn)
- St Patrick's Academy, Learning Support Centre
- St Patrick's College (Bearnageeha)
- St Paul's Junior High School
- St Rose's Dominican College
- Victoria College
- Wallace High School

(6) the number of children in the BT29 area who claimed back money for their allocated bus passes, and the schools they attended in the last twelve months are:

101 pupils, 67 in the NEELB area and 34 in the SEELB area

- Antrim Grammar School
- Antrim Primary School
- Ballyclare High School
- Ballymacrickett Primary School
- Ballymacward Primary School
- Belfast Girls' Model School
- Belfast Metropolitan College - Gerald Moag Campus
- Belfast Royal Academy
- Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
- Cambridge House Grammar School
- Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary School
- Friends' School Preparatory
- Gaelscoil Gleann Darach (Crumlin)
- Hazelwood College
- Holy Child Primary School
- Hunterhouse College
- Loanends Primary School
- McKinney Primary School
- Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey Campus)
- Oakwood Integrated Primary School

- Parkhall Integrated College
- Parkhall Primary School
- Roundtower Integrated Primary School
- Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)
- St Benedict's College
- St Colm's High School
- St Comgall's Primary School
- St Dominic's High School
- St Genevieve's High School
- St Joseph's Primary School (Crumlin)
- St Louise's Comprehensive College
- St Mary's CBS Grammar School
- St Malachy's College
- St Therese of Lisieux Primary School
- Straidhavern Primary School
- Templepatrick Primary School
- Wallace High School

Bus passes may only be exchanged for allowances in the period prior to Boards receiving Translink's invoice (in late October each year). In this way, Boards ensure they do not pay twice for any pupil wishing to exchange.

Bus Passes

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education, in the last twelve months, how many children in the BT29 area claimed back money for their allocated bus passes; and what schools they attended.

(AQW 18054/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been informed of the following by the North Eastern (NEELB) and South Eastern (SEELB) Education and Library Boards:

- (7) £969,290.04 has been spent on bus passes for eligible pupils in the BT29 area in the last twelve months - £696,795.47 by the NEELB and £272,494.57 by the SEELB.
- (8) The schools attended by children in the BT29 area in receipt of bus passes from both NEELB and SEELB in the last twelve months are:
- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Antrim Grammar School | ■ Crumlin Integrated College |
| ■ Aquinas Grammar School | ■ De la Salle College |
| ■ Ashfield Boy's School | ■ Dominican College |
| ■ Ballyclare High School | ■ Edmund Rice College |
| ■ Ballyclare Secondary School | ■ Fort Hill Integrated College |
| ■ Ballymacrickett Primary School | ■ Friends' School |
| ■ Ballymena Academy | ■ Hunterhouse College |
| ■ Belfast Metropolitan College - Castlereagh | ■ Laurelhill Community College |
| ■ Belfast Metropolitan College – Gerald Moag Campus | ■ Lismore Comprehensive |
| ■ Belfast Metropolitan College – Titanic Quarter | ■ Little Flower Girls School |
| ■ Belfast Metropolitan College – Tower Street | ■ Lurgan Junior High School |
| ■ Belfast Metropolitan College - Whiterock Building | ■ Methodist College |
| ■ Belfast Royal Academy | ■ Northern Regional College (Ballymena Campus) |
| ■ Cambridge House Grammar | ■ Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey Campus) |
| ■ Christian Brothers Secondary School | ■ Parkhall Integrated College |
| ■ Colaiste Feirste | ■ Rathmore Grammar School |
| ■ Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary School | ■ Royal Belfast Academical Institution |

- Slemish Integrated College
- South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)
- St Colman's Primary School
- St Colm's High School
- St Dominic's High School
- St Genevieve's High School
- St Joseph's PS Crumlin
- St Louis' Grammar School
- St Louise's Comprehensive College
- St Malachy's College
- St Mary's CBS Grammar School
- St Mary's High School
- St Michael's Grammar School
- St Patrick's Academy (Lisburn)
- St Patrick's Academy, Learning Support Centre
- St Patrick's College (Bearnageeha)
- St Paul's Junior High School
- St Rose's Dominican College
- Victoria College
- Wallace High School

(9) the number of children in the BT29 area who claimed back money for their allocated bus passes, and the schools they attended in the last twelve months are:

101 pupils, 67 in the NEELB area and 34 in the SEELB area

- Antrim Grammar School
- Antrim Primary School
- Ballyclare High School
- Ballymacrickett Primary School
- Ballymacward Primary School
- Belfast Girls' Model School
- Belfast Metropolitan College - Gerald Moag Campus
- Belfast Royal Academy
- Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
- Cambridge House Grammar School
- Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary School
- Friends' School Preparatory
- Gaelscoil Gleann Darach (Crumlin)
- Hazelwood College
- Holy Child Primary School
- Hunterhouse College
- Loanends Primary School
- McKinney Primary School
- Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey Campus)
- Oakwood Integrated Primary School
- Parkhall Integrated College
- Parkhall Primary School
- Roundtower Integrated Primary School
- Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn)
- St Benedict's College
- St Colm's High School
- St Comgall's Primary School
- St Dominic's High School
- St Genevieve's High School
- St Joseph's Primary School (Crumlin)
- St Louise's Comprehensive College
- St Mary's CBS Grammar School
- St Malachy's College
- St Therese of Lisieux Primary School
- Straidhavern Primary School
- Templepatrick Primary School
- Wallace High School

Bus passes may only be exchanged for allowances in the period prior to Boards receiving Translink's invoice (in late October each year). In this way, Boards ensure they do not pay twice for any pupil wishing to exchange.

Controlled Sectoral Body

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education (i) how the membership of the Controlled Sectoral Body was originally selected; (ii) whether the membership has since changed; and (iii) to detail (a) why; and (b) how the new members were selected.

(AQW 18085/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In September 2012, having consulted with the Controlled Sector, the Transferors and political bodies, I agreed the membership of the Working Group that will take forward the establishment of the Sectoral Support Body for the Controlled Sector. There has been no change in the Group's membership since.

The Working Group's members are not the membership of the Sectoral Body. The membership of the Body shall be established as its development progresses.

Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education for an update on the current position of the new build for Holy Family Primary School in Magherafelt.

(AQW 18088/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recognise a new school build at Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt, remains a priority for investment.

I will continue to examine the case for capital investment and intend to make a further announcement in the early New Year. While I would like to be in the position to fund everything that needs doing now, I must work within the budget available.

Education Advisory Working Group

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for an update on the Education Advisory Working group; and to detail the group's terms of reference.

(AQW 18089/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Ministerial Advisory Group was appointed on 19 July 2012 and was asked to report its findings to me by 1 February 2013. No further update is available.

The Terms of Reference can be accessed on the Department's website:

http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/shared_education/shared-education-ministerial-advisory-group.htm

Teaching and Learning

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the effectiveness of schools coming together into networks in relation to improving (i) pupil outcomes; and (ii) the quality of teaching and learning.

(AQW 18093/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have stated on many occasions that Area Learning Communities can play a valuable role in ensuring that the educational needs of pupils are met. That is why I established a Strategic Development Fund to support Area Learning Communities in improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in the key areas of literacy and numeracy.

Area Learning Communities provide a local forum for curricular planning, more easily avoiding duplication of provision in small classes and providing access for all pupils to a full range of courses from a broad and balanced curriculum. They also provide a valuable opportunity to share expertise and best practice in terms of teaching and learning.

Every post-primary school is a member of an Area Learning Community and is able to analyse an increasingly sophisticated range of information about the associated benefits for pupils, including the outcomes for pupils of courses which may not previously have been available to these young people. Ensuring that every pupil achieves to their potential, is engaged with their own learning, can see clear progression pathways, and is supported through timely, high quality Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance is an essential focus for every school and every Area Learning Community.

Integrated Education

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the (i) economic; and (ii) societal benefits of integrated education.

(AQW 18094/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education is required, by law, to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education and I remain committed to fulfilling this duty.

The Programme for Government recognises the particular contribution of education generally to growing a sustainable economy and to tackling disadvantage and building a strong and shared economy. Delivering long-term, sustainable economic growth and building a fairer, more inclusive shared society requires investment in the education and development of our young people. Integrated education plays an important role in helping to deliver these goals.

Department for Employment and Learning

Further Education Colleges

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the budget of each Further Education College in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 17473/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): Recurrent grant funding for the six Further Education (FE) Colleges is provided on an academic year basis through the further education funding model with allocations made in line with Departmental priorities. The recurrent grant provides funding to enable colleges to deliver mainstream further education provision up to, and including, level 3, essential skills provision and higher education provision.

The table below details the recurrent grant funding allocated to the six further education colleges for the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years.

College	2009/10 Grant Allocation	2010/11 Grant Allocation	2011/12 Grant Allocation
Belfast Metropolitan College	35,440,129	34,424,765	33,230,416
North West Regional College	22,936,101	23,297,739	22,757,139
Northern Regional College	22,614,401	22,026,775	21,240,121
South Eastern Regional College	25,418,827	25,323,564	24,396,470
South West College	14,698,345	16,105,037	16,028,501
Southern Regional College	24,291,896	27,022,121	26,252,441
Total	145,339,699	148,200,001	143,905,088

In addition to the recurrent grant funding, the Department provides capital funding to the further education colleges. The table below details the capital funding provided to the six further education

colleges for the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years which totalled £84,975,067 for capital projects over this period.

College	2009/10 Capital Funding	2010/11 Capital Funding	2011/12 Capital Funding
Belfast Metropolitan College	7,086,174	795,488	11,383,860
North West Regional College	7,309,759	8,083,685	324,458
Northern Regional College	4,019,933	6,097,944	45,891
South Eastern Regional College	6,973,474	4,179,317	24,566,798
South West College	3,917,670	139,931	0
Southern Regional College	50,685	0	0
Total	29,357,695	19,296,365	36,321,007

This capital expenditure includes £23,720,000 in respect of private finance initiative “bullet” payments to South Eastern Regional College for campuses at East Down and Lisburn. The “bullet” payments are lump sums which reduce the annual payments made under Public Private Partnership procurements.

Engineering Degrees

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many degree places are available in each of the main divisions of engineering disciplines.

(AQW 17481/11-15)

Dr Farry: As the Department does not hold the information requested, my officials contacted Queen’s University and the University of Ulster. The information provided by the universities is attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

2012/13 ENGINEERING ENROLMENTS FOR QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

In academic year 2012/13, Queen’s University and the University of Ulster had the following full-time undergraduate enrolments onto engineering courses as set out in the table below:

Queen’s University		University of Ulster	
Subject	Num.	Subject	Num.
Mechanical Engineering	144	Biomedical Engineering	156
Aerospace Engineering	38	Building/Building Services/Construction Engineering	337
Civil Engineering	72	Civil Engineering	191
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	70	Electronic Engineering	113
Chemical Engineering	60	Engineering Management	58
		Mechanical/Mechatronic Engineering	295
		Software Engineering	50
Total	384		1200

NB: The University of Ulster figures do not include students registered on Technology and Design and Computer Science (incl. Software Development) programmes.

University of Ulster: Magee Campus

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of (i) Protestant; and (ii) Catholic students enrolled in a nursing course at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster in each of the last five years.

(AQW 17501/11-15)

Dr Farry: The religion of NI domiciled students enrolled in nursing courses at all NI Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and specifically at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster in each of the last five years are detailed in the tables below:

	All NI HEIs				
	Protestant	Catholic	Other	Not Known/ available	Total
2006/07	1,325	1,530	95	1,635	4,585
2007/08	1,255	1,525	135	1,305	4,220
2008/09	1,285	1,500	140	1,145	4,065
2009/10	1,470	1,840	150	735	4,195
2010/11	1,425	1,770	160	325	3,680

	Magee Campus only				
	Protestant	Catholic	Other	Not Known/ available	Total
2006/07	110	365	5	5	490
2007/08	110	330	0	10	455
2008/09	105	325	0	10	445
2009/10	145	385	5	10	545
2010/11	155	405	10	10	585

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

- 1 Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and therefore may not sum to totals.
- 2 The latest available data are for 2010/11.
- 3 Information on religion at the NI HEIs is only collected for NI domiciled students.

Implications of Student Migration between BIC Member Administrations

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what work his Department is taking forward as a result of the British Irish Council sectoral report on the Implications of Student Migration between BIC Member Administrations.

(AQW 17544/11-15)

Dr Farry: I understand that the final report on the Implications of Student Migration between the British Irish Council member administrations is due to be published in early 2013.

Officials from my Department have been working with a Demography Sectoral Group and have contributed text and data to the above report.

The group recognise that changes in policy, particularly in relation to student fees, will have a significant impact on Northern Ireland students as nearly 30% of Northern Ireland domiciled full-time undergraduate students study in other UK administrations. My Department will, therefore, continue to monitor the potential impact future policies may have on student demography.

Labour Relations Agency

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many individual disputes have been referred to the Labour Relations Agency in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17581/11-15)

Dr Farry: The information sought is recorded in the following table.

Year	Cases received
2009/10	9,386
2010/11	14,327
2011/12	4,366

(Note that an individual case may include more than one employment law jurisdiction e.g. a single case could include a complaint of unfair dismissal and sex discrimination.)

Labour Relations Agency

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many disputes referred to the Labour Relations Agency have been settled before reaching Industrial Tribunal in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17583/11-15)

Dr Farry: The information sought is recorded in the following table.

Year	Cases Reaching Conclusion	LRA Conciliated Settlement	Withdrawn	To Tribunal
2009/10	6,710	2,803	3,070	837
2010/11	18,053	12,075	5,213	765
2011/12	5,783	2,930	1,979	874

(Note that an individual case may include more than one employment law jurisdiction e.g. a single case could include a complaint of unfair dismissal and sex discrimination.)

Labour Relations Agency

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what was the lowest amount paid in settlement in relation to cases referred to the Labour Relations Agency in the last three years.

(AQW 17584/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Labour Relations Agency maintains a policy of confidentiality in relation to its dispute resolution services. Settlement figures are therefore not recorded on the Agency's case management system and it is not possible to provide the information sought.

Labour Relations Agency

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what was the highest amount paid in settlement in relation to cases referred to the Labour Relations Agency in the last three years.

(AQW 17585/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Labour Relations Agency maintains a policy of confidentiality in relation to its dispute resolution services. Settlement figures are therefore not recorded on the Agency's case management system and it is not possible to provide the information sought.

Institute of Professional Legal Studies

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of students, broken down by gender, who have enrolled in the Institute of Professional Legal Studies as (a) solicitors and (b) barristers, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 17649/11-15)

Dr Farry: As my Department does not hold this information, my officials contacted Queen's University Belfast for a response. The University has provided the information attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Queen's University Belfast - the Institute of Professional Legal Studies

The number of places for trainee solicitors and barristers at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, in the last 10 years, is set out in the two tables below.

In addition to ordinary fulltime places, each year the Institute admits some students who are already qualified as solicitors or barristers but who wish to transfer to the other side of the profession and this cohort will attend only those courses as required by the professional body. In addition, the Institute also admits some trainees who come as 'recommended' by the Law Society or Inn of Court.

TABLE ONE: TOTAL TRAINEE BARRISTER INTAKE TO QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES, BROKEN DOWN BY GENDER, FOR EACH OF THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Barrister Intake	M	F	Total
2012-2013	13	19	32
2011-2012	21	16	37
2010-2011	15	19	34
2009-2010	16	15	31
2008-2009	23	13	36
2007-2008	11	16	27
2006-2007	12	15	27
2005-2006	14	13	27
2004-2005	17	11	28
2003-2004	8	21	29
Total	150	158	308

TABLE TWO: TOTAL TRAINEE SOLICITOR INTAKE TO QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES, BROKEN DOWN BY GENDER, FOR EACH OF THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Solicitor Intake	M	F	Total
2012-2013	42	69	111
2011-2012	46	71	117
2010-2011	46	69	115

Solicitor Intake	M	F	Total
2009-2010	55	77	132
2008-2009	43	83	126
2007-2008	43	74	117
2006-2007	43	68	111
2005-2006	37	70	107
2004-2005	35	65	100
2003-2004	23	81	104
Total	413	727	1140

Tribunal Cases

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what was the total amount paid by employers as a result of settling in tribunal cases in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17700/11-15)

Dr Farry: This information is not available as settlements are agreed between the parties themselves or with the assistance of the Labour Relations Agency's confidential dispute resolution services.

Tribunal Cases

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what was the average settlement figure excluding costs for employers who settled in tribunal cases, in each of the three years.

(AQW 17702/11-15)

Dr Farry: This information is not available as settlements are agreed between the parties themselves or with the assistance of the Labour Relations Agency's confidential dispute resolution services.

Tribunal Cases

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning on how many occasions were costs awarded against the employer in tribunal cases in each of the three years.

(AQW 17703/11-15)

Dr Farry: The figures requested are as follows:

Year	Costs awarded against respondent
2010	0
2011	1
2012	0

Tribunal Cases

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning on how many occasions were costs awarded against the employee in tribunal cases, in each of the three years.

(AQW 17704/11-15)

Dr Farry: The figures requested are as follows:

Year	Costs awarded against claimant
2010	5
2011	3
2012	4

There was also one occasion, in 2011, on which costs were awarded against a claimant's representative.

Republic of Ireland Universities

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) how many students from Northern Ireland have enrolled at universities in the Republic of Ireland in each of the last 10 years and; (ii) who pays their tuition fees.

(AQW 17788/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) The table below details the number of Northern Ireland domiciled students who enrolled on full-time undergraduate courses at institutions in the Republic of Ireland in each of the last ten years

Academic Year	Number of NI domiciled students enrolled on full-time undergraduate courses at institutions in the Republic of Ireland
2001/02	1,065
2002/03	1,070
2003/04	1,055
2004/05	935
2005/06	900
2006/07	860
2007/08	770
2008/09	765
2009/10	790
2010/11	710

Source: Higher Education Authority, ROI

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5

- (ii) Under the free fees Initiative, the Department of Education and Science in the Republic of Ireland meets the cost of tuition fees for eligible students who are attending full-time undergraduate courses.

EU students, including those from Northern Ireland, are charged an annual registration fee (€2,250 in academic year 2012/13). Northern Ireland domiciled students studying in the Republic of Ireland benefit from special student support arrangements in that the cost of their registration fee is currently met in full by my Department.

From academic year 2013/14, my Department will no longer meet the full cost of the registration fee. Instead, new Northern Ireland domiciled students commencing full-time undergraduate courses in the Republic of Ireland will be eligible for a loan to cover the full cost of the registration fee (€2,500 in academic year 2013/14).

Colleges: Republic of Ireland

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) how many students from Northern Ireland have enrolled at colleges in the Republic of Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and (ii) who pays their tuition fees.

(AQW 17789/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department does not hold any enrolment data in relation to students from Northern Ireland studying at colleges in the Republic of Ireland. The Department of Education and Skills has advised that the Republic of Ireland does not charge tuition fees for further education provision.

Students from the Irish Republic Attending Further and Higher Education Courses in Northern Ireland

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of students with home addresses in the Irish Republic currently attend Further and Higher Education courses in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 17843/11-15)

Dr Farry: There were 2,875 students enrolled in professional and technical courses at the Northern Ireland Further Education Colleges in 2011/12 who have the Irish Republic as their country of domicile – 465 of which were studying a Higher Education course. There were 4,285 students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions in 2010/11 that have the Irish Republic as their country of domicile.

Sources: Further Education Statistical Record and Higher Education Statistics Agency

Notes:

- 1 The latest available data for the Further Education Colleges are for academic year 2011/12.
- 2 The latest available data for Higher Education Institutions are for academic year 2010/11. 2011/12 data will be available in January 2013.
- 3 Data are rounded to the nearest 5 in line with data disclosure protocols.

Departmental Private Office

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the cost of running his Ministerial Private Office in the last financial year.

(AQW 17867/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the financial year 2011 to 2012, the cost incurred for the running of my Ministerial Private Office was £169,851. This covers the full salary cost to the Department for administrative staff, along with general running costs associated with the office.

These costs cover the period from 1 April 2011; it is not feasible to break this down to cover only the period since I took up office on 16th May.

University of Ulster: Teacher Training

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he has any plans to provide teacher training at the University of Ulster in Coleraine for those in northern areas of Northern Ireland and in Belfast for those in southern areas.

(AQW 17897/11-15)

Dr Farry: It is the Department of Education which allocates the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) places to each of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

There are five ITE providers in Northern Ireland: Queen's University, the University of Ulster, the Open University, St. Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College. The University of Ulster

offers Primary and Post-Primary Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) courses at its Coleraine campus. Therefore, with all of the above institutions catering for students from across Northern Ireland and further afield, there is already extensive ITE provision in Northern Ireland.

Late Payment Directive

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how the late payment directive currently going through Westminster will affect his Department.

(AQW 17926/11-15)

Dr Farry: It is not anticipated that the late payment directive will have a significant impact on the Department as prompt payment policy already forms a key part of the Department's financial procedures.

Unless otherwise stated in a contract, the Department aims to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of receipt of goods and services, which is in line with the provisions of the directive. In addition, the Department is committed to making payments to suppliers within 10 days in order to help local business in the current economic climate.

The Department monitors its own performance against 30 day and 10 day targets on a monthly basis. In the year ended 31 March 2012, 96% of invoices from suppliers were paid by the Department within 30 days and 87% within 10 days. No compensation was incurred in respect of late payments.

30 Day Payment Performance Targets

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how each of his Department's arm's-length bodies has performed on the 30 Day Payment Performance Targets; and whether any sector has been paid more quickly than others.

(AQW 17927/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department's arm's-length bodies have performed as follows on the 30 Day Payment Performance Targets:

	Year ended 31 March 2012
CITB – ConstructionSkills Northern Ireland	100%
Labour Relations Agency	95.5%

Ulster Supported Employment Limited receives normal credit terms from suppliers and pays promptly on the 20th day of the month, subsequent to the receipt of the invoice. With regards to the Further Education Colleges, performance for the year ended 31 July 2012 was as follows:

Belfast Metropolitan College	60%
Northern Regional College	77%
North West Regional College	92%
South Eastern Regional College	78%
Southern Regional College	89%
South West Regional College	59%

Stranmillis College uses the credit terms advised by suppliers when provided, otherwise the practice is to pay suppliers in the next available payment run (two payment runs per month).

No sector has been paid more quickly than others.

University Teacher Training

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of whether teacher training provision is best served by the current locations and number of places in the University of Ulster Coleraine, Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College.

(AQW 17935/11-15)

Dr Farry: There are five Initial Teacher Education providers in Northern Ireland: Queen's University, the University of Ulster, the Open University, St. Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College. It is the Department of Education which allocates the Initial Teacher Education places to each of the providers. In the case of the University of Ulster, the University determines the campus in which the places are located. My Department is responsible for funding the places allocated by the Department of Education. I believe that the training of teachers in Northern Ireland in the current system is inefficient and that the funding could be used better by the teacher training institutions if they were prepared to move towards a more shared and integrated system and I initiated a two-stage study of the teacher education infrastructure to look at this. The first

stage of the study considers the financial stability and sustainability of the two university colleges. The second stage will set out options for a more shared and integrated system for the delivery and funding of teacher education.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Bombardier

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the benefits of the recent announcement by Bombardier in relation to the new plane component orders.

(AQW 17471/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Bombardier Aerospace has announced a number of significant business aircraft orders during recent months including orders for Challenger business aircraft, and last week, a major order from VistaJet, a Swiss-based luxury private jet operator. This is the largest business aircraft sale in Bombardier's history and is valued at approximately US\$3.1 billion for 56 Global business jets. The value of the order could increase to US\$7.8 billion if VistaJet exercises the options it has taken on a further 86 Global aircraft.

This was a record order for Bombardier in Belfast, which plays a major role in the Global aircraft programme and is responsible for the design, development and manufacture of a range of parts for the aircraft, including the forward fuselages, engine nacelles, horizontal stabilisers and other components. In fact, Bombardier Belfast plays a major role in the business jet sector, an important world aircraft market, which Bombardier Aerospace leads.

This major order from VistaJet helps to secure Bombardier's long-term future, with deliveries taking place over the next two to four years, and underpins around 900 jobs within the company's Northern Ireland operations, along with positive spin-off benefits to Bombardier's extensive local supply chain. Some 25 suppliers to Bombardier in Northern Ireland are involved in the Global aircraft programme.

The VistaJet announcement was followed just over a week later by an order from Delta Air Lines for Bombardier's CRJ900 NextGen regional jets. Bombardier in Northern Ireland will once again benefit from this order, given the significant role it plays in the CRJ900 NextGen programme. This order is a further vote of confidence by customers in Bombardier's products, and in the skills and capabilities of its workforce here in Northern Ireland.

The UK has 17% of the world market for aerospace and this makes us the largest aerospace industry in Europe and globally second only to the United States. Northern Ireland's share of UK aerospace output is over 8%, which places us significantly above our share of the UK population. The industry here employs over 8,000 people and contributes close to 12% of manufactured exports.

As our largest manufacturing employer, Bombardier's success in the business jet market, such as through the VistaJet order, is not only good for the company's extensive operations in Northern Ireland, but is also good for the local manufacturing economy and export sales.

Invest Northern Ireland continues to work closely with Bombardier to maximise the wider economic impact of its aircraft programmes here. I wish the company continued success and welcome the contribution its investments are making to Northern Ireland's prosperity.

Engineering Graduates

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what systems his Department has put in place to offer engineering graduates business start-up and self-employment opportunities.
(AQW 17480/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI's Regional Start is focused on encouraging potential entrepreneurs (including graduates) to produce a business plan as one of the key early steps to starting a business and moving into self employment.

The key aims of Regional Start are:

- To raise the overall number and quality of business starts per annum in Northern Ireland;
- To deliver an accessible service that delivers on Invest NI's equality and diversity agenda, including females, young people who are NEETS and individuals living in NRAs, and thereby contribute to Invest NI's Job Fund scheme; and
- To ensure the full integration of Invest NI's "Northern Ireland Business Information Portal" – online support into the offering www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk.

In addition Invest NI's new Propel programme is aimed at fast tracking innovative, high growth potential start ups that have the potential to operate on a global basis. This one year programme provides entrepreneurs with high quality training, one to one mentoring, workshops, networking opportunities and financial support.

The programme, which will be delivered by XCell Partners (Newry) on behalf of Invest NI, is currently open for applications, with the first of three programmes starting in March 2013.

AQW 11415/11-15

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why AQW 11415/11-15 has not yet been answered; and to provide the answer to this question.
(AQW 17522/11-15)

Mrs Foster: As Energy Minister I regularly meet with senior representatives from energy companies to discuss energy policy. Since 10/6/2008 until 9/5/2012 I have met with representatives from the following energy companies:- Kelman/GE, Phoenix Gas, NIEH, EST, Gaelectric, Carbon Trust, Viridian, Kedco Energy, AES Kilroot, BGE & Storenergy, Centre for Competitiveness Energy Forum, SONI, Mutual Energy, Lunar Energy, SWEG, SEAT, Coolkeeragh Power, Kingspan Renewables, Evermore Renewable Energy, People Powered Renewable Energy, Greengen Solutions Ltd, ESB, SSE Ireland, NIE, Dong Energy, Smartgrid Ireland, Rural Generation, BGI, Calor Gas, Lightsource Renewable Energy.

During this time I have attended the following events/conferences:- Irish Wind Energy Association Conference, Northern Ireland Energy Forum, Leuven Institute Energy Conference, SERC/Action Renewables Energy Efficiency Fair, CIGRE Low Carbon Power Systems Seminar, launch of Biomara Marine Energy Research Project, Northern Ireland Energy Forum, Energy Institute Dinner, Marine Energy & Smartgrid Workshop, Quo Vadis Conference, Isles Conference. My office does not hold details of who covered the cost of these events.

Delay to answering this question was due to the considerable amount of work involved in collating the details.

Market Coupling

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what work is ongoing or planned with her counterparts in Great Britain in respect of electricity infrastructure and the EU Commission's initiative on Market Coupling.

(AQW 17543/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department participates in a formal UK/Ireland Steering Committee alongside the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Ofgem and the Regulators in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Committee will meet on a quarterly or four-monthly basis as required. Its remit is to consider overarching policy and legislative issues for the UK and Ireland related to the Internal European Market for Electricity.

Improvements to the A75 Road

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps she has taken, or plans to take, with the Scottish government to promote and encourage improvements to the A75 road, given the important role of investment in capital infrastructure to support and promote economic growth.

(AQW 17603/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy recognises the importance of a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure to support economic growth and help realise our 2030 vision for the economy. The infrastructure theme is about ensuring improved linkages within Northern Ireland, as well as improved connectivity, including on a North-South and East-West basis.

There is no doubt that the A75 is an essential route to the British mainland from Northern Ireland. It is important for our businesses, particularly those in the haulage industry who use it as an entry point into GB and across to Europe.

Although I have not had any direct discussions with Ministers in the Scottish Government regarding the A75, I am aware that the First Minister and deputy First Minister have had informal discussions with the First Minister of Scotland on the issue. In addition, DRD have advised that the Minister for Regional Development has had discussions with his Scottish counterpart in the margins of a recent British Irish Council meeting in Cardiff.

DRD have also advised that there has been ongoing contact between DRD officials and their counterparts in London and Scotland about the importance of having the A75 included on the core Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). This matter has also been a feature of ongoing lobbying with the European Institutions on the draft TEN-T regulation.

Bangor to Holywood Coastal Path

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether installing lighting on the Holywood coastal path would increase tourism.

(AQW 17611/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Neither my Department nor the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has carried out such an assessment. This would primarily be an issue for North Down Borough Council in conjunction with The Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

My Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, and Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland currently promote The North Down Coastal Path on www.discovernorthernireland.com and www.walkni.com. The two websites have received over one million visitors in the last six months, showing how important these websites are in promoting Northern Ireland.

Foreign Direct Investment

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many Foreign Direct Investment visits have been made in the Information and Communications Technology sector within the last calendar year.

(AQW 17633/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI reports on visits on a full financial year basis following a validation process with results published at year end. As a result, visits from April 2012 are not yet available.

In the last full financial year 2011/12 (1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012), Invest Northern Ireland facilitated 55 visits to Northern Ireland by inward investors where their potential projects were primarily focused on Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

This figure discounts visits by potential investors whose projects included some ICT requirement but ultimately centred on skills required for other sectors, e.g. financial services, business services, renewable sectors, etc.

Wind Turbines

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for a breakdown of the number of (i) 0kW – 50kW; (ii) 50kW – 100kW; (iii) 100kW – 200kW and (iv) 200kW – 250kW single wind turbines contributing to the reported 25MW of installed capacity at small scale level as referred to by her officials at the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment meeting on Thursday 15 November 2012.

(AQW 17648/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The figure of 25MW of installed capacity was provided by NIE and was the position at July 2012. The Department understands that this figure is comprised of small scale onshore wind, hydro and biomass generating stations. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the NIE figure for onshore wind as requested, however live and preliminary accreditations for generating stations under the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation are provided in table 1:

TABLE 1: ACCREDITATIONS FOR SMALL SCALE ONSHORE WIND UNDER THE NIRO AT 7 DECEMBER 2012

Live and Preliminary Accreditations under the NIRO		
Installed Capacity	Number of stations	Total Capacity
0 -50kW	377	3MW
51kW -100kW	20	1.6MW
101kW -200kW	13	1.7MW
201kW -250kW	28	6.6MW
Total	438	12.9MW

Source: Ofgem Renewables and CHP Register

InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline (i) why; (ii) when; and (iii) by how much the salary of the Chief Executive of InvestNI was recently increased, and what is the new salary level.

(AQW 17664/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- i The Board of Invest NI sought to renegotiate the remuneration package of the CEO of Invest NI as a result of the changing public sector approach to Performance Related Pay.
- ii. The review was concluded in September 2012, following completion of the Review of Senior Civil Service salaries across the NICS.
- iii. As a result of the renegotiation the previous remuneration of the CEO was reduced from potential earnings of £208,000 pa to one of £190,000 pa fixed.

InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether a reported increase of £30,000 in the salary of the Chief Executive of InvestNI is compatible with the Executive's stance on pay restraint in the public sector.

(AQW 17666/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Yes.

InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what guidelines exist in regard to the salary levels, and any increase therein, of senior executives of InvestNI.

(AQW 17669/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Senior executives of Invest NI are subject to the terms and conditions, including salary levels, as applicable to the wider NICS senior staff.

Provision for future increases are in line with the Northern Ireland Civil Service Reform of arrangements for Senior Civil Service Pay and Pay Strategy 2012 and 2013, which is available on the DFP website.

www.dfpni.gov.uk/2012_scs_pay_award_strategy_final_version.pdf

InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much performance related pay the Chief Executive of Invest NI has (i) been awarded and (ii) received, since coming into office.

(AQW 17705/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Chief Executive of Invest NI has

(i) been awarded -

Following an annual assessment by the board, of the performance of the Chief Executive against an extensive and definitive set of objectives and targets, amounts totalling £117,000 have been earned.

(ii) received, since coming into office -

Last year, the Chief Executive made it very clear that he would not be accepting any performance related elements earned and was contractually entitled to since taking up the post, pending the outcome of the Review of Northern Ireland Senior Civil Service pay and also requested that the overall remuneration package of the post should be considered in line with the outcomes and principles of the Review. The board subsequently sought agreement from the Chief Executive to renegotiate his contract and this has now been completed. In line with the principles of the Review, the CEO's revised package does not contain any provision for performance related pay.

Non Departmental Public Bodies

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the remuneration package for the Chief Executives of each of her Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies and what changes have been made to these packages in the last three years.

(AQW 17727/11-15)

Mrs Foster: This information is in the public domain via the NDPB Annual Reports and Accounts, specifically the Remuneration reports.

The remuneration figures for Chief Executives and how they are set, are reported in each of their respective Annual Reports.

http://www.investni.com/index/about/what_we_do/corporate_plans_and_annual_reports.htm

<http://www.nitb.com/AboutNITB/CorporatePlansReportsPolicies/AnnualReportsAccounts.aspx>

<http://www.hseni.gov.uk/about-hseni/corporate-publications.htm>

http://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/publications/?search_archive=Annual+Accounts&search_type=any&start_dateMonth=06&start_dateYear=1998&end_dateMonth=12&end_dateYear=2012&x=24&y=8

Northern Ireland Events' Company

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for a breakdown of the monies spent (i) reviewing; (ii) reporting on; and (iii) investigating the Northern Ireland Events' Company. **(AQW 17729/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: The Department appointed inspectors to the Northern Ireland Events Company Limited on 17 November 2008 under Article 452(2) and Article 425(2)(a) of the Companies (NI) Order 1986.

The target date for completion of the investigation and the production of a final draft report is 30 June 2013. The costs incurred by DETI in the inspection to date are £884,416.

World Police and Fire Games 2013

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the projected economic benefit to Northern Ireland from the World Police and Fire Games 2013. **(AQW 17737/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: The 2013 Games will make a significant contribution towards attracting visitors to Belfast and Northern Ireland, and increasing their length of stay and expenditure. Events of this scale are an important element of tourism and the cumulative economic impact of major events in Belfast contributes significantly to the local economy both directly and indirectly. It is the aim of the Games to maximise the potential economic benefits of the Games in Belfast and the wider region.

The objectives, performance measures and associated target outcomes for the Games are set-out in the '2013 World Police and Fire Games Ltd Strategic and Business Plan 2012-2014'. The Strategic and Business Plan includes the performance target of achieving at least £15.5million in economic benefit to the local economy.

The foreword to the strategic and business plan from Deputy Chief Constable Judith Gillespie, 2013 WPFPG Chairperson, includes:

'I have every confidence that we will meet those expectations by delivering a first class Games that leave competitors with very happy memories of their time here, and leave Northern Ireland with a very positive and lasting legacy.'

The strategic and business plan is available to download using the following URL:

http://www.2013wpfg.com/media/12191/strategic_and_business_plan_2012-2014.pdf

Fuel Prices

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department bases its forecast of the future wholesale price of fuel entirely on the futures market. **(AQW 17776/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: My Department has no direct role in setting or forecasting fuel prices.

Head Office Relocation

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) whether her Department was consulted about the relocation of the head office of (a) the Quinn Group from Derrylin to Dublin; and (b) Quinn Plastics to Belgium; and (ii) whether any agreements on job-protection measures remain in place with the current ownership.

(AQW 17818/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Quinn Manufacturing Group has not re-located Head Office from Gortmullan. The Dublin office offers a useful meeting location but has no permanent staff.

Quinn Plastics is located across 7 sites within Europe. The Ballyconnell packaging plant employs 133, an increase from the 103 in April 2011. In Derrylin, Quinn Plastics employs 16 people and this will reduce to 12 as a consequence of the planned European reduction from 560 to 534.

There are no job protection agreements in place with Quinn Manufacturing Group.

Quinn Group

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many people have lost their jobs or have been redeployed from Fermanagh to other locations since the Quinn family lost control of the Quinn Group.

(AQW 17819/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In April 2011, following the change of control, local Derrylin/Ballyconnell employment was 1,161. In October 2012 the corresponding total is 1,170.

The corresponding full Manufacturing Group figures are 2,750 and 2,813.

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide an update on the £50 million Loan Fund for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

(AQW 17835/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The £50million Growth Loan Fund was launched in June 2012 and to date has received more than 150 enquiries, demonstrating a very strong demand for loans amongst SMEs.

At this stage 15 loan applications have been approved by WhiteRock Capital Partners which is managing the Fund on Invest NI's behalf.

Two loans have been drawn down to a total value of £625,000.

Bangor to Hollywood Coastal Path

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether installing lighting on the Hollywood coastal path would attract visitors into Hollywood for the night time economy.

(AQW 17837/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I would refer the member to the reply I gave to AQW 17611/11-15.

North Down Borough Council is leading on a Master Plan for Hollywood Town Centre. Lighting on the Hollywood coastal path is not part of this plan.

Mobile Coverage

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment given the poor mobile coverage and broadband accessibility which has existed in the Ballykelly area in recent years, whether she will raise the issue with providers to determine the improvement in reception that can be delivered for users in that area.

(AQW 17842/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I am continuing to meet with various telecoms providers on a regular basis and take every opportunity to express the need that all of Northern Ireland needs access to reliable, cost effective broadband services and mobile coverage and that includes the Ballykelly area.

In the past year I have met with fixed line broadband providers including BT and Eircom both of which have delivered multi-million pound government contracts in Northern Ireland. I have also met with satellite broadband providers including Onwave and on a number of occasions with the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs).

In addition my officials have been meeting with a number of broadband and mobile service providers in connection with current and future projects aimed at extending the reach and quality of services across Northern Ireland. This includes the £51million Next Generation Broadband Project which has led to superfast broadband services being available to 95% of premises across Northern Ireland, the forthcoming Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project (NIBIP) through which my Department is seeking to secure broadband services of at least 2Mbps to all premises and 24Mbps to 90% of premises by 2015, as well as a proposed project aimed at improving 3G mobile access and preparing the platform for the widespread deployment of 4G mobile services.

With regard to NIBIP and following a consultation process my Department is seeking to finalise the area of intervention. I can advise that the Ballykelly postcode district has been included in the intervention area for this project.

Tamboran Resources

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether Tamboran Resources has informed her Department of (i) when it intends to begin the drilling of a borehole; and (ii) the proposed location of this borehole.

(AQW 17878/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Tamboran Resources wrote to my Department on 17th May 2012 requesting a technical variation to their work programme. This proposal related to the drilling of a single deeper cored borehole rather than the drilling of several shallow cored boreholes. Officials in my Department assessed this application on a technical basis and granted this modification to the work programme on 28th May 2012.

- (i) Under the terms of their Licence, Tamboran must carry out the drilling of a borehole in Years 1 to 3. It is my understanding that the company fully intends to meet this obligation, subject to the appropriate permissions and planning consents being in place.
- (ii) The company has not yet submitted an application for consent to drill to my Department nor has it given any further information on a proposed drilling location.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department intends to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening on the proposal by Tamboran Resources to drill a borehole well over 1000 metres deep, to determine whether it will result in significant negative impact on any of the Natura 2000 areas and whether this will be made available to the public following its completion.

(AQW 17946/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Yes.

Petroleum Licence Holders

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the work programmes of the four petroleum licence holders.

(AQW 17948/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All four petroleum licences are in Year Two of their five year Initial Term. The work programmes on the petroleum licences are still in the pre-drilling phase of exploration which comprises analysis of recently acquired and pre-existing geophysical and geological data.

None of the Licensees have submitted drilling applications to my Department.

Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the process whereby Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd allocates spare transmission capacity to providers of renewable energy.

(AQW 17968/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I refer to my response to AQW 17400/11-15.

Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any discussions she has had with Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd about a more open, equitable and transparent system to allocate spare transmission capacity.

(AQW 17969/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I refer to my response to AQW 17402/11-15.

Tamboran Resources

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) whether her Department has granted Tamboran Resources permission to drill a borehole well over 1000 metres deep to penetrate the full Bundoran section; and (ii) if so, to provide details on when this decision was taken; and (iii) if not, when she expects to make this decision.

(AQW 18021/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department has agreed to a technical variation to the work programme whereby the company has stated their intention to drill a single deeper borehole rather than several shallow boreholes. This agreement does not represent permission to drill.

My Department has not received an application from Tamboran Resources to drill such a borehole and should an application be received it will be subject to the various assessments prior to permission being granted.

InvestNI: Jobs Promoted

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 17392/11-15, why InvestNI only reports on the Full-Time Equivalents when communicating the number of jobs promoted.

(AQW 18027/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Programme for Government targets are based on Full Time Equivalent jobs, therefore Invest NI corporate reporting is based on the same measure.

Shale Gas

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the adequacy of new controls designed to minimise the risk of seismic activity during the exploration for and exploitation of shale gas and their ramifications for the possible exploration for and exploitation of local reserves. **(AQW 18072/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: New controls have been proposed by DECC for the monitoring and mitigation of the risks from induced seismicity associated specifically with the resumption of hydraulic fracturing operations by Cuadrilla Resources in Lancashire. Initially the application of these controls to Cuadrilla's exploration programme will be monitored by DECC's independent experts and the lessons learnt will be used to inform the protocols to be applied to any subsequent fracking operations elsewhere in the UK. The feedback from this control system in Lancashire should provide very useful information that could be applied to the regulation of any future hydraulic fracturing operations that might take place in Northern Ireland.

Department of the Environment

Councils: Part-Time Managers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 15794/11-15, (i) why some councils are citing data protection issues for not disclosing the information whilst other councils do not consider data protection issues to be relevant; (ii) for his assessment of this disparity; (iii) whether he will investigate whether the councils have grounds for withholding the information; and (iv) why there is a lack of consistency across the councils.

(AQW 16468/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): A council's interpretation of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the decisions it takes based on its interpretation of that Act are in the first instance a matter for that council to determine, based on local circumstances. Where information is likely to lead to the identification of individuals, councils are not permitted to release information and, in some councils, the response would have related to a small number of individuals.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) regulates data protection in the public sector and it would be for the ICO to determine whether or not councils were applying the rules appropriately.

However, subject to the current clause, I shall be writing to Councils urging consistency of approach and why each Council acts as they do.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AWQ 14244/11-15, why it is necessary to have an immediate review of all current and recently approved minerals applications and a range of enforcement cases to ensure compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. **(AQW 17534/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: Given that the legal challenge to the recent permissions at Cavanacaw Gold Mine identified shortcomings in the determination process under the EIA Regulations I considered it prudent to check any recent approvals and current cases to ensure the requirements of the above regulations had been fully complied with.

This process is currently ongoing. If Government does not learn from previous errors, oversights or worse, there is a danger that the errors, oversights or worse will be repeated. Given the situation, over Cavanacaw, it was entirely right to look again at recent approvals and current cases.

Spatial Planning Policy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment how the spatial planning policy has developed in the last year; and what further developments there will be.

(AQW 17564/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Both my Department and the Department for Regional Development are responsible for producing specific spatial planning policy guidance. In March of this year, DRD replaced the Regional Development Strategy 2025 with the Regional Development Strategy 2035, a spatial framework for the development of Northern Ireland which provides a spatial policy context for decisions by both central and local government.

My Department has the power to make a development plan for any area in the form of Area Plans, Local Plans or Subject Plans. The Department's development plan programme has been delayed due to litigation, however my Department continues to progress published draft plans to adoption, such as the Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 which was adopted on 14th December 2011 and work is also progressing on taking three other draft area plans to adoption. In 2015, it is intended that planning functions will transfer to the new Councils and this will enable Councils to prepare their own spatial development plans. In advance of this, work is now being taken forward to work with Council about development plan in cluster areas, so that the period up to 2015 is used productively to move towards plan-led development, which I believe is the most coherent and integrated approach to planning.

Special EU Programmes Body

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail each of the applications for funding his Department has submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body.

(AQW 17574/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has been involved in three EU Programmes involving the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Interreg IIIA, Interreg IIIB and Interreg IVA.

Interreg IIIA, which is now closed, provided funding to 'address the economic and social disadvantage which can result from the existence of a border, by promoting the creation of programme networks involving, and also benefiting, local communities'. Under this programme the Department administered 18 applications. However, following assessment only 15 were awarded funding as 2 applications were rejected and 1 was subsumed into an accepted application. The Department provided part funding to these projects. The Department, as lead applicant, was involved in a Waste Awareness Media Campaign, with SEUPB being the Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat.

Interreg IIIB, which is now closed, aimed to promote transnational solutions to problems associated with specific geographical areas and landscapes. Under this programme the Department was involved as co-partner in one project with Devon County Council in relation to providing a timely response to pollution incidents from shipping.

Details of the various projects for Interreg IIIA and the one for Interreg IIIB are contained at Annex A.

Interreg IVA, which is presently ongoing, provides funding to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders. It supports strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region. Under this programme the SEUPB is both the designated Managing Authority and Implementing Body of the Programme. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency provided technical assistance to enable SEUPB's Joint Technical Secretariat to assess the applications and from the applications received under the measure eight projects were approved. Again the Department provided part funding to these projects.

A detailed list of the successful applications for Interreg IVA is contained in Annex B.

I have repeatedly raised how Government and DOE perform on accessing EU funds. There is a huge volume more we can do. Given that there is 'greening' of EU funds emerging as a major element in EU funding 2014-2020 – CAP, Horizon 2020 and funds respectively - the opportunities are clear. In the

run down to 2014 and after, I have made much greater priority in DOE accessing EU funds and plan to increase resources so to do.

ANNEX A INTERREG IIIA PROJECTS

Dept Lead	Lead Applicant	Project Title	Description
DOE	Loughs Agency	Monitoring Buoys	The project proposed to purchase and install four additional telemetry systems in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments to gather information, 2 in Lough Foyle, 1 in a freshwater lough upstream and 1 to complement the system already installed in Carlingford Lough.
DOE	Loughs Agency	Patrol vessel	The project entailed the provision of an inshore patrol vessel to monitor, protect and conserve the fisheries and their environment in Carlingford Lough.
DOE	Loughs Agency	Tagging and Detection	The project proposed to purchase three coded wire tagging units (CWT) and four detection units for the marking of juvenile salmon as they are migrating from the river to their feeding grounds as smolts.
DOE	Fisheries Conservancy Board	Combined Fishery Programme	The project secured funding for the acquisition of equipment and the completion of works to support the SMP in the areas of protection, habitat rehabilitation/ enhancement and data collection in the cross-border Blackwater and Erne catchments.
DOE	DARD	Echo-sounders	This project centred on purchasing the latest generation fish counting echo-sounder equipment for fisheries research, and establish the use of this equipment in NI and RoI as a survey tool for monitoring fish stocks under the Water Framework Directive.
DOE	DARD	Shellfishery vessels	The project was made up of 4 distinct areas. Firstly a pilot project for VMS, the GIS / Roxswath Ground discrimination system, in depth site analysis and the RhiB (Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat), has been in use in both cross border areas and covering seed mussel fishery.

Dept Lead	Lead Applicant	Project Title	Description
DOE	DOE	Waste Awareness Media Campaign	The main aims were to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill, and increase recycling of waste materials. To achieve this, a campaign was developed which focused on a wide range of stakeholders, encouraging participation in waste reduction, recycling and recovery.
DOE	Donegal County Council	NS SHARE	This was an initiative to promote joint action on the management of the aquatic environment. It aimed to strengthen the inter-regional capacity for environmental management, improve public awareness and participation in environmental issues and protect and enhance the environment.
DOE	Northern Region Fisheries Board	Lough Melvin	The project aimed to produce a catchment management plan for Lough Melvin and its catchment that will promote "good ecological status" and could form the basis of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Lough Melvin.
DOE	Ulster University	TRACE	This project was a water quality project operating in the Irish cross-border drumlin region and specifically within the Blackwater River catchment. The aim was to demonstrate a stepped improvement in water quality in three sub-catchments, approximately 5km ² in size, using total phosphorus (TP) as the main water quality indicator.
DOE	Queens University	Forest impacts	By providing a scientific assessment of response to catchment change, the project is a necessary precursor for the environmental management and monitoring of upland lakes.
DOE	ICBAN	Waste Management Strategies	The project undertook research to assist addressing the current lack of cross border waste management strategic planning.
DOE	NW Institute of Further and Higher Education	Producer Waste Awareness	The project aimed to address the gap between rapidly developing waste policy and the praxis of waste management in SME's and public sector organisations in the border regions.

Dept Lead	Lead Applicant	Project Title	Description
DOE	Loughs Agency	Strule	This project provided a fish counting station of the River Strule at Omagh to provide facilities to count the number of wild Atlantic salmon returning annually to the Drumragh and Camowen tributaries of the Foyle catchment
DOE	Marine and Coastguard Agency	Seabed Mapping	The project promoted joint action to survey the seabed between Malin Head in the west, to Fair Head in the east of the island.

INTERREG IIIB

DOE was involved as a partner in the following project:

Lead Applicant	Project Title	Description
Devon County Council	EROCIPS - Emergency Response to Coastal Oil, Chemical and Inert Pollution from Shipping Project	The Emergency Response to Coastal Oil, Chemical and Inert Pollution from Shipping Project (EROCIPS) consisted of a series of work packages designed to provide responders with the necessary information to ensure a targeted counter pollution response. The intention was to provide a procedure that can be applied elsewhere in the coastal regions of Europe.

ANNEX B**INTERREG IVA PROJECTS**

Lead Applicant	Project Title	Description
Agri Food and Biosciences Institute	Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling	To provide robust scientific data on the sustainability of Short Rotation Coppice Willow for biofiltration/bioremediation technologies.
Agri Food and Biosciences Institute	Development of targeted ecological modelling tools for lake management	To define the main ecological relationships in large and small lakes in order to support the production of a targeted programme of measures.
Queens University Belfast	Controlling Priority Invasive Non-Native Riparian Plants And Restoring Native Biodiversity	To control and if possible eradicate invasive alien plants in demonstration river catchments in Ireland and Western Scotland.
Geological survey of Northern Ireland	Geo-environmental survey of the North of Ireland	To conduct geo-science surveys of the contiguous border counties of ROI, transfer the Tellus experience and expertise to organisations in the Republic, and undertake innovative environmental research.

Lead Applicant	Project Title	Description
Donegal County Council	Practical application of freshwater pearl mussel measures	To support the restoration of the freshwater pearl mussel to favourable conservation status at designated sites in the eligible area.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland Hydrographic Survey project (INIS HYDRO)	To develop a standardised seabed survey specification to be used to acquire accurate and high-resolution seabed mapping data.
RSPN(NI)	Halting biodiversity loss	To boost the population and range of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species across the eligible area.
Loughs Agency	Integrated Aquatic Resources Management across Ireland, NI and Scotland(IRIS)	To develop an integrated and improved approach to resource management; covering unique freshwater and marine natural assets.

No Cycling By-laws

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on proposed changes in the No Cycling By-laws that were requested by North Down Borough Council; and whether his Department remains willing to facilitate the changes that have been requested to date.

(AQW 17593/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The bye-laws that currently regulate cycling in the district of North Down Borough Council are the Pleasure Ground Bye-laws, which were confirmed in 1995. The 1995 bye-laws regulate cycling in designated areas.

On 17 March 2010, the Department received an application from the Council to revoke the 1995 bye-laws and replace them with a new set of Bye-laws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces.

The Council proposes to make changes to its current provisions for cycling. It also proposes changes in a range of other matters such as camping, parking, sports and games, boats, water, and power-driven model aircraft. In addition, the Council also proposes changes to the areas to which the bye-laws are to apply.

Officials have worked with the Council to agree bye-laws that are:-

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

Most recently, on 17 October 2012, the Council supplied an updated version of the proposed bye-laws. The Department responded to the Council on 13 November 2012 asking the council:

- to clarify its intentions regarding promenades and to reconsider the relevant enabling legislation; and
- to consider the relationship/conflict between its proposed bye-law to protect wildlife, and the provisions of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

Officials also supplied specific advice in response to a question from the Council, and reminded the Council of previous advice that had not been fully addressed.

Officials are currently awaiting a response from the Council.

The Department remains committed to assisting the Council in obtaining bye-laws agreeable to all parties involved, and suitable for confirmation.

I have instructed DOE officials to meet Council officials in early January to resolve this matter and report back to me by the end of January 2013.

Marine Division

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what is the projected number of staff required for the new Marine Division in his Department; and how many of these will be additional new staff.
(AQW 17596/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The projected staff complement of the new Division is 65 staff members spread over two main sites in Lisburn and at Millennium House, Belfast. The Marine Division's complement of staff has been resourced from relocating existing staff resources from within the Department. At this stage there are no new additional staff being appointed.

Marine Division

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what is the total budget of the proposed new Marine Division in his Department.
(AQW 17600/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Marine Division was established in November 2012 in order to draw together existing policy, planning and scientific functions for marine environmental protection and management from across the Department. It has also been tasked with implementing EU, international and national legislation along with delivering national legislation to promote, protect and sustain Northern Ireland's coastal waters.

Funding of £1.1million, previously allocated across a number of separate areas within the Department responsible for Marine functions, has been reallocated to the new Marine Division to cover the administration and programme expenditure for the period November 2012 to March 2013.

The budget for the financial year 2013–14 and thereafter is currently under active consideration.

The creation of the Marine Division has been widely welcomed, with some comments that it is the most significant government marine intervention for a long time. It creates a coherence around marine work that should be the best protection and best development going forward.

Environmental Enforcement

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AWQ 14244/11-15, how many applications will be immediately reviewed for each of the current, recently approved minerals applications and enforcement cases; and how many waste cases will be reviewed.
(AQW 17634/11-15)

Mr Attwood: 120 current and recently approved applications are the subject of review to confirm compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

Waste and enforcement cases do not form part of the current review.

Consultation: Snares

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment when he will launch the consultation on the use of snares.

(AQW 17709/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Preparation of the proposals to further regulate the use of snares in Northern Ireland has been delayed due to other priorities, however, work to finalise a consultation paper is on-going and the Department is committed to issuing this by February 2013.

Royal Town Planning Institute

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how many of the professional planners employed by his Department are members of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

(AQW 17720/11-15)

Mr Attwood: 212 planners employed by the Department are members of the Royal Town Planning Institute, which equates to 60%. A further 6 planners are members of the Irish Planning Institute.

Flood Prevention Measures

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how much funding his Department will invest in flood prevention measures over the next three years.

(AQW 17736/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department does not provide funding directly for such measures as responsibility for flood prevention rests with other bodies.

However, when flooding does occur, the Department will provide support via the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance. Where appropriate the Scheme currently provides £1,000 assistance to householders who have suffered severe inconvenience as a result of heavy rainfall. The Scheme also allows councils to be reimbursed for the cost of offering a range of practical help and guidance, which includes collection, retention and disposal of damaged household contents and assistance with arrangements to clean up homes and gardens.

The Department also provides funding to local councils for Emergency Planning measures. This grant provides councils with funding to allow them to engage in emergency planning arrangements and to assist other organisations in leading local recovery.

In addition, the Department is working with other stakeholders to examine a range of approaches to develop more integrated and sustainable, catchment-based stormwater management systems in Northern Ireland, with the objective to ensure systems become more sustainable, moving away from traditional underground piped drainage, to solutions which replicate natural drainage processes.

Local Government Reform

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions he has had with the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on the reform of local government.

(AQW 17739/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As a member of the Executive, the Minister has expressed his views on a number of papers I have tabled dealing with local government reform issues.

DOE officials are working with DHSSPS colleagues to learn from that department's experience of health sector reform under the Review of Public Administration and to explore DHSSPS' future role in the community planning process.

Westminster Government's Growth and Infrastructure Bill on Northern Ireland

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact of the Westminster Government's Growth and Infrastructure Bill on Northern Ireland, in particular clause 7; and which parts of the Bill will apply to Northern Ireland when it becomes an Act.

(AQW 17748/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Bill aims to promote economic growth and competitiveness, and facilitate provision of infrastructure by providing a comprehensive series of practical reforms to reduce confusing and overlapping red tape.

Clause 7 of the Bill (Electronic communications code: the need to promote growth) amends section 109 of the UK-wide Communications Act 2003 which gives the Secretary of State responsible for electronic communications powers to make Regulations on the application of the Electronic Communications Code. The Code governs the rights of electronic communications operators to install/maintain infrastructure on public and private land, subject to such restrictions and conditions set out in the Regulations. Clause 7 also disapplies the provisions of Article 4(1) of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) order 1985, which places a duty on public bodies in exercising their functions to have regard to the need to conserve the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside. This is the only provision that applies to Northern Ireland.

By amending the Communications Act which will require the Secretary of State to have regard to the need to promote economic growth when making Regulations referred to above, some relaxations will result allowing the installation of electronic communication infrastructure more rapidly.

However, it is not considered that this will have any significant negative impacts upon the countryside. This is because such considerations will take account of the existing requirements of section 109 of the Communication Act. This section includes the need to consider protection of the countryside before making regulations under that section.

In addition, specific approvals to place any such infrastructure on Areas of Special Scientific Interest or European sites will still be required and will be subject to any restrictions imposed by the designations on protected features.

Rubble Crushing and Recycling Facilities

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what assessment has been made of the net benefits of public provision of rubble crushing and recycling facilities.

(AQW 17764/11-15)

Mr Attwood: District Councils submit information to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on the public provision of rubble collected for recycling through Waste Data Flow and the most recent information for this is at Annex A. I have asked for a submission on the pressure of public crushing facilities, though I would approach the idea with caution.

In total 20,755 tonnes of rubble were collected for recycling by 16 councils at 30 civic amenity sites in 2011/12, all of which brings an overall benefit by preventing the need to use this quantity of virgin material.

ANNEX A

District Councils that collected rubble for recycling during 2011-12	Waste Management Group	Number of Civic Amenity sites that collected rubble for recycling during 2011-12	Tonnage of rubble collected at these sites for recycling during 2011-12
Antrim Borough Council	arc21	3	2,728
Armagh City & District Council	SWaMP2008	1	1,335
Ballymena Borough Council	arc21	1	1,029
Ballymoney Borough Council	NWRWMG	1	468
Banbridge District Council	SWaMP2008	3	1,196
Carrickfergus Borough Council	arc21	1	3,282
Castlereagh Borough Council	arc21	1	789
Coleraine Borough Council	NWRWMG	1	625
Cookstown District Council	SWaMP2008	2	434
Derry City Council	NWRWMG	4	1,441
Larne Borough Council	arc21	3	1,075
Limavady Borough Council	NWRWMG	1	197
Lisburn City Council	arc21	2	1,649
Magherafelt District Council	NWRWMG	4	933
North Down Borough Council	arc21	1	2,713
Omagh District Council	SWaMP2008	1	861
Northern Ireland Totals	-	30	20,755

Planning Applications

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications were made for new homes in the last three years.

(AQW 17778/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In the period April 2009 to June 2012 DOE Planning has received 14,801 applications for new single and replacement dwellings and 2,548 applications for housing developments, a total of 17,349 planning applications for residential properties.

The table below provides detail on the breakdown of the number of planning applications received for new single and replacement dwellings. These statistics are taken from the Annual and Quarterly Development Management statistical reports which are available to view on the DoE Planning website.

TABLE 1 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Q1 of 2012	Total
Urban new single dwelling	435	378	291	67	1171
Urban replacement dwelling	114	96	65	18	293
Rural new single dwelling	4043	2716	2404	531	9694
Rural replacement dwelling	1652	1067	741	183	3643
Total	6244	4257	3501	799	14801

Planning Permission: Quinn Cement

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment whether the camera system on the top of the pre-heater at Quinn Cement requires planning permission.

(AQW 17805/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I can confirm that following a recent site inspection, no breach of planning control was identified on top of the pre-heater tower.

Financial Assistance: Listed Buildings

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what financial assistance his Department has provided for listed buildings and structures in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17825/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In each of the last three financial years, the Department has provided the following funding, through its listed buildings grant-aid scheme:

- 2009-10 £3.514 million
- 2010-11 £3.773 million
- 2011-12 £4.677 million

Full details of the listed building grant-aid scheme may be found at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/funding/historic_buildings_grants-2.htm

In addition to these amounts, a grant totalling £0.958 million was paid to the Northern Ireland Science Park for approved works to the Thompson Dry Dock. This grant forms part of a management agreement for the site.

Emissions Gap Report

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the Emissions Gap Report, whether he has any new plans to tackle rising greenhouse gas emission levels.

(AQW 17849/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Emissions Gap Report underlines both the feasibility of emission reductions and the importance of international cooperation to raise the current inadequate level of ambition. The Report shows that despite some progress the world still needs to go further and faster in cutting emissions. It has become clear that greater efforts are needed to be made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Taking action now isn't only right for our climate, but it will be cheaper in the long run than having to catch up by doing more after 2020.

Climate change represents one of the most serious threats facing the world today. This global issue demands a global response – and all countries need to be part of the solution. Northern Ireland as a developed nation has an ethical obligation to play its part in reducing global emissions.

The Northern Ireland Executive is committed through its Programme for Government (PfG) to continue to work towards a reduction in greenhouse (GHG) emissions by at least 35% on 1990 levels by 2025. To support the delivery of this target, I chair the Cross Departmental Working Group on Climate Change. The group developed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan, which was published in February 2011, setting out the policies and measures which each department will undertake to help meet the Executive's emissions reduction target. The plan also contains a commitment to report to the Executive annually on performance. The first progress report was submitted to the Executive in June 2012.

Following the most recent meeting of the CDWGCC in November 2012, it was agreed that a cross departmental workshop be arranged for early 2013 to review progress across all departments against the current GHG emissions reduction action plan and to consider what other measures departments may be able to bring forward to help achieve further emission reductions.

It is also my intention to go to public consultation on policy proposals for a NI Climate Change Bill early in 2013. The results of this consultation will inform the legislation best designed to meet the needs of the people of Northern Ireland and underpin efforts to present Northern Ireland as a world leader in carbon reduction - to be what we and others see as a genuinely clean and green land.

Moreover, I recently held a meeting with Executive Ministers to interrogate how, individually and collectively, we can make fresh progress with the ambition of being a world leader in carbon reduction. This is the scale of the challenge and should be the scale of our ambition.

Article 31 Major Planning Applications

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the processing of Article 31 major planning applications.

(AQO 3101/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As of 11/12/12, 16 Article 31 applications have been processed to date this year. There are currently 34 live Article 31 applications. This compares with 60 live Article 31 applications when I took up my Ministerial position in May 2011 and a total of 29 applications have been processed since then. However, before Christmas, I expect to make known new decisions in, up to, 7 more cases.

I have impressed on my planning officials the need to process planning applications, particularly those of major importance, in a

timely manner. The Article 31's are managed in an active manner, to demonstrate that the planning system is 'turning corners'.

Historic Monuments

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the criteria for the delisting of historic monuments.

(AQO 3096/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Special statutory protection of historic monuments is usually provided through the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. The two types of statutory protection afforded by this Order are:

- The protection of an historic monument or archaeological site as a monument in the ownership, care or guardianship of the Department of the Environment, i.e. State Care
- The inclusion of an historic monument on a schedule, i.e. a scheduled monument

There are no set criteria for the removal of statutory protection from Scheduled Monuments or State Care Monuments and any proposal to remove such protection would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

Any proposal to schedule or de-schedule an historic monument must be brought before the Historic Monuments Council, a Statutory Advisory Council formed under the provisions of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Order.

Listed Buildings

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of listed buildings in each constituency.

(AQW 17886/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The department does not hold information on listed buildings on a constituency basis, and it would require a major administrative exercise in order to collate this data. Information is collected and recorded by district council area, and I have attached a breakdown of the number of listed buildings in each council area.

Additional information about Listed Buildings is available at:

<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niaa/other-index/content-databases/content-databases-build.htm>.

Council ID	Council Name	No of Listed Buildings
1	Derry	476
2	Limavady	140
3	Coleraine	328
4	Ballymoney	86
5	Moyle	332
6	Larne	186
7	Ballymena	258
8	Magherafelt	193
9	Cookstown	219
10	Strabane	165
11	Omagh	161
12	Fermanagh	513
13	Dungannon and South Tyrone	503
14	Craigavon	208
15	Armagh	529
16	Newry and Mourne	701
17	Banbridge	334
18	Down	718
19	Lisburn	336
20	Antrim	251
21	Newtownabbey	62

Council ID	Council Name	No of Listed Buildings
22	Carrickfergus	84
23	North Down	281
24	Ards	379
25	Castlereagh	26
26	Belfast	1079

Listed Buildings: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number and locations of the buildings in North Down that were awarded listed status in each of the last five years; and how many buildings in North Down are being considered for listed status.

(AQW 17888/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The table below indicates the number of buildings in North Down that have been listed in each of the last five years. The location of those listed is detailed in attachment one.

Year	No listed
2007/2008	2
2008/2009	0
2009/2010	0
2010/2011	0
2011/2012	0

Since 2010, 555 structures in the North Down Council Area have been visited and recorded as part of the Department's Second Survey of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest. All buildings already protected by listing are being reviewed as part of this work. Most of these records have been considered in this current financial year, and to date (December 2012) 23 buildings have been added to the list. Details of these new listings are provided in attachment two. 68 records remain to be processed. Some of these may also result in new listings.

Attachment One			
Second Survey Database			
North Down Council - Listed during 2007/2008			
HB Ref No	Address	Survey 1	Current Use
HB23/18/058	Glenmakieran 141 Bangor Road	Not_Listed	House
HB23/18/059	Cultra Station House, Cultra	Not_Listed	House
12 December 2012	Page 1 of 1		

Attachment Two				
NI Buildings Database				
New Listings in North Down since 01/04/2012				
HB Ref No	Address	Survey1	Survey 2	Current Use
HB23/01/028	Broom Cottage High Bangor Road Donaghadee Co Down BT19 6NA		B1	House
HB23/01/029	26 Andrew's Shorefield Balloo Lower Groomsport Bangor Co Down BT19 6LJ		B2	House
HB23/03/008	Glen Cottage 43 Bangor Road Groomsport Co Down BT19 6JF		B2	House
HB23/03/016 A	5 Waverley Drive Bangor Co Down BT20 5LD		B2	House
HB23/03/016 B	7 Waverley Drive Bangor Co Down BT20 5LD		B2	House
HB23/04/002	Bridge Gransha Road Bangor Co Down BT 19		B2	Bridge
HB23/05/003	Wesley Centenary Methodist Church Hamilton Road Bangor Co Down BT20 4JP		B2	Church
HB23/05/006	Bangor Carnegie Library Hamilton Road Bangor Co Down BT20 4LH		B2	Library

Attachment Two				
NI Buildings Database				
New Listings in North Down since 01/04/2012				
HB Ref No	Address	Survey1	Survey 2	Current Use
HB23/06/013	15 Drumhirk Avenue Drumhirk Conlig Newtownards Co Down BT23 7QB		B1	House
12 December 2012	Page 1 of 3			

New Listings in North Down since 01/04/2012				
HB Ref No	Address	Survey1	Survey 2	Current Use
HB23/07/007 B	Dufferin Memorial Hall 2A Hamilton Road Bangor Co Down BT20 4LE		B2	Hall
HB23/07/008	Masonic Hall Hamilton Road Bangor Co Down		B1	Hall
HB23/10/002 C	Dovecote Clandeboye Courtyard Bangor Co Down BT19 1RN		B1	Estate Related Structures
HB23/10/002 I	Bridge Clandeboye Estate Clandeboye Bangor Co Down BT19 1RN		B2	Bridge
HB23/12/002	52 Springhill Road Bangor Co Down BT20 3NP		B2	House

New Listings in North Down since 01/04/2012				
HB Ref No	Address	Survey1	Survey 2	Current Use
HB23/14/013	32 Maxwell Road Bangor Co Down BT20 3SG		B1	House
HB23/14/015 A	14 Raglan Road Bangor Co Down BT20 3TL		B2	House
HB23/14/015 B	16 Raglan Road Bangor Co Down BT20 3TL		B2	House
HB23/15/023	Red Bridge Ballyrobert Road Crawfordsburn Bangor Co Down BT19		A	Bridge
HB23/15/030	Railway Bridge Crawfordsburn Country Park Crawfordsburn Bangor Co Down		B+	Bridge
12 December 2012	Page 2 of 3			

New Listings in North Down since 01/04/2012				
HB Ref No	Address	Survey1	Survey 2	Current Use
HB23/15/039 F	Road Bridge Bridge Road Helen's Bay Bangor Co Down		A	Bridge
HB23/16/008 A	The Grey House 60 Station Road Craigavad Holywood Co Down BT18 0BP		B1	House

New Listings in North Down since 01/04/2012				
HB Ref No	Address	Survey1	Survey 2	Current Use
HB23/18/032	Thornleigh 106 Bangor Road Holywood Co Down BT18 OLR		B2	House
HB23/20/082	McCammon Memorial Masonic Hall 11 Sullivan Place Holywood Co Down BT18 9JF		B2	Hall
12 December 2012	Page 3 of 3			

Buildings Delisted

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many buildings have been delisted in each of the last five years.

(AQW 17889/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information you have sought is provided in the following table:-

Year	No delisted
2007/2008	7
2008/2009	11
2009/2010	3
2010/2011	31
2011/2012	14

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Mr Newton asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the number of prosecutions his Department has secured in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation deemed to be operating without meeting the necessary legal requirements within the East Belfast constituency.

(AQO 3097/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There have been no prosecutions under planning legislation in relation to unauthorised Houses of Multiple Occupation in East Belfast. I have requested an update on this issue.

I have made a point of saying that the flipside of good planning is good enforcement. Through the service of urgent works notices, heritage crime summits, the first service ever of a completion notice, enhancing resource of the Environmental Crime Unit, bringing forward the Planning Bill with new enforcement powers and assessing where to serve injunctions, all indicate my approach.

However there are issues around the HMO approach as this question indicates.

Winter Driving

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment what additional road safety measures his Department is putting in place to highlight the dangers of winter driving.

(AQO 3099/11-15)

Mr Attwood: My Department is currently involved in several road safety initiatives appropriate for this time of year.

A main focus of activities over the Christmas and New Year period is the reinforcement of the anti drink drive message. The Department is currently supporting the PSNI's winter drink drive operation to discourage and detect drink drivers.

The Department is also supporting Coca-Cola's Designated Driver initiative. The scheme, which will be operational in many venues across Northern Ireland, encourages consumers to plan their nights out with a friend who abstains from alcohol for the evening to ensure they get home safely.

A further relevant activity is the Department's anti drink drive campaign, 'Hit Home'. The advert emphasises the impairing effects of alcohol on driving – even from the first drink. The message is designed to increase further the unacceptability of driving after one or two drinks. The campaign features ordinary people who warn: 'Every drink increases your risk of crashing'. As with all DOE anti drink drive messages, this is underpinned with the strapline "Never Ever Drink And Drive".

Other advertising activity includes highlighting the dangers of drug driving and airing the real-life messages captured in the 'Crashed Lives' accounts, which are particularly poignant at this time of year.

The DOE 'Gift' radio campaign will air and is being supported by the PSNI with outdoor advertising on bus shelters. The campaign will run throughout December targeting all road users with a mix of key road safety messages that particularly focus on the Christmas period.

The Department will continue to advise all road users to adapt their behaviour according to the conditions. DOE will continue to support the road safety partners in their advice to road users. DRD have issued leaflets to households with advice on how to deal with wintry conditions. PSNI have also developed a leaflet containing advice on how motorists should deal with driving in snow, ice or fog this winter.

Detailed advice is also available on NI Direct <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/news-nov12-driving-in-wintery-weather-conditions>

Solar Panel Developments

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the planning guidance for large scale solar panel developments.

(AQO 3100/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Large scale solar panel developments are assessed against policy and guidance contained in PPS18.

PPS18 aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment. Best Practice Guidance (BPG) associated with PPS18 provides background information and guidance on both active and thermal solar technology.

My assessment is that PPS18 and the BPG adequately reflect my position in promoting the greater use of solar technology in new developments and the retrofitting or incorporation of such technology on existing buildings where appropriate. The policy and guidance ensures that while the wider environmental, economic and social benefits of large scale solar panel developments will be given significant weight in determining whether planning permission should be granted, the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with the development are also issues that have to be assessed.

I have had some discussions recently on the potential of 'solar farms'. This again demonstrates the view that, arguably, renewables is Ireland's biggest economic opportunity.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of the Environment when the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan will be adopted.

(AQO 3102/11-15)

Mr Attwood: It is my intention that the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan will be adopted by the end of March 2013. As members know, I published BMAP 'pre-adoption' as I believe after such a long period of inquiry, it was necessary for people in the BMAP area have knowledge of BMAP recommendations.

Transitional Committees

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment when he intends to transform Voluntary Transitional Committees into Statutory Transitional Committees.

(AQO 3103/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In order to drive the process of transition and convergence of local councils under the reform of local government, my Department is working to transform local Transition Committees from a voluntary standing to a statutory position as soon as possible. I intend to lay regulations in the Assembly by February 2013 and will put the Committees onto a statutory footing as soon as this legislation has been passed by the Assembly.

This will enable Statutory Transition Committees to take forward key areas of work that will include governance, corporate and financial planning, service delivery, transferring functions, community planning, capacity building and the appointment of senior staff. I believe this will help create certainty and provide leadership.

However, there is no impediment for VTC's pressing on with their work programmes, which should be accelerating as we are now 500 days to the shadow elections and 850 days to the new council clusters going live.

Senior Council Officials Severance

Mr Cree asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has carried out any analysis of the projected severance costs for senior council officials who will leave local government employment during the reform of Local Government.

(AQO 3104/11-15)

Mr Attwood: An economic appraisal carried out by Price Waterhouse Coopers included analysis of potential severance costs for senior council officials. The estimated figure is £17.8 million. Clearly, these figures are being updated to ensure precise up to date figures.

Planning Policy Retail Applications

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to amend planning policy to meet the interests of both out of town and town centre retail applications.

(AQO 3105/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have commissioned a review of town centre and retail planning policy, which I intend to bring forward as part of the new Single Planning Policy Statement. It is intended that a draft Single Planning Policy Statement will issue for public consultation next year and be finalised as soon as practicable in 2014.

It is my view that there is a need to reconfigure planning policy to deal with the complex out of town and town centre retail development issues facing the north at this time. I will soon be engaging consultants to update the evidential context in relation to town centres and retailing and to undertake

engagement with stakeholders. This necessary research will inform the development of new retail and town centre policy.

The principle that I will work to is 'Town Centre First'. Clearly, in the meantime, I will decide current retail applications on the basis of existing policy, law and process and will do so in a precautionary way.

Local Government Reform

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of the Environment to outline what measures will be implemented to ensure that functions transferred from central government to local councils in the reform of Local Government will continue to be properly funded.

(AQO 3106/11-15)

Mr Attwood: One of the two finance-related guiding principles agreed by the Executive was that the functions, which are to transfer from central to local government, should be fit for purpose, sufficiently resourced and be rates neutral at the point of transfer. This will require the transfer of resources from central to local government when the functions transfer. I intend to hold to that principle.

The Executive and the transferring central government departments, including the Department of the Environment, are exploring the options available to provide the required future funding.

To support this work, I have established a Transfer of Functions Working Group and a Finance Working Group. These two are working with the Reform Funding Task and Finish Sub-Group to consider and develop arrangements for the future (i.e. post transfer) funding of the functions which are to transfer from central to local government to ensure that the second guiding principle is adhered to.

It would be hostile to the needs of rate payers and the success of local government if functions were transferred 'on the cheap'. I believe this is appreciated by all. Transferring departments will need to ensure transfer is on the principles unanimously endorsed by the executive.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Civil Service Vacancies

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of vacancies in the Civil Service in the Derry City Council area, broken down by (i) grade; and (ii) Department.

(AQW 15697/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The number of vacancies in permanent Northern Ireland Civil Service posts, located in the Derry City Council area, in each of the Northern Ireland Departments including their Agencies at 10 December 2012, is set out in the attached table.

**NICS VACANCIES (FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) BASIS)
IN THE DERRY CITY COUNCIL AREA,
BROKEN DOWN BY GRADE AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
AT 10 DECEMBER 2012**

	AA	AO	E02	E01	S0	DP	G7	Other		Total
								No.	Grade	
DARD		1.4	3	4	2					10.4
DE		1	1					2	Support Grade Band 2	4
DEL		2	2	1		1				6
DFP			3	3	2	2	2			12
DOE	1	1					1	1	Traffic Examiner	7
								2	Prof & Technical Officer	
								1	Senior Prof & Technical Officer	
DRD								1	PTO Graphic Designer	1
DSD		3	8					1	Personal Secretary	12
Totals	1	8.4	17	8	4	3	3	8		52.4

Departments not shown in the table had no vacancies.

Annual EU Budget

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the Executive's position on our national Government's requirement for a reduction in the EU budget.

(AQW 17434/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Negotiation of the EU Budget is a reserved matter.

The Executive has not formally discussed the UK Government position.

We are broadly in favour of a real reduction in UK contributions and I have conveyed this to UK Ministers.

I and other Ministers take every opportunity to advise UK Ministers that any settlement must protect the interests of Northern Ireland in relation to our EU receipts.

Solicitors

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of (i) newly qualified solicitors and (ii) new members of the Bar in each of the last ten years, broken down by gender.

(AQW 17650/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Department of Finance and Personnel does not hold statistics on the number of newly qualified solicitors, or new members of the Bar.

This information can be obtained, in relation to solicitors, from the Law Society for Northern Ireland, and for barristers, from the General Council of the Bar.

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps are being taken to ensure procurement contracts are available to small and medium sized enterprises.

(AQW 17667/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In my Statement to the Assembly on 8 October I reported that in 2010 – 2011 77% of all contracts were awarded to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). I can now report the same percentage for 2011-2012. These figures demonstrate the significant role SMEs play in delivering supplies, works and services to NI Departments, their agencies and NDPBs.

The Procurement Board, which I chair, is keen to see further progress in reducing bureaucracy and providing opportunities for SME access to government contracts. To this end it has published an extensive set of Procurement Guidance Notes which will help to:

- explain public procurement processes to SMEs and show how procurement opportunities can be accessed;
- reduce and remove barriers for smaller businesses wishing to compete for public sector opportunities, for example reductions in the levels of experience needed;
- increase the visibility of procurement opportunities by advertising contracts above £30,000 on a single procurement portal. For contracts below £30,000, tenders are invited from suppliers registered on the portal;
- streamline procedures for procurements below the EU thresholds and reduce the paperwork associated with tendering for these contracts;
- reduce liability and insurance requirements by making these proportionate to the risks associated with the project; and
- ensure that departments operate SME friendly procedures in their supply chains.

These measures are supported by a programme of 'Meet the Buyer' events undertaken by CPD and Centres of Procurement Expertise. This year CPD has provided practical advice on how to access public

sector opportunities at a number of events attended by over 1,200 SME representatives. I would ask all Members to support these events and encourage SMEs in their constituencies to avail themselves of these opportunities.

Procurement Exercises

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps are being taken to ensure the inclusion of social clauses in departmental procurement exercises.

(AQW 17668/11-15)

Mr Wilson: It is for departments to determine the extent to which they can incorporate social clauses into a procurement exercise. This is best done at the scoping and planning stage.

In line with the Programme for Government commitment, the Procurement Board Strategy requires departments to set targets for inclusion of these clauses in contracts. Departments will be required to report progress to the Procurement Board.

The Central Procurement Directorate and Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs) will work with departments to help in the delivery of these clauses. To assist with this process the Procurement Board issued guidance in 2008 which was endorsed by the Executive. This guidance offers advice to departments and CoPEs on how to integrate equality and sustainability, including social clauses, into the public procurement process. The Procurement Board is currently considering further supplementary guidance on integrating social considerations into government contracts.

Public Sector: Senior Executives

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what guidelines exist in regard to the salary levels, and any increase therein, which are afforded to senior executives in the public sector; and to what extent the guidelines embrace expectations or provisions on pay restraint.

(AQW 17675/11-15)

Mr Wilson: DFP issues annual guidelines on the pay remit and approval process. The latest guidance (relating to 2012-13) was issued on 13 August 2012 and can be accessed on my department's website. This outlines the Executive's pay policy, control parameters, approval process and roles and responsibilities in that regard.

This guidance makes it clear that the Executive's control of public sector pay is based on the principle that the public sector should offer a pay and reward package that allows it to recruit, retain and motivate suitable staff. The guidance also indicates that public sector pay should reflect the circumstances specific to the local labour market.

Civil Service Vacancies

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why he has not answered AQW 15697/11-15; and when it will be answered.

(AQW 17684/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The question has now been answered. As the information is not held centrally by my Department input was requested from other Departments. Unfortunately the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure did not respond within the required timescale.

Green New Deal

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much money was retained from the closure of Energy Efficiency Homes Scheme and the Low Carbon Homes Scheme for the Green New Deal; and when this funding will be utilised.

(AQW 17693/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The funding realised from the closure of Energy Efficiency Homes Scheme and the Low Carbon Homes Scheme was to provide funding towards the Green New Deal programme.

As determined by the business case, the option selected for the Green New Deal programme is the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Boiler Replacement Scheme, which is scheduled to run for the next three years.

This year £183,000 in administrative and revenue savings associated with the closure of the schemes will be transferred from DFP to DSD in the January monitoring round in line with the agreed policy position.

There are also savings to be generated in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and these will be finalised and transferred at that time.

Foyle Constituency

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many businesses in the Foyle constituency have rates arrears over £10,000.

(AQW 17694/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the number of businesses in the Foyle constituency that have rates arrears over £10,000 is not available as data is collated at District Council and Ward level only. As at 30th November 2012, rates of over £10,000 remain unpaid for 331 Non-Domestic properties in the Derry District Council Area.

Chief Executive of InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how a reported increase of £30,000 per annum in the salary of the Chief Executive of Invest NI is compatible with the Executive's stance on pay restraint in the public sector.

(AQW 17710/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The guidance makes it clear that the Executive's control of public sector pay is based on the principle that the public sector should offer a pay and reward package that allows it to recruit, retain and motivate suitable staff.

Chancellor's Autumn Statement

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what effect the Chancellor's Autumn statement will have on the Northern Ireland economy.

(AQW 17718/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There were a number of specific decisions taken by the Chancellor which will have a significant impact on Northern Ireland. For example the additional 1% reduction in corporation tax from April 2014 and the two year increase in the annual investment allowance for small business from January 2013 will encourage investment.

Of particular importance is that Treasury have confirmed that they will support a derogation from the Carbon Price Floor for Northern Ireland, subject to discussions with the European Commission. I have been robustly making the case to the Chief Secretary that enforcement of the Carbon Price Floor upon Northern Ireland would have a massive detrimental impact on the local energy sector and I am therefore particularly pleased that Treasury have responded positively to our concerns.

In terms of public expenditure, the decision taken by the Chancellor to channel more funding into capital investment is welcome and for Northern Ireland this means additional capital investment resources of £131million over the next two years. The additional capital investment allocations were funded by cuts to Whitehall departments' resource budgets of 1% next year and 2% in 2014-15. However, because health and education were exempt from these cuts and some additional allocations were made in respect of business support measures, the impact on Northern Ireland was much less severe.

Our resource DEL will increase by £2.4 million next year, with a subsequent reduction of £34.3 million in 2014-15. This is manageable without the Executive having to re-open its Budget position. However, the Office of Budget Responsibility projections for the UK economy and public finances suggest that further public expenditure reductions will be necessary beyond 2014-15. So there can be no doubt that the Executive will face some very difficult decisions as part of its next Budget setting process.

Rate's Debt Collection

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department has spent on legal fees in relation to rates' debt collection over the last three years.

(AQW 17734/11-15)

Mr Wilson: If a ratepayer has not paid their rate bill, or made contact with LPS to agree a payment arrangement after the issue of a bill and a final demand, LPS has little option but to take forward Court proceedings to recover the money owing.

LPS is obliged to pay fees to the NI Courts & Tribunals Service for the different stages of the legal proceedings, including for issue of a Court Process, the granting of a Court Decree, the issue of a Notice of Intention to Enforce Debt, and Enforcement Fees. These charges are added to ratepayers' bills, and therefore become part of the recoverable amount.

Payments are made to the Courts & Tribunals Service by LPS at the time that the actions are taken and are then recovered from ratepayers in due course. Given the daily movements in individual rate accounts, and the time differences in payment to the Courts and recovery of the money, it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the net (unrecovered) legal costs in any period. The figures in the table below are therefore the total (gross) figures paid by LPS to the Courts & Tribunals Service.

Year	Payment by LPS to Courts & Tribunals Service
2009/10	£2,506,706.42
2010/11	£2,654,959.75
2011/12	£3,216,079.30

In addition, LPS also incurs professional legal costs in relation to cases pursued through the High Court Chancery Division. The figures in the table below are therefore the total figures paid by LPS to Crown Solicitor's Office in relation to such cases.

Year	Payment by LPS to Crown Solicitor's Office
2009/10	£150,328.36
2010/11	£254,775.94
2011/12	£344,092.38

LPS also incurs additional staff costs in pursuing recovery of unpaid rates. These costs form part of the cost of rate collection and are therefore paid from the district and regional rates – in effect, by all ratepayers.

I would stress that no recovery costs would exist if all ratepayers paid their rates in a timely manner, or if in difficulty contacted LPS to agree a payment arrangement.

Working Parents on Minimum Wage

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many (i) full-time and (ii) part-time working parents are on the minimum wage.

(AQW 17777/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Official estimates for the number of people earning the minimum wage come from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). Figures from the ASHE at April 2012 show that there were an estimated 11,000 full-time and 20,000 part-time employees in Northern Ireland earning the national minimum wage.

Information on the number of employees who are working parents is available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), as this information is not available from the ASHE.

For the period April – June 2012, the LFS estimated that there were 327,000 parents in employment. Of these, 234,000 (72%) were working full-time and 93,000 (28%) were working in a part-time capacity.

Rates Relief Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many shops in the Ballymena council area have taken advantage of the rates relief scheme.

(AQW 17791/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of shops that have benefited from any of the various types of non-domestic rates reliefs in the (i) Ballymena, (ii) Ballymoney and (iii) Moyle Council areas from 1st April 2010, when the Small Business Rate Relief was first introduced, to 30th November 2012 is given in the attached tables. A breakdown of the number of shops by the type of relief is also given.

BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	23
SBRR - 25%	177
SBRR - 20%	144
Shop Window Display Relief	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	340

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	24
SBRR - 25%	70
SBRR - 20%	59
Shop Window Displays	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	152

MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	40
SBRR - 25%	67
SBRR - 20%	28

Relief Type	Number of shops
Shop Window Displays	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	134

1 Any individual shop may have received more than one type of relief over the course of the last three years.

Rates Relief Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many shops in the Ballymoney council area have taken advantage of the rates relief scheme.

(AQW 17792/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of shops that have benefited from any of the various types of non-domestic rates reliefs in the (i) Ballymena, (ii) Ballymoney and (iii) Moyle Council areas from 1st April 2010, when the Small Business Rate Relief was first introduced, to 30th November 2012 is given in the attached tables. A breakdown of the number of shops by the type of relief is also given.

BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	23
SBRR - 25%	177
SBRR - 20%	144
Shop Window Display Relief	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	340

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	24
SBRR - 25%	70
SBRR - 20%	59
Shop Window Displays	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	152

MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	40
SBRR - 25%	67
SBRR - 20%	28
Shop Window Displays	0

Relief Type	Number of shops
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	134

1 Any individual shop may have received more than one type of relief over the course of the last three years.

Rates Relief Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many shops in the Moyle council area have taken advantage of the rates relief scheme.

(AQW 17793/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The number of shops that have benefited from any of the various types of non-domestic rates reliefs in the (i) Ballymena, (ii) Ballymoney and (iii) Moyle Council areas from 1st April 2010, when the Small Business Rate Relief was first introduced, to 30th November 2012 is given in the attached tables. A breakdown of the number of shops by the type of relief is also given.

Ballymena Borough Council

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	23
SBRR - 25%	177
SBRR - 20%	144
Shop Window Display Relief	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	340

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	24
SBRR - 25%	70
SBRR - 20%	59
Shop Window Displays	0
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	152

MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Relief Type	Number of shops
SBRR - 50%	40
SBRR - 25%	67
SBRR - 20%	28
Shop Window Displays	0

Relief Type	Number of shops
Empty Premises Relief	0
Total number of shops receiving one or more relief¹	134

1 Any individual shop may have received more than one type of relief over the course of the last three years.

Net Fiscal Balance Report

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail in full the calculation used to estimate the share of stamp duties in the Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11, including references to the source data.

(AQW 17871/11-15)

Mr Wilson: As stated in Annex B of the Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11, the UK figure for stamp duty is taken from the PSAT2 databank published by ONS.

Northern Ireland stamp duty is estimated based on the region's share of UK revenue raised from: (1) land and property stamp duties and; (2) stocks and shares stamp duties.

Stamp duty land tax (SDLT) is published by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and is disaggregated by Government Office Region (GOR). Northern Ireland's share of UK households who own stocks, shares, unit trusts, PEPs and ISAs – as recorded in the Family Resources Survey produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – is used to estimate stamp duty from stocks and shares in Northern Ireland.

I must re-emphasise that this report has been developed applying the methodology originally designed to produce the "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland" (GERS) publication and is not intended to provide an accurate estimate of individual revenue items. The report provides an overall assessment of Northern Ireland's aggregate fiscal position, and as such, the report indicates that individual estimates should be interpreted with caution.

Limavady Borough Council: Rates Arrears

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many people in the Limavady Borough Council area were in rates arrears in each of the last five years.

(AQW 17976/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the number of people in the Limavady Borough Council area who were in rates arrears in each of the last five years is not available. Information is available on the number of properties in the Limavady Borough Council area that had rates outstanding at the end of each rating year since 31st March 2010.

The table below shows the number of properties (both domestic and non-domestic) in the Limavady Borough Council area with rate arrears at the end of each rating year since 2009/2010 (the earliest year for which comparable information is available).

Date	No of properties in Limavady Borough Council area with rate arrears at end of year		
	Domestic	Non-Domestic	All properties
31/03/2010	1,440	263	1,703
31/03/2011	1,401	221	1,622
31/03/2012	1,662	199	1,861

Net Fiscal Balance Report

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to identify the ways in which the calculations used to estimate distinct revenue streams within the Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11 are different to those used within the Expenditure and Revenues for Scotland reports.

(AQW 17991/11-15)

Mr Wilson: At the outset, I would reiterate that the purpose of the Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11 is to provide an overall assessment of Northern Ireland's aggregate fiscal position. It is not intended to provide an accurate estimate of individual revenue streams. As such, the report indicates that individual estimates should be interpreted with caution.

In developing the report, DFP has sought to apply the approach used to produce the "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland" (GERS) publication as set out in its detailed revenue methodology paper, which is available on the Scottish Government website.

Where there are differences in the methodologies, these have typically been as a consequence of differences in the availability of information in each region, i.e. where actual data relating to a revenue stream has been available for Scotland but not for Northern Ireland or vice-versa.

For example, the Scottish methodology paper indicates that HMRC produces estimates of the amount of revenue raised from capital gains tax in Scotland. However, the Northern Ireland approach apportions the overall UK figure for capital gains tax according to its share of UK GVA (less extra-regio).

On the other hand, while Northern Ireland's vehicle excise duty is separately recorded and published by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing NI (DVLNI), Scotland's share of vehicle excise duty is estimated on the basis of Scotland's proportion of the UK's total value of licences.

Details of the methodology employed and the various sources of data used in estimating total public sector revenue in Northern Ireland are outlined in Annex B of the Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11 report.

Net Fiscal Balance Report

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how the methodology used in the Net Fiscal Balance Reports were amended to reflect the revisions in the methodology which is employed by the Scottish Government; and what was the purpose and outcome of these revisions.

(AQW 17993/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The reference in Annex B of the Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11 with respect to amendments to the methodology stems from, and advises users of the fact that significant work had been undertaken in past years to develop and refine the overall fiscal balance estimate in line with the GERS approach and the data that was and is available locally. However, there have not been any recent methodological changes required in response to Scottish amendments as the approach to this has become established.

However, DFP continues to seek ways in which to refine the Northern Ireland approach and, as shown in table B.1 of the report, revisions were made to the methodology for calculating VAT and 'Other Taxes and Royalties'. Essentially, VAT refunds that were included in 'Other Taxes and Royalties' revenue stream in previous reports are now included in the VAT revenue figure. This presentational change has improved consistency with the GERS report, but has not affected the overall net fiscal balance estimate as the methodology for apportioning this amount remains the same.

Net Fiscal Balance Report

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail in full the calculation used to estimate the share of capital gains tax in the Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11, including references to the source data.

(AQW 17995/11-15)

Mr Wilson: As stated in Annex B of the Northern Ireland Net Fiscal Balance Report 2009-10 and 2010-11, the UK figure for capital gains tax is taken from the PSAT2 databank published by ONS and is apportioned to Northern Ireland according to its share of UK GVA (less extra-regio). Please note that GVA 'less extra regio' excludes income that cannot be satisfactorily assigned to any physical region.

I must re-emphasise that this report has been developed applying the methodology originally designed to produce the "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland" (GERS) publication and is not intended to provide an accurate estimate of individual revenue items. The report provides an overall assessment of Northern Ireland's aggregate fiscal position, and as such, the report indicates that individual estimates should be interpreted with caution.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Cancer Diagnosis

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will investigate the high number of cancer diagnoses being experienced in the Coast Road and Glens area of east Antrim.

(AQW 17562/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): I am advised that analysis of cancer rates in Northern Ireland indicates that the rates of cancer in the 'Glens of Antrim and Coastal Area' were not significantly different from Northern Ireland as a whole. My Department therefore does not intend to mount the investigation proposed by the Member.

Diabetes Awareness

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is doing to promote diabetes awareness in North Down.

(AQW 17589/11-15)

Mr Poots: In the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust diabetes is managed in an integrated way, usually within GP Practices with Practice Nurses taking the lead. Diabetes Specialist Nurses (DSNs) in the Trust provide an ongoing point of contact and source of information for GPs, Practice Nurses, District Nurses, nursing home staff, Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and the public. DSNs attend shared care visits with Consultants to GP practices, meeting with GPs and practice nurses to update them on changes in services including, for example, patient education programmes, telemonitoring and advances in treatment.

Diabetes Specialist Nurses are available to attend health fairs on request, offering people the opportunity to have their blood sugar checked and to receive advice depending on the result. They also make available information relating to diabetes and its symptoms in public areas such as GP practices and libraries as well as responding to invitations to speak at community groups. In addition, all health professionals who interact with the public, including Health Visitors, GPs, District Nurses and AHPs, have the responsibility to deliver health promotion messages.

Transforming Your Care

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Community Plans will be included in Transforming Your Care.

(AQW 17740/11-15)

Mr Poots: Community Planning is based on partnership working at regional, local and neighbourhood levels to create a long term vision for promoting the well-being of an area for the benefit of the local population. Transforming Your Care (TYC) proposes closer co-ordination of health and social care provision in order to provide a seamless service for users, basing services around the needs of the individual rather than institutions. The TYC reforms are needed to ensure that there are safe,

resilient and sustainable health and social care services available to communities for the future. The Community Plans and TYC should complement each other for the benefit of local populations.

The public consultation on the proposed changes emerging from Transforming Your Care runs until 15 January 2013. I would invite everyone with an interest in the future of our Health and Social Care to take the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Charity Funding

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures are in place to ensure that charities which receive funding from his Department are adequately balanced between frontline service provision and back office administration and management; and whether his Department has a role in scrutinising publicly funded charitable organisations to ensure that such organisations provide adequate advocacy provision in the event of long term sick leave by staff.

(AQW 17744/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department does not assess the mix of back office and front line staff in with providing funding to voluntary and community organisations. Differing business models will be used by organisations dependent on the type of work they are carrying out. Rather, funding is provided to organisations based on the delivery of health and well being outcomes that align with departmental objectives. Monitoring takes place throughout the year to ensure objectives and contractual grant requirements are met.

Organisations are required to obey employment law and one of the terms of funding requires them to comply with Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998.

Officials are currently assessing voluntary and community funding procedures with the aim of delivering a flexible funding process that aligns with the changing health and social care needs of the local population.

Health and Social Care Trusts: Interpreter Fees

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much each Health and Social Care Trust has spent on interpreter Fees in each of the last five years; and whether Trusts are legally obliged to offer interpreters.

(AQW 17753/11-15)

Mr Poots: Expenditure by each Health and Social Care Trust on interpreter fees, in each of the last five years, is set out in the table below.

	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	£527,467	£448,576	£412,739	£251,520	£171,322
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£293,372	£295,496	£334,437	£240,920	£229,881
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	£110,507	£93,600	£81,273	£68,122	£62,071
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	£919,547	£919,977	£749,889	£609,835	£582,285
Western Health & Social Care Trust	£196,299	£166,239	£172,699	£121,192	£140,752

	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health & Social Care Trust	£772	£2,357	£1,208	£830	£1,101
	£2,047,964	£1,926,245	£1,752,245	£1,292,419	£1,187,412

All Health and Social Care Trusts are legally obliged to provide interpreters to patients and clients in Northern Ireland who do not speak English as a first or second proficient language.

Vacancy Control Policy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 17165/11-15, why information is not available on the current number of posts unfilled in consequence of vacancy control measures; and whether the information can be obtained.

(AQW 17761/11-15)

Mr Poots: Vacancy controls were introduced to ensure that organisations are able to manage their workforces effectively and to safeguard employment. In instances where vacancy control measures are used to support organisational change such posts are normally filled on a short term basis (for example through the use of temporary/ bank staff) or services may be covered through the reprioritisation / re-organisation of associated workload in the short term.

As the situation in respect of vacancy controls is fluid, any information provided would be a snapshot and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. It is fundamental that safe and effective services are delivered and HSC Trusts have assured me that where posts are essential to frontline services they will be filled promptly.

Specialist Pain Services

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of consultants providing specialist pain services in each Health and Social Care Trust; and to outline the roles of the support staff working in each of the associated pain service units.

(AQW 17803/11-15)

Mr Poots: Specialist Pain Consultants

The following table shows the number, specialty and approximate clinic hours per week for consultants providing specialist pain services in each Health and Social Care Trust. All information below was provided directly by the Health and Social Care Trusts and has not been validated by the Department.

HSC Trust	Consultant Specialty	Headcount	Approx. Clinic Time Per Week
Belfast	Anaesthetics with a special interest in pain medicine	5	33.5 hours outpatient clinics, 26 hours day cases, 4 hours Pain Management Programme
Northern	Anaesthetics	2	4 outpatient chronic pain sessions (14 hours), 2.75 day case chronic pain sessions
Southern	Anaesthetics (Chronic Pain)	2	4.5 outpatient sessions, 2 day case sessions
South-Eastern	Chronic Pain	4	49.5 hours
	Acute Pain	1	4.5 hours

HSC Trust	Consultant Specialty	Headcount	Approx. Clinic Time Per Week
Western	Anaesthetics	2	16-20 hours outpatients, 8-10 hours for procedure lists.

Support Staff in associated pain service units

Belfast HSC Trust

Chronic Pain Nursing Team: The nursing team hold outpatient clinics, telephone review clinics, and offer treatment within a health and wellbeing centre.

Allied Health Professions: Assist with the Pain Management Programme (PMP) at Belfast City Hospital.

Psychology Services: Assist with the PMP and provide Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Course (ACTS) at Belfast City Hospital and at a health and wellbeing centre.

Imaging and theatre staff: This staff group assist with every day case theatre list provided for chronic pain interventions.

Northern HSC Trust

The Northern Trust's chronic pain service does not have designated support staff.

Southern HSC Trust

The Southern Trust's consultants are supported by a GP with a special interest who holds two outpatient sessions per week, and a Specialist Nurse who runs TENS clinics and carries out telephone reviews of patients.

South-Eastern HSC Trust

Chronic Pain

The South-Eastern Trust's Chronic Pain unit consists of an Associate Specialist doctor and a GP with a special interest in chronic pain, each of whom hold 2 clinics for a total of 18 clinic hours per week. They are supported by 2 Specialist Nurses, who hold 3 nurse-led clinics per week and run a telephone support line for patients, and by 2 Band 5 Nurses.

Acute Pain

The South-Eastern Trust's Acute Pain unit consists of three Specialist Nurses, with the input of an anaesthetist when required.

Western HSC Trust

The Western Trust's two consultants are supported by an Associate Specialist. Allied Health Professionals and nursing staff provide a multi-disciplinary pain management programme on the Tyrone County Hospital site, along with a nurse-led acupuncture and TENS service and telephone review service. Altnagelvin also has a nurse-led acupuncture and TENS service, and a planned nurse-led telephone review service for the future.

Programme for Government

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he will publish the delivery plans for the Programme for Government.

(AQW 17812/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Programme for Government delivery framework is centrally managed through OFMDFM. It is through this framework, which was agreed by the Executive, that Delivery Plans will be published.

Delivery Plans for my Department have also been shared with the Health Committee through normal business processes.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Ms McCorley asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) number of people who are waiting to be assessed for Autistic Spectrum Disorder; and (ii) average waiting time, broken down by (a) postcode; and (b) constituency.

(AQW 17823/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people waiting to be assessed for Autistic Spectrum Disorder is not available by either postcode or constituency. Figures provided by the Health and Social Care Board indicate that at 31st October 2012, 588 children were waiting to be assessed for suspected Autism in Northern Ireland.

Average waiting times between referral and assessment are not available centrally or from the HSC Board. Information from the HSC Board is available in terms of waiting times by HSC Trust and by time bands. These figures are outlined in the table below.

TABLE 1: WAITING TIMES BY TRUST (31ST OCTOBER 2012)

HSC Trust	>13 Weeks	8 – 13 Weeks	4 – 8 Weeks	0 – 4 Weeks	Total
Belfast	28	39	29	40	136
Northern	158	41	49	37	285
South Eastern	0	10	29	31	70
Southern	0	11	16	11	38
Western	1	18	20	20	59
Total	187	119	143	139	588

Source: HSC Board

These figures have not been validated by Community Information Branch

Fire and Rescue Service

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 17133/11-15, to detail (i) the stations from which the eighteen scrap cars were stolen; (ii) the parts that were stolen from scrap cars at each station; (iii) the cost of replacing stolen parts and cars during this period; and (iv) the suppliers from which replacement parts or cars were sourced.

(AQW 17844/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below details -

- (i) the Stations from which the 18 scrap cars were stolen; and
- (ii) the parts that were stolen.

Station	Number Of Cars	Parts Stolen
Westland	3	
Springfield	2	
Clogher	1	
Belleek	2	

Station	Number Of Cars	Parts Stolen
Crumlin	2	
Cushendall	2	
Keady	1	
Bangor	3	
Ballywalter	2	
Ballyclare		Alloy Wheels
Belleek		Alloy Wheels
Cushendall		Wheels, Axle
Total	18	

(iii) and (iv) The items stolen were not replaced.

Children's Paediatric Cardiac Care

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assurances he can give that the final decision on Children's Paediatric Cardiac care will provide a safer service than the present arrangements.

(AQW 17855/11-15)

Mr Poots: I can reassure the Member that my overriding concern is for the safety of these very vulnerable children and in obtaining the best possible treatment and care for them. I have repeatedly stated that my aim is to ensure a safe and sustainable service into the future.

I have asked the Health and Social Care Board to consider the safety and sustainability of the services in Belfast and to look at the potential of an all-island model as well as considering a model which includes arrangements with other centres in the UK. Officials from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are therefore currently discussing a potential model for delivering this service.

I understand that the Working Group is aiming to conclude its work in early 2013 and I plan to take a decision on the way forward as soon as possible thereafter. The timescale for this exercise should enable the Group to produce a comprehensive and robust report.

Children's Paediatric Cardiac Care

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the discussions which his departmental officials have held with health officials in the Republic of Ireland in relation to the future of Children's Paediatric Cardiac care in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 17856/11-15)

Mr Poots: I can reassure the Member that my overriding concern is for the safety of these very vulnerable children and in obtaining the best possible treatment and care for them. I have repeatedly stated that my aim is to ensure a safe and sustainable service into the future.

I have asked the Health and Social Care Board to consider the safety and sustainability of the services in Belfast and to look at the potential of an all-island model as well as considering a model which includes arrangements with other centres in the UK. Officials from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are therefore currently discussing a potential model for delivering this service.

I understand that the Working Group is aiming to conclude its work in early 2013 and I plan to take a decision on the way forward as soon as possible thereafter. The timescale for this exercise should enable the Group to produce a comprehensive and robust report.

Transportation of Critically Ill Children

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the transport standards followed by Health Trusts in relation to the transportation of critically ill children.

(AQW 17857/11-15)

Mr Poots: CONNECCT (Child or Neonate Needing Emergency Critical Care Transport) is the specialist transport service for critically ill children in Northern Ireland. The service undertakes transfers of critically ill children and neonates between hospitals. The CONNECCT service is staffed by specialist doctors and nurses with expertise in critical care and transport of sick children and newborns.

The Health and Social Care Board is undertaking a robust analysis of the current paediatric retrieval and transfer system in Northern Ireland. The work is being carried out by a team with representatives from CONNECCT, Health and Social Care Trusts, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, the Critical Care Network and parent representatives. The team is developing standards for critical care transport of children and neonates. These standards will be based on standards from professional organisations such as the Paediatric Intensive Care Society and the British Association for Perinatal Medicine.

Children's Paediatric Cardiac Care

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the timescale for the working group on the future of Children's Paediatric Cardiac surgery; and the impact of the timescale on the group's output.

(AQW 17861/11-15)

Mr Poots: I can reassure the Member that my overriding concern is for the safety of these very vulnerable children and in obtaining the best possible treatment and care for them. I have repeatedly stated that my aim is to ensure a safe and sustainable service into the future.

I have asked the Health and Social Care Board to consider the safety and sustainability of the services in Belfast and to look at the potential of an all-island model as well as considering a model which includes arrangements with other centres in the UK. Officials from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are therefore currently discussing a potential model for delivering this service.

I understand that the Working Group is aiming to conclude its work in early 2013 and I plan to take a decision on the way forward as soon as possible thereafter. The timescale for this exercise should enable the Group to produce a comprehensive and robust report.

Food Safety Promotion Board

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 1254/11-15, to detail the outcome of the monitoring of community background of the staff of the Food Safety Promotion Board which he requested.

(AQW 17882/11-15)

Mr Poots: I refer the Member to the answer that I gave to AQW 9357/11-15 on 23 March 2012. As of 12 December 2012 the position is unchanged.

Suicide Prevention

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the £32 million allocated for suicide prevention in each of the last six years.

(AQW 17923/11-15)

Mr Poots: For the period 2009 to 2012, this information is available at Appendix I of the report "Evaluation of the Implementation of the Protect Life Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2011", which was published on the DHSSPS website on 31 October 2012.

The detailed breakdown for each of the years from 2006 to 2009 is set out below:

Implementation Initiative	Funding 2006/07	Funding 2007/08	Funding 2008/09
Community led initiatives	£500k	£1.8m	£2.060m
Self Harm Pilot Schemes	£220k	£300k	£200k
Public Awareness/Regional Training	£930k	£550k	£550k
All-Island co-operation	-	£90k	150k
Research	£200k	£150k	£220k
Evaluation	-	£50k	-
Infrastructure	-	£100k	-
Events & Miscellaneous	£50k	£30k	£20k
Lifeline			£3.5m
Totals	£1.9m	£3.07m	£6.7m

Mefipristone (RU 486)

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the circumstances in which the drug Mefipristone (RU 486) can be used.

(AQW 17928/11-15)

Mr Poots: According to the specified terms for its marketing authorisation, the drug mifepristone (Mifegyne®) is licensed for use in the following therapeutic indications:

- 1 Medical termination of developing intra-uterine pregnancy. (In sequential use with a prostaglandin analogue, up to 63 days of amenorrhea)
- 2 Softening and dilatation of the cervix uteri prior to surgical termination of pregnancy during the first trimester.
- 3 Preparation for the action of prostaglandin analogues in the termination of pregnancy for medical reasons (beyond the first trimester).
- 4 Labour induction in foetal death in utero. (In patients where prostaglandin or oxytocin cannot be used).

The terms for marketing authorisation also state that for termination of pregnancy, Mifegyne® (and the prostaglandin) can only be prescribed and administered in accordance with the countries national laws and regulations.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust enjoy the confidence of the Minister.

(AQW 17938/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Written Statement to the Assembly on 14 December explained why I have terminated Mr Jim Stewart's appointment as Chairman of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust with effect from that date.

The Trust faces major challenges in delivering the quality of services that the public deserves. I announced, in my Written Statement to the Assembly on 10 December the appointment of a Turn Around and support Team to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. I expect the Chief Executive to demonstrate leadership to implement changes identified by the significant support which is being provided to the Trust, and ensure that performance improves and that the public has full confidence in

the Trust. In doing so, I know he can rely on the professionalism and dedication of all staff working at the Northern HSC Trust.

Drug abuse

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department is taking to prevent drug abuse amongst young people in North Down.

(AQW 17959/11-15)

Mr Poots: I refer you to the answer provided to AQW 16139/11-15, which contained information on the range of substance misuse services, from prevention to treatment and support, available to all age groups in the North Down area.

Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment System

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to enhance the current Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment system.

(AQW 17961/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment System (SOSCARE) was implemented in the mid eighties as a stand-alone system meeting the needs of Social Services. The technology that the system is based on is now largely obsolete and the system is not integrated with other systems, making it difficult to share the information held on SOSCARE with other staff involved in delivering care to service users.

It is planned that SOSCARE will gradually be phased out over the next 3-4 years with only essential software changes / upgrades considered in order to keep the system running.

Autism

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) children; and (ii) adults living in the Strabane district have been diagnosed with autism.

(AQW 17971/11-15)

Mr Poots: Figures provided by the Western Health and Social Care Trust indicate that in the period from 2009 to 18th December 2012, 66 children living in the Strabane district were diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) including Asperger's Syndrome. The Trust figures show that less than five adults resident in the Strabane district were diagnosed with ASD.

In the period from 2009 to 18th December 2012, 119 children living within the Strabane District had undergone or were undergoing a formal assessment for suspected Autism. The Western Health and Social Care Trust were unable to provide figures for the number of adults living in the Strabane district who have undergone or were undergoing a formal assessment for Autism.

Autism

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) children; and (ii) adults living in the Strabane district are undergoing, or have undergone, a formal assessment for autism.

(AQW 17972/11-15)

Mr Poots: Figures provided by the Western Health and Social Care Trust indicate that in the period from 2009 to 18th December 2012, 66 children living in the Strabane district were diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) including Asperger's Syndrome. The Trust figures show that less than five adults resident in the Strabane district were diagnosed with ASD.

In the period from 2009 to 18th December 2012, 119 children living within the Strabane District had undergone or were undergoing a formal assessment for suspected Autism. The Western Health and

Social Care Trust were unable to provide figures for the number of adults living in the Strabane district who have undergone or were undergoing a formal assessment for Autism.

Autism Assessment

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is a time differential for an autism assessment to be made in each of the Health and Social Care Trust areas.
(AQW 17973/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board expects that all Trusts will ensure that, in respect of children, no child should wait more than 13 weeks for access to an autism assessment. There is presently no specific target for adult access to autism assessments.

Within Children's services, both the Northern and Belfast Trusts have recently experienced difficulties meeting this regional target, however recovery plans have been established and will be overseen by the Health and Social Care Board.

The Adult Autism Care Pathway was launched in June of this year and the Health and Social Care Trusts have started to implement the Pathway. Therefore, it is not currently possible to provide data on the numbers of adults waiting for an assessment. However, the HSC Board has begun preparations for monitoring waiting times in adult services and this will commence in 2013.

Children's Needs Assessment Worker

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to autism services provision within the Western Health and Social Care Trust area, whether there is a Children's Needs Assessment Worker or Social Worker designated to deal with cases based in the Strabane district.
(AQW 17975/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Children's Autism Service team within the Western Health and Social Care Trust has 3.0 WTE permanent and 2.0 WTE temporary Social Work posts. They are part of a multi-disciplinary Trust-wide team which also comprises Clinical Psychology, Community Paediatrics, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Autism Practitioner and Specialist Health Visitors. All specialist ASD staff are involved in training, support and direct work with families in conjunction with an array of Trust, statutory and voluntary services as required following a comprehensive assessment of need. There is not a specific Children's Needs Assessment Worker.

Children's autism services are based in three locations across the Western Trust - Riverdell, Omagh; South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen; and Aberfoyle Terrace, Londonderry.

Southern Trust: Registered Child Minders

Ms McGahan asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of registered child minders in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area, broken down by geographical area.

(AQW 17988/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of registered child minders cannot be disaggregated by geographical areas smaller than the Health and Social Care Trusts. At year ending 31 March 2012 there were 604 registered child minders for children aged under 12 years in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area.

This information can be found in 'Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2011/12' published on the Department's website

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats-cib-children_order.htm

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of children living in care in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last four years, broken down by (i) the number of children in care for less than one year; (ii) the number of children in care for more than one year; (iii) geographic location; (iv) religion; (v) ethnic background; and (vi) the reason for being in care.

(AQW 17989/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of children in care in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last four years broken down by length of time in care, religion and ethnicity are detailed in the tables below. Information on the religious and ethnic backgrounds of children in care is not centrally available for 2009 and 2010 and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Information on the geographic location of children in care cannot be disaggregated below the level of Health and Social Care Trust area. Figures are not available centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost in regards of the reasons for children being in care.

TABLE 1: CHILDREN IN CARE IN THE SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST BY LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE AT 31ST MARCH

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than One Year in Care	125	123	123	107
More than One Year in Care	245	280	284	313
Total	370	403	407	420

Source: Community Information Branch Children Order Returns/Delegated Statutory Functions Corporate Parenting Returns

TABLE 2: CHILDREN IN CARE IN THE SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST BY RELIGION AT 31ST MARCH

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Catholic	-	-	228	273
Protestant ¹	-	-	69	112
Other ²	-	-	110	35
Total	370	403	407	420

Source: Delegated Statutory Functions/Corporate Parenting Returns

- (1) Protestant contains Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Church of England, Methodist & Other Christian
 (2) Other contains Jewish, Muslim, Other, Not Known, Not Completed, None and Refused

TABLE 3: CHILDREN IN CARE IN THE SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST BY ETHNIC BACKGROUND AT 31ST MARCH

	2009	2010	2011	2012
White	-	-	340	403
Other ¹	-	-	19	12
Not Known ²	-	-	48	4
Total	370	403	407	420

Source: Delegated Statutory Functions/Corporate Parenting Returns

- (1) Other contains Black, Chinese, Indian, Irish Traveler & Other
 (2) Not Known contains Not Completed and Refused

Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when work will start to build the single dwellings for residential care at Ravara, Kilcooley Bangor.

(AQW 18001/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern HSC Trust's proposal to close Ravara House Residential Home is currently out for Public Consultation which does not close until 17 January 2013. No date for commencement of any potential new build can be set until the consultation has been completed and a final decision made on the proposal.

There are currently 3 permanent residents remaining in Ravara House Residential Home awaiting their choice of alternative accommodation. All former residents who would meet the selection criteria for Supported Housing accommodation will be afforded the opportunity to move into any new build should that be decided as the way forward

Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether all the former residents of Ravara House in Bangor have been found alternative residential care places.

(AQW 18002/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern HSC Trust's proposal to close Ravara House Residential Home is currently out for Public Consultation which does not close until 17 January 2013. No date for commencement of any potential new build can be set until the consultation has been completed and a final decision made on the proposal.

There are currently 3 permanent residents remaining in Ravara House Residential Home awaiting their choice of alternative accommodation. All former residents who would meet the selection criteria for Supported Housing accommodation will be afforded the opportunity to move into any new build should that be decided as the way forward

Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is doing to ensure that the Ravara House residential home site in Bangor is secured against vandalism.

(AQW 18003/11-15)

Mr Poots: The review of the future of Ravara House is currently the subject of Public Consultation until 17th January 2013. No decisions have been made regarding securing the building against vandalism or demolition as Ravara House Residential Home is still operating as a Residential Home.

Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when Ravara House in Bangor will be demolished.

(AQW 18004/11-15)

Mr Poots: The review of the future of Ravara House is currently the subject of Public Consultation until 17th January 2013. No decisions have been made regarding securing the building against vandalism or demolition as Ravara House Residential Home is still operating as a Residential Home.

Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he can give an assurance that former residents of Ravara House will be given first option on the new single dwelling accommodation for residential care at Ravara in Bangor.

(AQW 18005/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern HSC Trust's proposal to close Ravara House Residential Home is currently out for Public Consultation which does not close until 17 January 2013. No date for commencement of any potential new build can be set until the consultation has been completed and a final decision made on the proposal.

There are currently 3 permanent residents remaining in Ravara House Residential Home awaiting their choice of alternative accommodation. All former residents who would meet the selection criteria for Supported Housing accommodation will be afforded the opportunity to move into any new build should that be decided as the way forward

Emergency Services Youth Engagement Programme

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what work his Department has done to assist the Ambulance and Fire Services to develop their Emergency Services Youth Engagement Programme.

(AQW 18013/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Ambulance and Fire and Rescue Services do not have a specific "Emergency Services Youth Engagement Programme".

My Department funds both the Ambulance and the Fire and Rescue Services, which individually allocate funding for community education initiatives, including the following:

NI FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (NIFRS)

LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) Scheme:

builds essential life skills for teenagers such as teamwork and personal responsibility; and helps to develop leadership skills and confidence.

Cadet Fire fighter Scheme: voluntary youth organisation within the Fire and Rescue Service providing activities, raising awareness of the Service, and instilling community spirit and personal development.

The Fire setters Scheme: early intervention and education programme for children and young people who are fire setting.

Schools' Programmes:

- Francis the Firefly – aimed at pre-school children (3-5 years);
- Safety Team – aimed at Key Stage 2 primary 5 classes;
- Firestorm – aimed at Key Stage 3 post primary Year 9 pupils.

Roadsafe Roadshow: collaboration between the Police Service of Northern Ireland, NIFRS, Ambulance Service, an A&E Consultant, Road Trauma Support Group and a local commercial radio station directed at year 13 and 14 pupils.

RACE Scheme (Road Accident Consequences Education): developed for young people 14–25 years.

NI AMBULANCE SERVICE (NIAS)

Young people stakeholder group: this proactively educates about issues that directly impact on NIAS's response to 140,000 emergency calls per year.

Community Education Programme - messages delivered on hoax calls, inappropriate use of the service, violence against staff and NIAS as a prospective employer.

Paediatric Cardiac Surgery

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the assurances from the Public Health Agency and Commissioners that the process would be limited and focused because of the constrained timeframe, whether the Safe and Sustainable report on Paediatric Cardiac Surgery in Northern Ireland was constructed in the same way as for other centres in England and Wales.

(AQW 18014/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following concerns expressed regarding the long term sustainability of the Paediatric Cardiac Surgical Service (PCCS) in Belfast I announced on 29 March 2012 that the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) would carry out a review of PCCS in NI. In doing so, the Board commissioned an Expert Panel from England to carry out an independent review of the service in Belfast using standards that were used to assess centres elsewhere in the UK.

As part of the review the Expert Panel met directly and separately with two patient groups. In addition, patient representatives and families of children with congenital cardiac problems have been part of the working group established by the HSC Board and Public Health Agency (PHA) to develop proposals for the future provision of this service for Northern Ireland. A consultation document was issued on 25th September and throughout the consultation process the HSCB and PHA will carry out a full and open consultation with patients, families and their representatives.

Paediatric Cardiac Surgery

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether, during the Safe and Sustainable review team assessment of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery in Northern Ireland, parents and families were given one hour to meet with the review panel during their visit, with no prior consultation or engagement, whereas in England and Wales, the review had an extensive consultation with parents, families and stakeholders, which started in 2009 and continued through engagement and public consultation until 2012.

(AQW 18015/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following concerns expressed regarding the long term sustainability of the Paediatric Cardiac Surgical Service (PCCS) in Belfast I announced on 29 March 2012 that the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) would carry out a review of PCCS in NI. In doing so, the Board commissioned an Expert Panel from England to carry out an independent review of the service in Belfast using standards that were used to assess centres elsewhere in the UK.

As part of the review the Expert Panel met directly and separately with two patient groups. In addition, patient representatives and families of children with congenital cardiac problems have been part of the working group established by the HSC Board and Public Health Agency (PHA) to develop proposals for the future provision of this service for Northern Ireland. A consultation document was issued on 25th September and throughout the consultation process the HSCB and PHA will carry out a full and open consultation with patients, families and their representatives.

Invest to Save Initiative

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department arrived at an estimate of nearly £26m recurring savings in 2014/15 resulting from the recent Invest to Save allocation.

(AQW 18016/11-15)

Mr Poots: The recurring savings of £26m by 2014/15 were estimated based on a number of key assumptions underpinning each of the four elements of the Invest to Save bid (Integrated Care Partnerships ('ICPs'), Service Changes, Implementation Support and Voluntary Redundancy/Voluntary Early Retirement ('VR/VER') schemes):

- In terms of ICPs, savings were based on an estimate of the number of Emergency Department attendances and Inpatient admissions that could be avoided annually by the proposed establishment of ICPs.
- In relation to service changes, savings are anticipated from a reduction in beds and beddays as a result of cardiology/diagnostics and stroke service changes and a reduction in the required number of domiciliary care packages as a result of reablement initiatives.
- The investment in dedicated implementation support, from both external and internal resources, is anticipated to be critical in the delivery of savings through acute sector reforms, staff productivity savings and social care reform as a result of service model changes.
- Savings are also anticipated as a result of workforce reductions associated with the implementation of VR/VER schemes.

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the reasons for the 7 percent increase in the number of children living in care for a less than a year in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 18042/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Trust has advised that the reasons for the increase in the number of children living in care for less than a year are due to a combination of a number of factors including:

- the development of a Frontline Fostering pilot for young people aged over 12 years which ensures more intensive and timely assessments to maximise the opportunities for early intervention in, and resolution of, family difficulties and hence the young person's earlier discharge home;
- a focus on the completion of more timely, concise and succinct assessments, including expert assessments where required, to enhance rehabilitation outcomes for Looked After Children;
- the increasing focus on kinship placements as early as possible in a child's care pathway and greater consideration of Residence Orders at an early stage in care proceedings;
- a small increase in the number of adoptions of young babies by consent, which means they are admitted to, and discharged from, care in less than a year.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Complaints

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many complaints have been submitted to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last three years.

(AQW 18076/11-15)

Mr Poots: It should be noted that a complaint is defined as an 'expression of dissatisfaction' received from or on behalf of patients, clients or other users of a HSC Trust's services or facilities; although, a single communication regarding a complaint may refer to more than one issue. In such cases each individual complaint issue is recorded separately.

NUMBER OF COMPLAINT ISSUES RECEIVED BY THE SOUTH EASTERN HSC TRUST (2009/10 – 2011/12)

Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Number of Complaints Issues	977	1,182	1,172

Source: DHSSPS CH8 Statistical Return

During 2011/12, 1,172 complaint issues were received by the South Eastern HSC Trust, similar to 2010/11 (1,182) but higher than 2009/10 (977).

Department of Justice

Prisoner Held in HMP Maghaberry Under a False Name

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 16110/11-15, given that people have varying levels of previous criminal records which will affect their prison sentence, what action he intends to take to ensure that a prisoner is admitted into custody, served the appropriate tariff and held in conditions relevant to their circumstances.

(AQW 17467/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): Prisoners can only be committed to a prison upon receipt of a warrant issued by a court. This warrant identifies the prisoner being committed by name, address and date of birth. The Northern Ireland Prison Service relies upon information provided by others, notably the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service, to ensure that prisoners committed to custody are held appropriately and according to their circumstances, and that they serve the appropriate length of time in custody.

Prior to committal, identification of those prisoners committed by the court after passing through PSNI custody will have been checked against PSNI and mainland police databases. This information is shared with NIPS on committal and checked against existing Prison Service data.

When an individual is unknown to the PSNI, or has been found to have been committed under an alias, the PSNI and NIPS will merge their identification information to establish the existence of any outstanding warrants which can then be served on the prisoner by the PSNI.

NIPS also conducts background checks for all previously merged individuals across its custodial data from 2009 onwards. Further checks are conducted by NIPS as part of its discharge validation process, 21 days prior to a prisoner's final release. These checks are designed to ensure that no outstanding warrants exist which may impact upon an individual's release.

Closure of Courthouses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the closure of four courthouses (i) whether the remaining cases will be absorbed into the existing lists at the relevant courthouse or will specific courts be held at the relevant courthouse; and (ii) whether he has made provision for additional judicial, security and clerical staff required to accommodate either options.

(AQW 17468/11-15)

Mr Ford: While it is open to a judge to adjourn a case to any available sitting, the closure proposals are based on the capacity of the alternative court locations to accommodate the Hearing Centre business as separate court sittings and are not designed to reduce the number of sittings.

The appropriate number of sittings at a particular venue is a matter for the Lord Chief Justice and any future change would be a matter for his discretion.

The anticipated savings outlined in the proposals have been based on the retention of separate court sittings for the current Hearing Centre business and the associated cost of judiciary, security and clerical staff.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, from 2000 to date, to detail (i) whether any Northern Ireland Prison Service staff were dismissed for gross misconduct and later granted ill-health retirement on the recommendation of the Prison Service; (ii) the date of each dismissal and retirement; (iii) the nature of the gross misconduct; (iv) any criminal convictions, court proceedings or informal police action taken as a result; and (v) the level of staff involved in each case.

(AQW 17469/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not hold any records in relation to staff dismissed for gross misconduct and subsequently granted ill-health retirement.

Counterfeit Food

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been (i) prosecuted; and (ii) convicted for selling counterfeit food in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17474/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) has identified food fraud, including counterfeit food, as a potential emerging issue. A Food Fraud Task Force has recently been set up and includes representatives from both sides of the border.

Counterfeit food may be challenged by Local Councils and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) under intellectual property legislation. Offences may be prosecuted under Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 and the Trade Marks Act 1994.

While the DoJ's databases do not break down convictions under this legislation by the nature of the product counterfeited, the Food Standards Agency has confirmed that between the FSA and Councils:

- in 2009/2010 there were 3 prosecutions;
- in 2010/2011 there were 6 prosecutions;
- in 2011/2012 there were 6 prosecutions.

Code of Conduct and Discipline by the Secretary of State

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 12701/11-15, for his assessment of whether this particular instance and the manner of Secretary of State approval would be regarded as anomalous.

(AQW 17500/11-15)

Mr Ford: I do not regard the Secretary of State's approval of the Code of Conduct and Discipline, nor the manner in which his approval was communicated, as being anomalous.

Late Payment

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Justice how the late payment directive currently passing through Westminster will affect his Department.

(AQW 17547/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice will liaise with the Department of Finance and Personnel to implement any necessary changes arising from Directive 2011/7/EU on Combating Late Payment in Commercial Transactions which requires public bodies to have a maximum 30 day payment term (with limited exceptions such as the healthcare sector). In particular, the Department will work closely with Account NI to continue to maximise the number of invoices paid within 30 days.

The Department is committed to ensuring that suppliers continue to receive payments within the contractual terms and therefore minimise the level of interest and compensation claims that need to be paid.

The Department (including the core and five executive agencies) has sustained a high level of compliance with the 30 day target over the last three financial years as outlined below:

Financial Year	Number of invoices paid	% of invoices paid within 30 days
2010-11	49,729	99%
2011-12	46,769	98%
2012-13*	25,268	98%

* 7 months to October 2012

330 Day Payment Performance Targets

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Justice how each of his Department's arm's-length bodies has performed on the 30 Day Payment Performance Targets; and whether any sector has been paid more quickly than others.

(AQW 17548/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below provides details of the performance of Department of Justice (DOJ) arm's length bodies against the 30 Day Payment Performance Target during the period April to October 2012.

	Total Number of Invoices Paid	Total Number of Invoices Paid Within 30 days	% of Invoices Paid Within 30 Days
Police Service of Northern Ireland	53,929	53,317	98.9%
Northern Ireland Policing Board	1,244	1,244	100.0%
Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland	1,130	1,130	100.0%
Northern Ireland Police Fund	80	80	100.0%
RUC George Cross Foundation	62	62	100.0%
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission*	448	442	98.7%
Probation Board for Northern Ireland	3,217	3,156	98.1%
Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	230	204	88.7%
Northern Ireland Law Commission	103	103	100.0%
Policing Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust	1,218	898	73.7%
Prisoner Ombudsman	125	120	96.0%
Independent Monitoring Boards	99	99	100.0%

* Information relating to 30 day performance is not available – details provided relate to the number of invoices paid within 10 working days.

Department of Justice arm's length bodies pay all supplier invoices as soon as the necessary checks and validation processes have been completed. There is no distinction made between individual suppliers and no specific sector has been paid more quickly than others.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Northern Ireland Prison Service Change Managers are (i) brought in from outside Northern Ireland, (ii) whether they travel to and from Northern Ireland on a weekly basis, (iii) the cost of travel and accommodation to date and (iv) what is the projected final cost.

(AQW 17553/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Organisational Change Manager for the Northern Ireland Prison Service is seconded to the Prison Service by the Strategic Investment Board on a three year fixed term contract, finishing in March 2015.

He travels to Northern Ireland each week and is entitled to reclaim expenses up to a maximum of £20,000 per annum for travel and accommodation against actual costs incurred. To date £10,035.88 has been reclaimed.

The maximum projected final cost for travel and accommodation is £60,000 for the duration of the contract.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Ombudsman

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, following the reports by the Northern Ireland Prison Service Ombudsman into the deaths in custody of Samuel Carson and Frances McKeown, (i) will he review the Supporting Prisoners at Risk procedures to have them remain open on all prisoners who have attempted suicide or been deemed vulnerable and (ii) for his assessment of gradually downgrading the risk when a prisoner shows improvement rather than removing it.

(AQW 17555/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) There is currently no intention to review the Supporting Prisoner at Risk (SPAR) procedures to have them remain open on all prisoners who have attempted suicide or been deemed vulnerable.
- (ii) If the multi-disciplinary case conference agree that the risks initially displayed have been sufficiently reduced or mitigated to a level that enables the individual to cope, they will decide to close the SPAR.

Closure of Courthouses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the closure of four courthouses/hearing centres, to outline (i) any discussion he has held with the Chief Constable to ensure that policing districts are linked with court divisions to allow the relevant arresting officer, investigating officer and charging station to be able to stay with the case if it moves division and (ii) if not, how he intends to address this.

(AQW 17557/11-15)

Mr Ford: Officials in the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service held discussions on the closure of the Hearing Centres with senior members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The PSNI is broadly supportive of the closure proposals and in response to the consultation confirmed they would not cause significant operational difficulties.

Current policing district boundaries are not co-terminous with court boundaries.

Personal Injury Claims

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Justice to detail the average time it takes to process personal injury claims and what steps his Department is taking to try to reduce the processing time of these claims. **(AQW 17558/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The table below sets out the average time taken to decide personal injury claims (under the Tariff Scheme) at First Decision Stage and at Review Stage. The statistics demonstrate an improvement in terms of the time taken to process personal injury claims. The Agency is committed to continually improving its business processes but the age and configuration of its current technology limits the extent to which this can be delivered. The Agency has accepted the recommendation made by the Justice Committee following its Inquiry into Services Available to Victims and Witnesses of Crime. The Committee's report highlighted a number of operational matters related to how the Agency currently delivers its compensation schemes. These included the need to streamline operational processes and to speed up processing of claims. The Agency's Chief Executive will review operational arrangements to ensure that the issues raised by the Committee are dealt with.

Year	Average Time to process personal injury claims at First Decision Stage	Average Time to process personal injury claims at Review Stage
2010/11	48 weeks	18 weeks
2011/12	45 weeks	17.5 weeks

High Court Case Costs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether (i) Legal Aid was granted to the convicted sex offender who proceeded with a High Court case against Facebook and (ii) the total cost broken down by (a) law firm and (b) counsel and if this is not available to provide an estimate. **(AQW 17560/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Article 24 of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 prohibits the disclosure of information relating to both an application for and the grant of civil legal aid without the consent of the applicant. As the disclosure of such information is an offence, I am therefore unable to provide any information relating to legal aid in this matter.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many civil servants work in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, excluding Prison Officers. **(AQW 17561/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The total number of staff employed in the NI Prison Service is 487. This number excludes those staff employed at Prison Officer and Governor grade.

Magherafelt Courthouse

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the discussion his Department had with the PSNI prior to his decision to close Magherafelt Courthouse. **(AQW 17613/11-15)**

Mr Ford: I refer the Member to my answer to AQW/17557/11-15.

Former Governor of Hydebank

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice in relation to Gary Alcock, the former governor of Hydebank (i) on what date was he suspended pending an enquiry; (ii) when did he return to work; (iii) on what

grounds was he suspended; (iv) what was the outcome of the enquiry; (v) was he charged with any disciplinary offence; and if so (vi) was he found guilty and what action was taken.

(AQW 17616/11-15)

Mr Ford: The requested information cannot be provided as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

Change Managers in the Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether accommodation is being rented for those assisting or involved as Change Managers in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, and if so, what is the weekly cost.

(AQW 17617/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Organisational Change Manager for the Northern Ireland Prison Service is responsible for making his own accommodation arrangements while in Northern Ireland but is entitled to reclaim expenses up to a maximum of £20,000 per annum for travel and accommodation against actual costs incurred. To date a total of £10,035.88 has been reclaimed.

Courthouse Closures

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice following the closure of four Courthouses/hearing centres, does he intend to create new court divisions or make provision for cases to be heard outside their respective county division.

(AQW 17619/11-15)

Mr Ford: The closure of Bangor and Larne Hearing Centres will not result in any change to County Court Divisions. Cases will continue to be heard within their respective County Court Division.

Limavady and Magherafelt Hearing Centres will not close until the implementation of a single jurisdiction for County and Magistrates' Court business.

Criminal Justice Inspectorate

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice to outline the type of internal departmental bodies that must be formally notified to the Criminal Justice Inspectorate.

(AQW 17638/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no requirement to formally notify any internal departmental body within the Department of Justice to Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI). CJINI may inspect all criminal justice bodies, with the exception of the judiciary, to ensure that they are delivering the best possible service to all sections of the community. CJINI may also inspect other agencies where they impact upon the Criminal Justice system. The following organisations fall under CJINI's remit pursuant to section 46 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002:

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland
- The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland
- The Youth Justice Agency for Northern Ireland
- The Northern Ireland Prison Service
- The Police Ombudsman's Office for Northern Ireland
- The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service
- The Parole Commissioners
- The Legal Services Commission
- The Northern Ireland Social Security Agency
- The Compensation Agency

- The Heath and Social Care Board & Trusts
- The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division
- The The The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
- The Royal Mail Group
- Belfast Harbour Commissioners
- Larne Harbour Ltd
- Belfast International Airport Ltd
- The Northern Ireland Tourist Board
- Community Restorative Justice Schemes
- Probation and Bail Hostels.

Criminal Justice Inspectorate

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice to detail the remit the Criminal Justice Inspectorate has in the inspection or monitoring of internal departmental bodies in other Departments.

(AQW 17639/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no requirement to formally notify any internal departmental body within the Department of Justice to Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI). CJINI may inspect all criminal justice bodies, with the exception of the judiciary, to ensure that they are delivering the best possible service to all sections of the community. CJINI may also inspect other agencies where they impact upon the Criminal Justice system. The following organisations fall under CJINI's remit pursuant to section 46 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002:

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland
- The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland
- The Youth Justice Agency for Northern Ireland
- The Northern Ireland Prison Service
- The Police Ombudsman's Office for Northern Ireland
- The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service
- The Parole Commissioners
- The Legal Services Commission
- The Northern Ireland Social Security Agency
- The Compensation Agency
- The Heath and Social Care Board & Trusts
- The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division
- The The The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
- The Royal Mail Group
- Belfast Harbour Commissioners
- Larne Harbour Ltd
- Belfast International Airport Ltd
- The Northern Ireland Tourist Board
- Community Restorative Justice Schemes
- Probation and Bail Hostels.

Thompson House, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many people placed and residing at Thompson House, Belfast have been returned to custody, in each of the last 5 years.

(AQW 17651/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost in terms of probation staff time to conduct a manual search of all files.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what has been the total cost to date of the Northern Ireland Prison Service Change Delivery team, and what is its budget for each of the next three years.

(AQW 17652/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total cost to 30 November 2012 for the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) Change Programme team is £878,000. This team is responsible for addressing the recommendations from the Prison Review Team Final Report and delivering the objectives of the Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme.

NIPS is currently undertaking the detailed budget setting process for 2013/14 and all budgets will not be finalised until nearer the end of this financial year. Consequently the 2013/14 budget for the Change Programme team is not yet available. Similar exercises will take place in 2013/14 and 2014/15 to determine the budgets for 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively.

Newry Magistrates Court

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to introduce legislation to prohibit disruption of proceedings and the glorification of terrorism during a court sitting in light of the disturbances in Newry Magistrates Court on 1 December 2012.

(AQW 17654/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I stated in my answer to AQW/8433/11-15, disruption of court proceedings is already prohibited in law as a contempt of court.

My answer to AQW 3936/11-15 indicated that it is also already an offence to glorify terrorism.

Thompson House, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice in relation to the upgrading of Thompson House, Belfast (i) how much funding his Department provided; and (ii) the level of funding from other sources and how it was spent.

(AQW 17655/11-15)

Mr Ford: My department has not provided any funding in relation to the refurbishment of Thompson House.

I understand that the Department for Social Development, through the Housing Executive, has awarded Housing Association Grant totalling £2.1 million for the upgrading and extension of this facility. Helm Housing, which now owns the property, contributed £0.2m through private borrowing. The total cost of £2.3m includes purchase of the property, construction and associated costs, including legal and administration costs.

Criminal Justice Inspectorate

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice to detail the organisations that are inspected by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate.

(AQW 17659/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no requirement to formally notify any internal departmental body within the Department of Justice to Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI). CJINI may inspect all criminal justice bodies, with the exception of the judiciary, to ensure that they are delivering the best possible service to all sections of the community. CJINI may also inspect other agencies where they impact upon the Criminal Justice system. The following organisations fall under CJINI's remit pursuant to section 46 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002:

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland
- The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland
- The Youth Justice Agency for Northern Ireland
- The Northern Ireland Prison Service
- The Police Ombudsman's Office for Northern Ireland
- The Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service
- The Parole Commissioners
- The Legal Services Commission
- The Northern Ireland Social Security Agency
- The Compensation Agency
- The Health and Social Care Board & Trusts
- The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division
- The The The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
- The Royal Mail Group
- Belfast Harbour Commissioners
- Larne Harbour Ltd
- Belfast International Airport Ltd
- The Northern Ireland Tourist Board
- Community Restorative Justice Schemes
- Probation and Bail Hostels.

Guidance Booklet on Medical Pensions and Injury on Duty Awards

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether the Guidance Booklet on Medical Pensions and Injury on Duty Awards, relevant to former police officers and issued by the Northern Ireland Policing Board, has been revised following his department's direction that Policing Division Circular 6/2007 must not be relied upon, and, if so, how was it revised and when.

(AQW 17706/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Policing Board has confirmed that it has not to date revised the current (November 2011) Guidance Booklet on Medical Pensions and Injury on Duty (IoD) awards. Draft Guidance on IoD reviews is due to be presented to a National Attendance Management Forum of the United Kingdom wide police authorities in January 2013 which the Policing Board will then consider when reviewing the current guidance.

Percentage Disablement Reviews

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether the instructions approved and issued by the Northern Ireland Policing Board to Capita Health Solutions in regard to Percentage Disablement Reviews for

retired police officers aged over 65 have been altered since 21 September 2009 and, if so, how were they altered and when.

(AQW 17707/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Policing Board has confirmed the instructions remain the same. The Policing Board is content that the instructions are consistent with recent case law.

Percentage Disablement Reviews

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of whether the actions taken by the Northern Ireland Policing Board in relation to Percentage Disablement Reviews for retired police officers aged over 65 are not in conflict with anti age discrimination requirements and expectations.

(AQW 17708/11-15)

Mr Ford: In 2008 the Policing Board completed a Section 75 review of the policy which highlighted age related concerns. Cognisant of this, the Board employed the ASHE Survey which reflects the fact a police officer's career is age limited. The Policing Board applies regulation 35 (1) of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 which allows that, once a former officer is in receipt of an award, the Policing Board must periodically review the degree of disablement.

Sexual Offences Prevention Order

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice in relation to the sentencing of sex-offender John Stanfield at Antrim Crown Court, does he intend to review (i) the sentencing guidelines on cases such as this, particularly in view of the seriousness of these charges and the fact that a Sexual Offences Prevention Order was repeatedly breached and (ii) the effectiveness of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and the way in which those bound by them are monitored.

(AQW 17717/11-15)

Mr Ford: Sentencing guidelines, and their review, are a matter for the Lord Chief Justice, who has established a Sentencing Group to consider areas where sentencing guidance is needed. Guidelines have been developed for a number of serious sexual offences. Sentencing in individual cases is, of course, a matter for the courts.

Sexual offences prevention orders remain an effective tool to manage risk and protect the public from serious sexual harm from sex offenders in the community. Enforcement action is an operational matter for the police.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice pursuant to AQW 16744/11-15 whether the best practice is consistent with the recommendations set out in the European Prison Rules at 25.4, 34.1, 71-73, 81.1-81.4 and 83 and to provide details of the training procedures for officers responsible for Supporting Prisoners At Risk, particularly officers responsible for prisoners at risk of self-harm.

(AQW 17721/11-15)

Mr Ford: All Prison Officers undergo extensive induction training including training in Supporting Prisoners at Risk, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills, and practical training scenarios. This is deemed to be consistent with the recommendations set out in the European Prison Rules.

Sexual Offenders Prevention Order

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice in relation to the case of convicted sex-offender John Stanfield at Antrim Crown Court (i) what was the nature of each of the Sexual Offenders Prevention Order breaches; (ii) on what dates did they occur and; (iii) how soon after each breach were charges brought.

(AQW 17724/11-15)

Mr Ford: A person commits an offence if he does anything which he is prohibited from doing by a sexual offences prevention order. In this case the person breached a prohibition not to be in a place associated with child centred activities. The breaches took place in April and July 2011 and charges were brought in July 2011.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Nursing Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice pursuant to AQW16049/11-15, AQW16052/11-15 and AQW 16165/11-15 to (i) clarify the date on which the Prisoner at Risk Process was first implemented at the Health Care Facility in HMP Maghaberry; (ii) of those suspended and disciplined, how many were Prison Officers and became Hospital Officers and when and where did such officer(s) receive training; and (iii) of those staff that entered the Prison Service as trained nurses, when and where did their training take place.

(AQW 17725/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) The Prisoner at Risk process was first implemented in 2004.
- (ii) After initial training, one main grade officer, was successful on a hospital officer board. Records do not include specific course content or location.
- (iii) Records show that training was delivered by qualified staff training officers at the Prison Service College.

Sex Offenders Register

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the measures in place to reassure parents that people on the sex offenders register who move into a new geographical area are appropriately managed with regard to access to children.

(AQW 17754/11-15)

Mr Ford: The sex offender notification requirements, contained in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, require sex offenders to notify the police of any changes to their place of residence. This ensures that the police, and other agencies who seek to manage risk from sex offenders in the community, know of their whereabouts and can continue, where necessary, to apply appropriate risk management strategies.

Sex Offenders Register

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice what discussions he has had with the Chief Constable to ensure that PSNI officers have adequate resources and tools at their disposal to ensure appropriate management of those on the sex offenders register.

(AQW 17755/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have had no specific discussion with the Chief Constable on this subject. Decisions on the deployment of police resources are an operational matter for the Chief Constable, for which he is accountable to the Policing Board.

My officials are in day to day contact with the police on matters relating to sex offender notification and the development of effective policy and legislation.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Change Team

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the ranks of people working within the Northern Ireland Prison Service Change Team.

(AQW 17774/11-15)

Mr Ford: The ranks of people working within the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) core Change Programme Team are as follows:

- 1 x Organisational Change Manager
- 1 x Governor 2
- 2 x Grade 7
- 1 x Deputy Principal
- 3 x Staff Officer
- 3 x Executive Officer 2
- 2 x Administrative Officer

In addition to the core staff listed above, the Change Programme has engaged the temporary services of a secondee from Deloitte to work on several projects in an advisory capacity, and three other Deloitte employees on a staff substitution basis, to provide specialist advice and transfer of knowledge, to help develop and embed essential skills on a range of areas within NIPS.

Eight further staff, who are based in other NIPS HQ directorates, perform important roles in supporting the Change Programme by managing and/or contributing to projects, which were implemented to deliver the Prison Review Team recommendations.

The ranks of these staff are as follows:

- 4 x Grade 7
- 1 x Deputy Principal
- 1 x Probation Officer (Seconded from PBNI)
- 1 x Executive Officer 2
- 1 x Administrative Officer

Dissident Republican Prisoners

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice what concessions have been made to dissident republican prisoners, given that their dirty protest ended suddenly.

(AQW 17783/11-15)

Mr Ford: None.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the policy for advising new Prison Service recruits on the severity of the threat level, as no security information bulletins are displayed and there have been over forty notices issued to date, 12 of which have been severe.

(AQW 17784/11-15)

Mr Ford: All Prison staff are advised of any change to generic threat levels by means of a Notice to Staff. Security information notices when received are communicated to all classes by their respective lead tutors and are displayed on the appropriate Security Notice boards.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Retirement Age

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the current pay and pensions of prison officers, in light of proposals to increase the retirement age to 67 by 2015; and why prison officers are not treated in the same way as police officers, who are exempt under these new conditions.

(AQW 17785/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Service Pay Review Body provides independent advice on the remuneration of prison officers.

The State pension age is increasing to reflect increases in life expectancy. On 8 March 2012, the Northern Ireland Executive agreed to commit to the policy for Career Average Revalued Earnings pension schemes with pension age linked to State Pension Age to be adopted for general use in the Northern Ireland public service schemes in line with the equivalent schemes in Great Britain. It is proposed that the reforms will have general effect in public service schemes from April 2015.

Pension matters in Northern Ireland public service schemes are a devolved matter, but in practice the Northern Ireland schemes have always operated on a principle of parity with the equivalent schemes in Great Britain. Prison Officers in Northern Ireland have pension provision made in the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (Northern Ireland).

On 26 November 2012 the Minister of Finance and Personnel announced to the Assembly that he will introduce a Bill which will provide the core legislative framework to give effect to the reforms for the Northern Ireland schemes and include reference to the pension age of staff groups in schemes made under this Bill. The Bill will be debated in the Assembly and will be subject to full scrutiny by the Committee at which stage there will be an opportunity for any Northern Ireland specific variance from the Westminster legislation to be considered. The financial consequences of any such variances will need to be taken into account.

HMP Maghaberry: Prison Canteen

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the prison canteen at HMP Maghaberry, as vending machines are not appropriate for food and no facilities are available to accommodate prison officers

(AQW 17809/11-15)

Mr Ford: This matter is currently under review and options are being considered.

Bangor Courthouse

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice for an update on Bangor Courthouse and any future potential disposal.

(AQW 17952/11-15)

Mr Ford: I refer the member to my answer to AQW/17482/11-15 on 7 December 2012. There is no further update at this time.

Mobile Phone Usage

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department plans to restrict access to mobile phone usage for those who use the devices for the purposes of bullying or public disorder.

(AQW 17965/11-15)

Mr Ford: Courts already have powers to impose restrictions on the use of mobile phones, for example by way of bail conditions or community orders. In addition, a range of statutory provisions already exists to tackle harassment and public disorder.

Harassment or bullying can already be prosecuted under the Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The Communications Act 2003 also makes it an offence to send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

A range of offences also exists under common law and under the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 including, for example, stirring up hatred, arousing fear, and riotous or disorderly behaviour in a public place. Conspiracy to commit any such offences is also punishable under current legislation.

I have no plans at this stage to expand these powers any further but will keep the matter under review.

Department for Regional Development

Legal Cases

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development how many legal cases involving his Department, or its arms-length bodies, which have appeared before courts or are pending hearing, have had mediation offered by the other party but declined by the Department or agency.

(AQW 17160/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): Since April 2010, there has been one case involving my Department and its Arm's Length Bodies where mediation was offered by the other party but was declined. The case was subsequently resolved.

Opportunities for mediation may arise more than once at different points in cases. This answer therefore covers only resolved cases.

Footbridge and Subway Projects

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail all (i) footbridge and (ii) subway projects that have been (a) announced or (b) constructed in each of the last five years.

(AQW 17541/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of footbridge and subway projects, constructed in each of the last five years, are provided in the table below:

Scheme	Year Constructed
Fisher's Lane Footbridge, Comber	2008
Ballystockart Footbridge, Comber	2008
Swatragh Footbridge	2009
City Hospital & Lisburn Station Footbridge modifications	2009
Balinderry Footbridge	2010
Pedestrian Underpass, Carbane, Newry	2010
Newry Station Park and Ride Footbridge	2010
Broadbridge Footbridge	2011
Campsey Underpass	2011
Fisherman's Walkway Footbridge	2011
Pedestrian Underpass lengthened at Madams Bank Road, Londonderry	2012
Irishtown Footbridge, Omagh	2012
Ballyrainey Footbridge, Comber	2012
Creggan Footbridge, Newry	2012
New Footbridge at Ballymoney Station	2012
New Footbridge at Titanic Quarter, Belfast	2012
Footbridge cladding at Lurgan Station	2012

Scheme	Year Constructed
Subway at Maghera Park and Ride	2012
New Footbridge at Portadown Station	2013

In relation to the schemes listed above, I should advise that the Broadbridge Footbridge, Campsey Underpass and Fisherman's Walkway Footbridge were constructed as part of the A2 Maydown to City of Derry Airport Dualling Scheme, which was completed in February 2011.

With regard to footbridge and subway projects announced in each of the last five years, details are provided in the table below:

Scheme	Scheme Status
Footbridge in Strabane Town Centre	Announced in 2008
Footbridge at Straw, near Draperstown	Announced in 2010
New Footbridge at Moira Station	Planned for 2013/14
Ballymena Subway strengthening	Planned for 2014/15

I should also advise that the A6 Randalstown to Castledawson Dual Carriageway and A6 Londonderry to Dungiven Dualling Schemes include provision for one and two pedestrian footbridges respectively, and discussions are ongoing in relation to a proposed Footbridge at Mountain Road, Kilkeel.

Gransha Road Roundabout, Bangor

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail any surveys that have been carried out to assess the road safety implications of an additional 850 school children crossing the road near the Gransha Road roundabout, Bangor.

(AQW 17542/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: During the planning process for the new school, Roads Service requested the developer to carry out a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) to show the likely impact the development would have on the public road network, and to identify those measures necessary to mitigate any adverse consequences. The TIA took into account that there had previously been a school at this location. While some improvements to the road environment have subsequently been made, the TIA did not identify a need to provide enhanced pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of the roundabout.

Roads Service is aware of public concern relating to this issue and it intends to monitor pedestrian movements in the area whenever the school opens. This will enable Roads Service to assess both the level of demand for a crossing and the predominant route taken by pedestrians, so any potential future provision may be located to best accommodate local pedestrian movements.

Translink Fuel Costs

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the fuel costs for Translink in each of the last three year.

(AQW 17568/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has provided the following table which outlines their fuel running costs for the last three years:

Company	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000
Ulsterbus	23,067	20,019	20,759
Metro	7,725	6,903	6,967
NI Railways	7,623	5,874	6,722
Total*	38,415	32,796	34,448

NI Railway Fuel Costs

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the fuel costs of running NI Railway trains in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17571/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I refer you to the full answer provided to AQW/17568 which contains this information.

Bus Lane from Sprucefield to Belfast

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the rationale for not introducing a continuous bus lane from Sprucefield to Belfast to assist those commuting each morning from areas such as South Down.

(AQW 17606/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Busway on the M1 was provided in August 2006, initially as a temporary measure, for the duration of the M1/Westlink Improvement Scheme. The starting position, at Ballyskeagh Bridge, was chosen as this allowed the buses to bypass traffic queuing back from the Blacks Road junction during the associated roadworks.

Officials advise that "Automatic Incident Detection" cameras have been provided over the entire length of the Busway, at approximately 200 metre intervals, to ensure any vehicle stopping on the hard shoulder is detected. Action can then be taken to close the Busway, until the incident is cleared. To extend this system would require considerable investment.

Whilst I appreciate there is localised congestion associated with the on-slips at the Saintfield Road and Sprucefield Junctions, there are currently no plans to extend the length of this Busway.

North Down Roads Depot

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development how many staff work at the North Down roads depot.

(AQW 17608/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that 33 staff work in the Roads Service North Down depot, 11 in the local North Down Section Office and 22 for Roads Service's internal contractor, Roads Service Direct.

Translink TaxSmart Card

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to extend the Translink TaxSmart Card scheme beyond the Greater Belfast region.

(AQW 17629/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the member that currently the Translink Tax Smart Card Scheme is available to bus passengers across the whole of Northern Ireland provided it is compliant with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rules, which allows Translink to issue Tax Smart Cards but only for journeys

undertaken by a bus service which stops at least every 15 miles. We can and do raise these rules with HMRC where difficulties arise but the decision ultimately rests with HMRC.

Liability Arising from the A5 Court Case

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the risks to cost liability to his Department arising from the current A5 court case and what discussions has he had with the Minister of Finance and Personnel on meeting such costs from his budget.

(AQW 17646/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member is aware, a legal challenge to my decision to proceed with the A5 dual carriageway project was lodged in the High Court on 10 September 2012. My Department will robustly defend this action and has accordingly instructed Senior Counsel.

Following a preliminary hearing on 29 November 2012, the Judge has ruled on the application for a Protective Costs Order by the Alternative A5 Alliance (AA5A). The ruling means that should the AA5A be unsuccessful in their challenge, their liability for my Department's legal costs would be capped at £20,000. If the AA5A is successful, all of their legal costs will be met by my Department.

An injunction hearing in relation to preliminary works is scheduled for the 17 December 2012, with the full hearing to deal with the substantive legal challenge set for 12, 13 and 14 February 2013.

The financial risk associated with cost liability of the legal proceedings is considered modest when compared to the overall cost of the scheme, or the cost of delays.

My officials are attempting to mitigate costs associated with delays to the scheme, which was planned to commence in mid-October. They are also liaising with their counterparts in DFP in managing the financial implications of the legal action. I have made the Finance Minister and the Executive aware of the key issues arising from this legal action.

Potential Severe Winter Weather

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the plans in place to ensure that the Roads Service is fully prepared to deal with the potential severe winter weather conditions.

(AQW 17687/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has assured me that it is well prepared for potential winter weather conditions and will aim to provide a high standard of service delivery for the gritting of roads during the current winter season.

Officials have further advised that, prior to the start of this winter service season, Roads Service carried out a significant amount of planning to ensure a state of readiness. In addition to a number of routine pre-season checks, planning included ensuring that adequate staffing arrangements were in place, including training for new staff where required, and checking that all winter service equipment was in working order.

Every night, since the end of October 2012 and until the middle of April 2013, Roads Service has over 300 people on standby ready to salt main roads, helping drivers across Northern Ireland cope with the wintry conditions.

Prior to the commencement of the current winter season, all Roads Service salt barns were filled to capacity ahead of the current winter season with stocks in excess of 75,000 tonnes. Additional salt stocks totalling a further 38,100 tonnes are held at six strategic locations to provide additional resilience. The current Winter Service salt contract also provides for the supply of a further 15,000 tonnes per month until the end of April 2013, if required.

In addition, salt bins or grit piles have been provided for use by the public, on other routes adopted or maintained by Roads Service, which do not qualify for inclusion on the gritting schedule. Roads Service currently provides approximately 4,800 salt bins and almost 50,000 grit piles on public roads.

Salt Bins and Grit Piles on Public Roads

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department plans to increase the number of salt bins and grit piles on public roads.

(AQW 17688/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service provides salt bins, in urban areas, and grit piles, in rural areas, for use by the public on a self help basis on roads which do not qualify for inclusion in the salting schedule, and where the following criteria are met:

- the location in question is on the publicly maintained road network;
- the gradient on the road in question exceeds 5%;
- no reasonable alternative route is available; and
- the subject road qualifies through an assessment process that considers factors such as road geometry, residential usage, community welfare and commercial usage.

There are no limits placed on the number of salt bins or grit piles which may be provided. However, these will not normally be provided within 100 metres of an existing salt bin / grit pile.

There are currently approximately 4,800 salt bins and almost 50,000 grit piles on public roads across Northern Ireland. Roads Service will consider the provision of additional salt bins or grit piles, if requested by a member of the public and a suitable location is available. I can advise the Member that under this current policy, the number of salt boxes has increased by over 30% during the last three years.

Craigantlet Road Scheme Proposals

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the Craigantlet Road scheme proposals,

(AQW 17728/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that a number of alternative options for a road improvement scheme in Craigantlet were put forward by residents. These options are currently being assessed by consultants, and this work should be completed by the end of January 2013.

I can assure the Member that no decisions will be taken before the outcome of this study is known.

Combating the Risk of Flooding

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what action is being taken by Roads Service to combat the risk of flooding.

(AQW 17733/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Responsibility for drainage infrastructure is shared between my Department's Roads Service, NI Water, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rivers Agency. Together, the three agencies have formulated procedures for liaison and co-ordination of the emergency planning and response to flooding, resulting in the production of Best Practice Guidelines and flooding hotspots lists.

The combined flooding hotspots register is a list of key flooding locations across Northern Ireland and identifies, for each location, the agency which should take the lead during a flooding event. The hotspots list is continually updated as new locations are reported, or problem locations rectified. However, the flooding problems at these locations are not always easy to resolve, as remedial work may be prohibitively expensive, or the solution may not be immediately obvious and may require further investigation or consultation with other Departments or adjacent landowners.

In addition to the hotspots register, each Roads Service Section Office also identifies locations which are regularly affected by flooding in their respective areas. Programmes of work are prepared by each office to undertake remedial measures at the areas identified, on a prioritised basis.

In the medium to long term, it is the intention of the three drainage agencies to implement the European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC). This ordinance, known as the Floods Directive, came into force on 26 November 2007 and became law in Northern Ireland on 25 November 2009. The Floods Directive is designed to help Member States establish a framework for managing flood risk that is aimed at reducing the adverse consequences of flooding on human health, the environment, cultural heritage, and economic activity.

At an operational level, to help combat the risk of flooding, Roads Service inspects, and cleans where necessary, all gullies in urban areas twice each year and gullies in rural areas once each year. This policy ensures that a reasonable level of maintenance is carried out to drainage systems, taking account of the Department's finite funding and staff resource levels.

In addition, and in accordance with Roads Service's Road Maintenance Standards for Safety, all public roads are inspected on a one, two or four monthly cycle, depending on the type of road. During these inspections, any defects identified with the road drainage system will be dealt with in accordance with the afore-mentioned Standards.

Free Off-Peak Travel to Under 25s

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the cost of offering free off-peak travel to under 25s.

(AQW 17756/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have not made any assessment of the cost of offering free off-peak travel to children and young people under the age of 25.

It is difficult to estimate accurately the likely cost of such a benefit. Numerous assumptions would have to be made regarding the number of people under the age of 25 who would use public transport during off-peak periods, the frequency and current fare costs of their travel and any extra costs to Translink in order to accommodate this travel within existing services. Therefore, forecasts of the associated costs would not be robust.

Currently, children under age 5 travel free on Translink services and children from 5 to the age for compulsory schooling are eligible for a half-fare concession. By using a y-link smartcard, young people from age 16 until their 24th birthday can get a fare discount of at least one third on Translink services.

Given the current pressures on my budget, I have no plans to extend the Concessionary Fares Scheme.

Lennon-v-DRD Fair Employment Tribunal

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development pursuant to AQW 17157/11-15, given that the finding was against the Department and the then Minister, why the Department cannot apologise to Dr Alan Lennon.

(AQW 17758/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have nothing further to add to the response I gave to AQW 17157/11-15 on 6 December.

Car Parking Charges in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail what plans his Department has to introduce car parking charges in North Down in car parks that are currently free to use.

(AQW 17790/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Executive's economy and jobs initiative announced on 7 November 2012 provides confirmation that there will be no introduction of charges to free car parks or any further increase to charges in charged car parks in North Down during the remainder of the current budget period; that is, until the end of March 2015.

NI Water: Contracts with Huber

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the total value of contracts placed by NI Water with Huber in the last ten years; (ii) the tendering process used and; (iii) what steps have been taken to encourage Northern Ireland based companies to tender for the type of equipment supplied by Huber.

(AQW 17827/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that (i) the total value of contracts it placed with Huber in the last 10 years and (ii) the tendering process used, is as detailed in the table below.

Contract name	Tendering process	Period	Total Value of Contract/ Spend
Multiple quotations	Quotations	January 2003 to August 2010	£1.7 million (Expenditure)
C466 - Contract for the supply of a range of proprietary screens, related parts & associated maintenance	Award of a contract without a competition as per Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) 17(1)(c)	6 August 2010 to 5 August 2011	£230,000 (Contract Value)
C535 - Contract for the supply of a range of proprietary screens, related parts & associated maintenance	Award of a contract without a competition as per Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) 17(1)(c)	7 October 2011 to 31 December 2012	£500,000 (Contract Value)
C555 - Screens Framework Contract	Publicly advertised tender via Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) Open procedure	Currently in standstill period. Planned contract period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016 with option to extend to 31 December 2019.	Forecast value of expenditure with Huber is circa £100,000 per annum.

(iii) NIW recently publicly advertised an open tender competition, C555 – Screens Framework Contract, to the market which included Huber equipment and other similar equipment. The tender competition was advertised via the Official Journal of the European Union, NIW's website and published as an opportunity through eSourcingNI. Huber Technologies Ltd of Portadown was the only company which provided a bid for the supply and associated maintenance of Huber equipment.

NI Water: Contracts

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the value of contracts for equipment placed with local suppliers over the last five years; and (ii) the monitoring process in place to ensure that local companies are informed of the opportunities that exist within NI Water.

(AQW 17828/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that (i) over the last 5 years, it has awarded contracts to local suppliers or local branches of national companies with a value in the region of £28.5 million. This figure includes the value of all contracts predominantly comprising equipment purchases which were awarded by NIW between 30 November 2007 and 12 December 2012.

- (ii) Over the last 5 years, the above contracts have been advertised via eSourcingNI or a predecessor portal and also published on NIW's website. eSourcingNI is the Northern Ireland Civil Service portal used to advertise tender opportunities. Any tender above the threshold for advertising required by the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) has been subject to a Contract Notice published through the Official Journal of the European Union. In March 2012, NIW published on its website a list of all tender opportunities it expected to advertise over the subsequent eighteen months. It also invited local companies to attend a "meet the buyer" event in March 2012 to inform local companies of forthcoming opportunities and to provide advice on how to tender to the public sector in general and to NIW in particular. NIW intends to continue this practice and will also attend "meet the buyer" events organised by other bodies to provide lists of forthcoming opportunities to companies.

By way of further information, the procurement strategy used by NIW for its capital construction programme is such that it enters into a contract with a principal contractor (this is predominately a locally based civil engineering contractor or joint venture partnership) and does not contract directly with equipment suppliers.

Consequently, there is no mechanism for monitoring the placing of equipment orders by the principal contractor and the value of such orders or sub-contracts. Nonetheless, well in excess of 90% of NIW construction contracts are awarded to locally based Small and Medium Enterprises and the associated equipment orders are likely to be placed with local suppliers.

Hollywood Costal Path

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department will consider providing lighting for the Hollywood costal path,
(AQW 17839/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised me that responsibility for this path, including the provision of lighting, lies with North Down Borough Council, whose officials should be able to deal directly with your request.

Spend on New Single-Decker Buses

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development to explain the rationale behind a spend of £3.7 million for 6 single decker buses and whether the 6 buses to be replaced have a trade-in value.
(AQW 17858/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Firstly I would clarify that the spend of £3.7m referred to not only relates to six single deck buses but also to 13 Goldline coaches.

Translink advise that the rationale behind buying buses is to replace older buses which will help towards the Regional Transportation Strategy aim of maintaining an average fleet age of no more than 8 years old.

Bus procurement processes do not include trade-ins against the purchase of new vehicles; however if applicable, Translink does dispose of redundant vehicles in a way that delivers best value for money.

Ministerial Private Office: Running Costs

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of running his Ministerial Private Office in the last financial year.
(AQW 17868/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The costs of running my Private Office for the full financial year 2011/12 were £398,990. I took up my appointment as Minister for Regional Development on 17 May 2011 but it is not possible to provide a precise figure from this date.

Roads Maintenance

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development for a breakdown of expenditure on roads maintenance in each council area for each year since 2009.

(AQW 17873/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The attached table sets out, for each of the last 3 financial years, details of expenditure incurred on roads maintenance by my Department's Roads Service by District Council area. The categories listed in the table are defined as follows:

- Structural Maintenance includes resurfacing, surface dressing, patching and structural drainage;
- Routine Maintenance includes grass cutting, weed control verge maintenance and gully emptying etc.; and
- Other Maintenance includes expenditure on highway structures, winter maintenance and traffic maintenance.

District Council Area	Year											
	Structural Maintenance £k			Routine Maintenance £k			Other Maintenance £k					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12			
Antrim	2,794	2,463	3,470	545	515	752	531	688	595			
Coleraine	2,736	2,373	3,617	544	421	897	933	745	543			
Limavady	2,344	2,303	3,431	466	558	618	522	629	408			
Moyle	1,397	945	1,891	398	182	312	179	231	194			
Ballymoney	2,002	2,029	2,758	257	502	264	489	544	299			
Derry	3,086	2,887	5,560	933	688	1,010	990	1,047	818			
Ballymena	3,339	3,097	4,463	773	648	884	905	1,178	1,021			
Larne	1,704	1,380	1,756	514	427	627	564	657	289			
Belfast	6,039	5,527	9,054	2,712	2,895	2,169	3,813	3,674	3,436			
Castlereagh	1,792	1,218	1,433	462	386	478	239	499	385			
Newtownabbey	2,455	2,339	3,029	569	418	513	370	350	406			
Carrickfergus	1,036	778	1,805	199	95	306	134	193	254			
North Down	1,755	1,938	2,667	356	588	324	655	388	318			
Lisburn	4,604	5,411	5,297	832	665	908	803	1,051	902			
Ards	3,065	4,088	4,783	626	613	863	378	452	275			
Armagh	5,388	5,229	8,197	719	634	1,051	886	1,141	671			
Newry & Mourne	5,605	5,382	6,768	800	864	912	953	1,035	749			
Banbridge	2,811	3,572	4,212	569	354	650	599	1,036	373			

District Council Area	Year											
	Structural Maintenance £k			Routine Maintenance £k			Other Maintenance £k					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Craigavon	3,867	4,809	5,417	632	532	657	826	815	703			
Down	3,377	4,065	5,324	592	243	743	750	566	499			
Magherafelt	2,885	3,186	3,515	332	602	321	535	805	286			
Omagh	4,923	4,262	6,143	1,198	363	851	1,376	772	802			
Strabane	4,592	4,366	5,196	712	807	591	614	805	518			
Cookstown	2,145	2,718	3,887	277	322	367	480	360	269			
Fermanagh	4,951	6,869	9,869	686	320	789	573	859	604			
Dungannon	4,498	5,078	6,895	586	750	638	854	1,242	542			
Totals	85,190	88,312	120,437	17,289	15,392	18,491	19,949	21,762	16,159			

Lennon-v-DRD Fair Employment Tribunal

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 17209/11-15, whether the Department investigated whether any member of staff was responsible for facilitating access by Conor Murphy to the privileged legal advice and, if so, what was the outcome of the investigation.

(AQW 17885/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My legal advice and the reasons for my decision not to appeal this case were shared with other Executive Ministers. In making my legal advice available I advised that this carried a legal professional privilege restriction and should not be distributed more widely. I have no reason to believe that there was any further distribution of my legal advice by my Departmental Officials.

Increases in Bus Fares

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development if he is aware of any future plans by Translink to increase bus fares.

(AQW 17899/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Each year, Translink produces a three-year corporate plan which is discussed with my Department and has to focus on the year ahead. My role and that of my officials, is to consider the Translink Corporate Plan.

Discussions begin at official level a number of months before the start of the financial year and are due to commence shortly. Prior to approving any overall fare increase I also take into account the views of key stake holders.

I recognise that the funding position for Translink in 2013-14 and 2014-15 is constrained. I expect Translink to draw up plans which take account of their legal obligations under the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 and the Companies Act 2006 to consider going-concern issues and to break even year on year. This could potentially impact on all Public Transport fares.

It is important to recognise that any planned reviews of budgets or future in-year monitoring rounds could also impact here.

Department for Social Development

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development what are the current levels of sick leave among staff in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and what is the trend of sickness absence since 2007.

(AQW 17459/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The current level of sickness absence amongst staff in the Housing Executive, as at the end of September 2012, is 5.9 days.

The trend of sickness absence since 2007 is as follows:

- 2007/08 14.7 days
- 2008/09 13.2 days
- 2009/10 13.4 days
- 2010/11 12.2 days
- 2011/12 11.1 days

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development how procurement and associated arrangements have changed within the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in light of the Red Sky controversy.

(AQW 17461/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has employed new methodologies for taking procurement forward and managing contracts. These new arrangements have been developed and put in place following reviews of Housing Executive processes and from recommendations made by the Gateway Review carried out in 2010. The actions from the Gateway Review and the internal Housing Executive procedural review included the following:

- Review the form of contract used in contracts.
- Ensure that each contract has a designated contract (commercial) manager.
- The KPIs used within contracts should be reviewed and enhanced.
- An internal oversight body should be created to oversee all major procurements.
- All major procurements are now taken forward following a project management methodology.
- Creation of a new Corporate Procurement Strategy.

These actions have all been included within new procurement and contract management procedures.

ATOS Medical Staff

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development what training in understanding the condition Lupus is provided to ATOS medical staff who carry out examinations on benefit claimants.

(AQW 17518/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Whilst Atos Healthcare Professionals are not required to have a specialist qualification in the area of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, as part of the comprehensive training programme provided to every Healthcare Professional, a specific self directed training programme is provided on this condition. Healthcare Professionals have access to evidence based information, including the description, diagnosis and the main disabling effects of the condition. Each Healthcare Professional must provide evidence as part of their training evaluation that this Systemic Lupus Erythematosus training has been completed to a satisfactory standard.

Welfare Reform

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development what action his Department is taking to assess further the impact that the proposed Welfare Reform legislation will have on people.

(AQW 17586/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department completed an equality impact assessment which was published in May 2012, and committed to continue to look at the possible equality impacts as the Bill moves forward. Officials are currently reviewing additional data recently received from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This data from HMRC, in conjunction with the data from the existing DWP Policy Simulation Model will greatly improve the information available and our ability to identify potential adverse impacts. It is our intention to update the EQIA as soon as the analysis is completed.

The Policy Simulation Model (PSM) is used for poverty and scenario analysis and produces outputs including the financial impacts on different demographic groups from policy changes to the tax and benefits system. It is based on the results of the Family Resources Survey. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have used the PSM for many years but work has recently commenced to expand the model to include Northern Ireland. Analytical Services Unit continue to carry out various research projects developing a Northern Ireland version of the PSM to support the various work strands within the Universal Credit Programme. The PSM is a micro simulation model. It takes a snapshot of the NI population (using Family Resource Survey (FRS) annual data) and models individuals from the FRS both

on a benefit unit level and a household level. The model recreates the rules of the Tax and Benefit system and allows users to make adjustments to these rules in order to simulate the introduction of new policies. The effect of changes on benefit income and net income can then be measured allowing impact analysis of the policy. The model uses grossing to scale to the NI population projections produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The PSM is entitlement based, and hence models eligibility to various benefits and assumes 100% take-up. However, the option does exist to adjust the PSM datasets based on varying levels of estimated take-up.

The Department has also met with the Equality Commission since the production of the equality impact assessment. The Commission has recognised the data deficits, but also endorsed the approach that the Department has taken in reviewing the equality impact assessment and in equality screening the regulations as they are prepared.

The Department is currently working with the Ad Hoc Committee on Conformity with Equality and Human Rights Requirements to address any concerns which may be raised.

I also established the Executive subcommittee on welfare reform which is considering areas where some mitigation may be considered necessary. As a result of this and the ongoing meetings with Lord Freud, I have secured flexibilities in relation to payments of Universal Credit and I advised the Assembly of these in my statement on 22 October 2012. Discussions with Lord Freud are continuing in relation to the proposed changes to support with housing costs.

Window Replacement Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what replacement window schemes are scheduled for North Down in each of the next three years.

(AQW 17597/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive currently has a number of planned schemes on site within North Down, all of which involve window replacement. The latest position with regard to these schemes is:

- Lisnabreen & Clanmorris scheme commenced on site 27 August 2012
- Rathgill/Kilcooley/Loughview commenced on site 15 October 2012
- Whitehill scheme commenced on site 19 November 2012

The Housing Executive considers that, through its programme of planned improvement schemes, the majority of its dwellings in the North Down Borough requiring the replacement of existing windows with double glazed units has been addressed.

A small number of dwellings not included in the above schemes will be addressed through a district "mop up" exercise which is scheduled to commence during 2013/14 financial year. The tenants affected by these proposed works will be advised when an on site date has been confirmed.

Sites Acquired by the Belfast Regeneration Office

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 16560/11-15, (i) how much has been spent to date on acquisition and upkeep of all the sites acquired by the Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO); (ii) to list all the sites that have been acquired since the inception of BRO; and (iii) how each site has been developed.

(AQW 17607/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Since its inception in 1999, the Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) has spent £20m on the acquisition of sites. Since April 2002, BRO has spent £5.2m on associated capital works and maintenance of these sites, no maintenance costs records held prior to April 2002.

Details of the sites and any related development can be found at Annex A.

ANNEX A

Sites Acquired	Development
Woodvale Campus Site	In DSD ownership
2 Connswater Street	In DSD ownership
Land at Ballarat Street	In DSD ownership
Land at Denmark Street (1)	In DSD ownership
12-14 Castlereagh Street	In DSD ownership
Land at St. Mary's Gdns (Mica Drive)	In DSD ownership
Land at Denmark Street (2)	In DSD ownership
3 Stormount Lane	In DSD ownership
Shankill Youth Club (Craven St)	In DSD ownership
Land to rear of 141 Shankill Rd	In DSD ownership
Alliance Crescent	In DSD ownership
North Howard link	Industrial & Business Centre
42-48 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
98/98A Templemore Avenue	In DSD ownership
20-24 Castlereagh Street	In DSD ownership
141 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
20 Oldpark Road	In DSD ownership
36-38 Oldpark Road	In DSD ownership
28 Duncairn Gardens	In DSD ownership
35-55 Carr's Glen Park	In DSD ownership
44-50 Carr's Glen Park	In DSD ownership
364 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
Land at Northumberland Street	Community Garden
143-145 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
Land at Molkte Street	Community Garden
1a Stormount Lane	In DSD ownership
970-976 Shore Road	In DSD ownership
16-18 Castlereagh Street	In DSD ownership
Sites A & B Springfield Rd	In DSD ownership
Sites C & D Springfield Rd	In DSD ownership
Land at 188-194 North Queen Street	Private Residential Development
184 North Queen Street	In DSD ownership
118-120 Antrim Road	In DSD ownership

Sites Acquired	Development
275 Albertbridge Road	In DSD ownership
277 Albertbridge Road	In DSD ownership
17-21 Battenberg Street	In DSD ownership
Former Nicholl Engineering Factory	In DSD ownership
102 Mayo Street	In DSD ownership
Lawnbrook Play Area	Private Residential Development
2-6 Bellevue St & 1A Sugarfield St	In DSD ownership
93-107 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
178-180 Shankill Road	Community Based Health Project
30-34 Oldpark Road	In DSD ownership
232 Newtownards Road	In DSD ownership
20-32 Ormeau Road	In DSD ownership
142 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
72-74 Shore Road & 2-4 Mill Road	Commercial Use
294-296 Crumlin Road	In DSD ownership
15-15a Greenland Street	In DSD ownership
286 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
288 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
290 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
292 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
294 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
378 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
380 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
382 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
384 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
386 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
Land at Little King Street	Private Residential Development
Land at Bellevue Street	In DSD ownership
8 Castlereagh Street	In DSD ownership
50-58 York Road	Temporary Statutory Accommodation
Land at Carr's Glen Park	In DSD ownership
Land at Middlepath Street	City East Enterprise Park
188-194 North Queen Street (North Star Bar)	Private Residential Development
10 York Road	In DSD ownership

Sites Acquired	Development
2-6 Castlereagh St & 139-141 Albertbridge Rd	In DSD ownership
60 Clondeboye Street	In DSD ownership
130-138 Castlereagh St & 62-64 Clondeboye St	In DSD ownership
Land at Ballysillan Park	In DSD ownership
278-282 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
140 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
144 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
146 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
150 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
374A Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
Land at Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
519 Falls Road	In DSD ownership
148 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
12 York Road	In DSD ownership
22-28 & 40 Old Park Road	In DSD ownership
42-44 Old Park Road	In DSD ownership
Armagh House	In DSD ownership
Ravenhill Reach	In DSD ownership
174 North Queen Street	Private Residential Development (not complete)
Former Disabled Care Centre	Enterprise Centre & Social Residential Development
Templemore Avenue College	Community Networking Centre
357-361 Donegall Road	Private Residential Development (not complete)
301-303 Donegall Road	Community Socio-Economic Enterprise
10 Castlereagh Street	In DSD ownership
72 Newtownards Road (Kwik Fit)	City East Enterprise Park
25 Rydalmere Street	In DSD ownership
124-130 Sandy Row & 39-49 Albion St	Social Residential Development
211-217 Beersbridge Road	In DSD ownership
155-157 Newtownards Road	In DSD ownership
2A Adam Street Gospel Hall	In DSD ownership
183-191 Beersbridge Road	In DSD ownership
312 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
310 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership

Sites Acquired	Development
308 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
Land at Ship St	Commercial Development
88-136 Lawnbrook Avenue	Private Residential Development
140-148 Shankill Road	Social Residential Development
North Queen Street	Community Play Park
73-73a Woodvale Rd	Retail & Private Residential Development
North Howard Link	Industrial & Business Centre
124-138 Peters Hill	In DSD ownership
164/186 Duncairn Gardens	Retail & Private Residential Development
Forth Parade	Private Residential Development
Bellevue St/Mountjoy St	In DSD ownership
Northumberland Link	Industrial & Business Centre
181 Duncairn Gardens	In DSD ownership
Lands at Manor St (1)	Community Centre
Ainsworth Ave/Mayo St	Private Residential Development
406 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
410-412 Shankill Road	In DSD ownership
Lands at Manor St (2)	Community Centre

Housing Executive: Asbestos Surveying

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the process utilised by his Department to appoint seven of the ten companies who had met the criteria to provide asbestos surveying services to the Housing Executive
(AQW 17612/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive took forward the Procurement for the Asbestos Surveying Framework using Regulation 16 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (amended). This procedure is a restricted procedure and comprises a two stage process involving the pre-qualification of applicants before commencing the tender process.

There were 11 companies which qualified for the tender stage of the procurement process. The tender stage was evaluated against a combination of quality and cost criteria. The quality criteria were weighted at 100 marks and the cost criteria weighted at 900 marks. The quality evaluation was carried out by evaluating submissions against specific criteria of Service Delivery and Customer Care and Payment & Quality Assurance. At the quality submission evaluation, one of the tenderers was rejected having not met the quality scoring threshold. That tenderer was eliminated from the competition and its Province Wide Pricing Submission was not opened or evaluated.

Following the evaluation of the quality submissions, the pricing submission was opened for only those tenderers passing the quality thresholds. The tenderer who submitted the lowest acceptable price was allocated the full 900 marks available. Each of the other Tenderers was evaluated in relation to the lowest price. Higher priced tenders were awarded proportional scores relative to the lowest priced submission. This gave the prices score, which if necessary was rounded to two decimal figures.

The scores for Quality and Price were then added together and each score was then ranked from one through to 10. The rules of the procurement made it clear that the top seven ranked tenderers would be appointed to the framework. The process for appointing the top ranking seven tenderers to the framework involves the issuing of the Letters of Intent and entering into a standstill period of 10 days. Once the standstill period is complete the Housing Executive will commence the secondary competition to award contracts for each of the five lots.

The process is still live and contracts will not be awarded before 18 December 2012.

Social Security Benefit Fraud

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have been reported for Social Security benefit fraud sanctions in each of the last three years; and how many of these people have had sanctions applied.

(AQW 17614/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is set out in the tables below.

TABLE 1

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Number of reports of potential benefit fraud received	8,595	11,108	11,177

TABLE 2¹

Sanctions	982	1128	1025
-----------	-----	------	------

1. The Table of Sanctions includes cases where a sanction was imposed where a cheque was falsely reported as having been lost and subsequently discovered to have been cashed. Details of cheque losses reported are not included in Table 1.

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

Employment and Support Allowance Assessments

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many people, who had previously been assessed as eligible for incapacity benefit or Employment and Support Allowance, have had zero points applied under the Atos assessment; and how many people have lost their entitlement to incapacity benefit or Employment Support Allowance in each of the last three years.

(AQW 17615/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Atos Healthcare were appointed to deliver Medical Support Services on behalf of the Department in June 2011.

During the period June 2011 and October 2012, 13,740 claimants who had previously been assessed as eligible for Incapacity Benefit or Employment and Support Allowance scored zero points at a Work Capability Assessment medical examination. This represents 16% of the 84,024 Work Capability Assessment medical examinations conducted during the period June 2011 and October 2012.

The table below provides a breakdown of claims where entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit has ceased in each of the last three complete years. This includes cases where a claimant has been found fit for work, has failed to attend a medical assessment or has not provided the required information. The figures also include claims where entitlement has ceased following changes in a claimant's circumstances including when a claimant returns to work, claims an alternative benefit or the death of a claimant.

Year	Employment and Support Allowance	Incapacity Benefit
2009-10	12,827	15,408
2010-11	17,672	8,837
2011-12	19,347	7,636

Social Housing Development Programme

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how objective need is applied to the outworkings of the social housing development programme.

(AQW 17621/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive carries out an annual assessment of social housing need for each local housing area throughout Northern Ireland. This incorporates an assessment of numbers in housing stress, projected allocations of existing stock and additional factors such as: vacant stock, demographic trends, regeneration issues and local market intelligence. This provides a five year social housing need requirement for all local housing areas across Northern Ireland.

The detail of these projections is published on an annual basis by District Council Area, in the Housing Executive's District Housing Plans and is available on the Housing Executive's website.

Alongside these assessments, the Housing Executive has developed Strategic Guidelines which direct development of the Social Housing Development Programme. The Strategic Guidelines, which are reviewed on an annual basis, allocate the social housing programme across four strategic groupings - urban need, rural need, supported housing and Travellers accommodation.

Targets for each of these four groups are assessed at a regional and local level and take into account a range of supporting research. They are then used to allocate programme share geographically using an evidence based approach, which takes cognisance of the most up to date social housing waiting list statistics and associated policy issues.

ATOS Assessments

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development to explain the differences between the assessments applied by ATOS locally and the assessments in Britain.

(AQW 17625/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are no differences between the work capability assessments carried out by Atos for the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain and the Social Security Agency in Northern Ireland. The work capability assessments are based on a range of descriptors laid down in the legislation which governs the operation of the accounts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Welfare Reform Concessions

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 16670/11-15, for an estimate of the cost of the work; and to detail the timeline for the design, build and test of the software.

(AQW 17660/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Officials within the Universal Credit Programme in my Department are continuing to work with the Department for Work and Pensions to determine the costs associated with development of the software. This is based on the current assumption that Northern Ireland will not pay any of the national build costs for the generic system rather that our costs will be restricted to development costs in relation to standard Northern Ireland differences (e.g. different bank holidays) and any IT development work in relation to the payment flexibilities. It is not expected that stable cost estimates

will be available until detailed design work has taken place and suppliers have provided costed solution proposals.

Detailed plans for UC Release 3 (April 2014 release) which will include Northern Ireland requirements are not yet available. However the high-level timeline for the design, build and test phases is anticipated to be as follows:

- Release 3 Scope Defined – January 2013
- Release 3 High Level Design Completed – March 2013
- Release 3 Detailed Design Completed – September 2013
- Release 3 Build and Test – March 2014
- Release 3 Implementation – April 2014

Charities: Pensions

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development whether he is aware of any issues regarding pensions for charities; and what responsibilities his Department has on this issue.

(AQW 17661/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has previously been made aware of issues facing local charities who are part of the NI Charities Pension Scheme (NICPS), administered by The Pensions Trust. The Trust has reported a significant pension deficit for the NICPS. This position is not unique to the NICPS, it is widely reported that many pension schemes across the UK currently face substantial deficits with investments not performing as well as expected.

In terms of the NICPS, the deficit in the scheme is primarily a matter for the Pensions Trust, as administrator of the scheme, and for local charities as employers and members of that scheme. Government does not have any role in meeting pension deficit costs.

Issues relating to charity pension liabilities have also been raised with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI). CCNI has discussed the matter with other UK charity regulators but has no plans at present to issue guidance to charities in Northern Ireland. The Pensions Regulator has a UK-wide remit to provide support and advice to trustees, administrators, employers and others where potential problems are identified.

Cold Weather Payments

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the eligibility criteria for cold weather payments.

(AQW 17676/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Cold Weather Payments provide help to vulnerable people, regardless of age, to meet heating costs incurred, or likely to be incurred during periods of exceptionally cold weather, in the area where they live.

Payments are triggered when the average temperature is, or is forecast to be, zero degrees centigrade or below over 7 consecutive days from 1 November to 31 March. This information is supplied to the Social Security Agency by the Met Office based on recordings and forecasts at 7 separate weather stations located at Aldergrove, Castledearg, Glenanne, Katesbridge, Magilligan, Stormont and Thomastown, each of which cover a range of designated post code areas. Payments are at the rate of £25 for each 7 day cold weather period and are issued automatically.

To qualify for a Cold Weather Payment a claimant must be receiving:

- State Pension Credit, or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (main phase) for a least one day in a period of cold weather; or

- they or their partner must be in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (in the assessment phase) for at least one day in the period of cold weather and:
 - have a dependent child aged under five; or
 - have a relevant pensioner or disability premium; or
 - be entitled to Child Tax Credit for a child or qualifying young person who is disabled or severely disabled.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development at what stage is the process of assessing the entitlement of people currently on Incapacity Benefit who are moving to Employment and Support Allowance.

(AQW 17677/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Of the approximate 83,000 claimants due to undergo the Incapacity Benefit Reassessment process the latest figures, up to the end of September 2012, indicate that 38,145 claimants have now started the journey. This is 45.6% of the total claimants predicted to undergo reassessment.

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.

Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance Panels

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how much panel members receive in payment for an oral appeal for Employment and Support Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

(AQW 17678/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Panel members are paid on a half- day sessional basis, with each session comprising a minimum of two and a maximum of four hearings, depending on case complexity. A session can be a combination of paper and oral hearings. The current fees payable to panel members are detailed below.

Panel member	Fee per Session
Legal chairman	£224
Medical member (GP)	£155 for first 40 sessions £185.50 for 41st session onwards
Disability qualified member	£96

Appeal Panels

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the process for assessing and choosing members for Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance oral appeal panels.

(AQW 17679/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The President of Appeal Tribunals has statutory responsibility for the selection of tribunal members. Selection is based on training in the relevant benefit, the member's availability and travel considerations.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development, over the last two years, how many people have appealed after being deemed ineligible for Employment and Support Allowance following their medical assessment and have then won their appeal.

(AQW 17680/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Information is not available in the format sought. The table below details the number of ESA appeals received by The Appeals Service and how many have been determined. The Chairman of the tribunal records whether the decision made on appeal was more advantageous than the original ruling. This may include decisions to increase the allowance or that a new award should be made.

Period	No. of Appeals Received (i)	Appeals Determined (ii)	Outcome more advantageous (iii)
2010-11	5,538	5,035	1,641
2011-12	7,773	6,318	2,193

Note:

- (i) Any appeal lodged with the social security agency is subject to reconsideration and may not therefore progress to The Appeals Service. Appeals may not be dealt with in the same year that they are received.
- (ii) The appeals determined figures represent those cases where a final outcome has been reached following a hearing(s).
- (iii) An ESA appeal may be against a decision of non-entitlement or a decision against the work-related activity group the claimant is placed in.

Personal Independence Payment Assessments

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the differences in the Personal Independence Payment assessments that will be delivered by ATOS and those which will be delivered by Capita.

(AQW 17681/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In Northern Ireland Personal Independence Payment assessments will be undertaken solely by Capita Business Services – Atos will not be involved in carrying out Personal Independence Payment assessments. The assessment criteria to be used in underpinning the Personal Independence Payment assessment was announced by the Department for Work and Pensions on the 13 December 2012 and this will apply both to assessments undertaken Great Britain and in Northern Ireland. My Department consulted widely with interested parties in Northern Ireland on the assessment criteria to be used in the assessment process prior to the 13 December announcements.

Capita

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development whether the medical assessments to be carried out by Capita are to determine how people can carry out work or how they can cope with their illness.

(AQW 17682/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Capita Business Services Limited will undertake assessments for the purpose of assisting Social Security Agency decision makers determine whether there is an entitlement to Personal Independence Payment.

The assessment considers an individual's ability to carry out a range of key everyday activities which are considered fundamental to everyday life and which have a strong focus on daily living and mobility needs. The assessment does not consider whether a person can carry out work as Personal Independence Payment is payable to disabled people regardless of whether or not they are in employment.

Housing: Cost of Welfare Reform

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has any plans to undertake an assessment of the projected costs to housing as a result of the implementation of the welfare reforms; and to outline these assessments.

(AQW 17690/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Annual financial estimates as a consequence of housing benefit reductions arising from the welfare reform changes are set out in the table below:

Measure	Effective Date	Benefit Reduction
4 bedroom LHA cap	April 11	£ 247,972
Local Housing Allowance 30th Percentile	April 11	£ 21,024,510
Shared Accommodation Rate (24 -34 year olds)	January 12	£ 9,204,000
Consumer Price Index Uplift	April 13	£ 3,111,627
Under occupation in social rented sector	April 13	£ 17,331,120
	Total	£ 50,919,229

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations

From April 13 the total award of household benefit payments for working-age claimants will be capped at £500 per week for couples and £350 per week for single people. We are awaiting information from HM Revenue and Customs to enable accurate estimates to be made of the numbers who will be affected by this change. Initial indications are that it will be in the hundreds rather than thousands.

There will also be costs for the Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations & the private rented sector in implementing the changes and ensuring adequate support is in place to assist those most negatively impacted by the reforms. Currently, we do not have sufficient information to quantify these costs.

We cannot envisage how each tenant and landlord will react to the reforms and much will depend upon each individual's circumstances. Our response to these reforms must be to ensure that everyone has access to an affordable home, be that in the private rented sector or the social housing sector, under a tenancy they can sustain. Officials are working with the Housing Executive to develop a range of support measures to compliment those outlined in my Housing Strategy. I also intend to increase funding available for discretionary housing payments and change the legislation to allow such payments to be made to all social housing tenants.

Redevelopment of Queens Parade, Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether there is a budget ring-fenced to develop Queens Parade, Bangor and how much has been set aside.

(AQW 17696/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department has ear-marked funding over the next three financial years to take forward a major comprehensive development scheme at Queen's Parade Bangor. As the majority of the funding relates to the purchase of existing landholdings and individual properties it would not be appropriate to release details of the budget at this stage. When the requisite sale contracts are completed, this information will then be a matter of public record.

Social Sector Units

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the total number of vacant social sector units; and how many are in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency.

(AQW 17726/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by parliamentary constituency. However, at 30 November 2012, the Housing Executive had a total of 1870 vacant dwellings across Northern Ireland of which 409 were vacant lettable properties. The remaining 1461 properties were vacant for various reasons such as undergoing repairs, decanting, pending demolition or pending sale.

With regard to the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency, the Housing Executive District Offices for Fermanagh and Dungannon are comparable to that area. At 30 November 2012, there were 31 vacant Housing Executive properties across these two District Offices, of which 12 were vacant lettable properties. The remaining 19 properties were vacant for the same reasons outlined above.

With regard to Housing Associations, there are currently 876 vacant properties throughout Northern Ireland of which 59 are in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency.

I hope that by the end of the financial year the finalised Empty Homes Strategy document will be released and as a result measures will be put in place to ensure that empty homes throughout Northern Ireland are properly targeted and over time brought back into use.

Housing Waiting List

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what percentage of people on the housing waiting list are veterans.

(AQW 17738/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collect this information as part of the housing application assessment process.

Queen's Parade Project, Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the timeline for his Department's work on Queen's Parade, Bangor.

(AQW 17742/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has agreed to purchase the Karl Greenfarm Properties Limited land portfolio at Queen's Parade, Bangor to take forward a comprehensive development scheme. Subject to contract, the sale should be completed in February 2013.

Following completion of the sale my Department will commence the process of drawing up detailed plans, securing planning permission and assembling the site to be included within the finally agreed development boundary. This will take in the region of 24 months. In advance of the main scheme proceeding work on a Revitalisation Project to develop new activities and new facilities to encourage people back into the area will start in January 2013.

Foyle Constituency: Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development when the installation of carbon monoxide alarms will be rolled out in the Foyle constituency.

(AQW 17769/11-15)

Mr McCausland: With regard to the Housing Executive, the information is not available in the format requested as they do not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency.

However, the Housing Executive advises that they have been installing carbon monoxide detectors since 2011/12. A carbon monoxide detector scheme for 2,922 properties commenced in February 2012 and included the Housing Executive's Waterside, Waterloo and Collon Terrace district office areas which cover the Foyle constituency. Approximately 80% of the properties originally included in the scheme have had carbon monoxide detectors installed. Any outstanding properties and refusals of a carbon monoxide detector from previous schemes will be included in heating replacements schemes or dedicated carbon monoxide detector schemes.

In relation to eight Housing Associations which have properties in the Foyle constituency, two have completed the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all their properties. The remaining six Housing Associations are in the process of installing carbon monoxide detectors and the majority of these will be completed by 2013.

Housing Associations

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how many new homes Housing Associations plan to build in the next three years.

(AQW 17779/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I am currently considering the draft Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) which will operate across the three year timeframe 2013/14 to 2015/16. As the current Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period ends in 2014/15, only the first two years of this new programme are firm, with plans for the third year determined by the outcome of the next CSR.

I will be happy to provide an update when I have fully considered and approved the programme.

Tenants Purchasing Housing Executive Homes

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development whether tenants can buy their Housing Executive homes.

(AQW 17780/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The majority of tenants can buy their Housing Executive home if they have had their tenancy for at least five years, either with the Housing Executive or a qualifying landlord. Some tenants who have not had a tenancy for the full five years may still be able to buy their home, for example, if their partner or parent was previously the tenant of the property in question.

In certain circumstances tenants will not be able to take advantage of this scheme such as:-

- Tenants of sheltered dwellings
- Tenants with rent and other arrears
- Tenants where the Housing Executive is considering taking legal action for possession of the dwelling due to anti-social behaviour
- There are restrictions on the sale of the majority of one and two bed bungalows
- Squatters

Co-Ownership Applications

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have applied for co-ownership in the last twelve months.

(AQW 17781/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A total of 1652 people have applied for co-ownership in the last twelve months.

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.

Art Pods Project, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the art pods project for Queen's Parade, Bangor.

(AQW 17831/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In September I visited Bangor to announce funding for a project to revitalise the Queen's Parade area of the town, which included 12 specially designed artist's pods that could provide

accommodation for up to 24 artists. Construction work on the project is due to commence in January 2013 and be completed by 31 March 2013

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether a Winter Fuel Allowance will be issued this winter.

(AQW 17894/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A Winter Fuel Payment is paid to eligible claimants each winter to provide help with fuel bills. Release of payments started on the 3rd November and continued to the 18th November 2012 with payments crediting to claimants accounts by 27th November. The specific payment dates were determined by the benefit the claimant is entitled to. Payments have been made to some 318,000 older people.

For the small amount of claimants who applied for the payment for the first time, the Winter Fuel Payment Centre made these payments during the period 17th November to 9th December to successful applicants who made their claim before 21st September 2012. For successful applications received after 21st September and before the closing date of 31st March 2013, payments will be issued during the period 9th February to 2nd May 2013.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will waive legal privilege and publish the Memorandum on the Compatibility of the Welfare Reform Bill with the European Convention on Human Rights.

(AQW 17904/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I would advise that as the memorandum on the compatibility of the Welfare Reform Bill with the European Convention on Human Rights contains legal opinion, it is considered a restricted document. Having consulted with Departmental Solicitors I consider this would create an unwarranted precedent and I am not therefore prepared to publish the Memorandum.

As regards a detailed Human Rights assessment, I can confirm that before the Bill was introduced to the Assembly I signed a statement of Legislative Competence to the effect that the Bill is considered compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights as required under section 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This includes an assessment of the Bill's compatibility with Convention rights and Community Law. My officials have undertaken to expand on the reference to Human Rights' compatibility in the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum attaching to the Bill.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to list each person who assisted in writing the Memorandum on the Compatibility of the Welfare Reform Bill with the European Convention on Human Rights.

(AQW 17905/11-15)

Mr McCausland: It is not accepted practice to list individuals associated with the completion of Memoranda such as the Memorandum on the Compatibility of the Welfare Reform Bill with the European Convention on Human Rights.

As regards a detailed Human Rights assessment, I can confirm that before the Bill was introduced to the Assembly I signed a statement of Legislative Competence to the effect that the Bill is considered compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights as required under section 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This includes an assessment of the Bill's compatibility with Convention rights and Community Law. My officials have undertaken to expand on the reference to Human Rights' compatibility in the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum attaching to the Bill.

The memorandum on compatibility of the Welfare Reform Bill with the European Convention on Human Rights contains legal opinion and is therefore a restricted document.

30 Day Payment Performance Targets

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development how each of his Department's arm's-length bodies has performed on the 30 Day Payment Performance Targets; and whether any sector has been paid more quickly than others.

(AQW 17911/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department's arm's length bodies are committed to paying all suppliers promptly and the same payment process applies to all invoices, regardless of which sector they come from. Invoices are processed in order of their receipt date, therefore no sector is paid any quicker than another. The performance of each body at October 2012 is included below.

Housing Executive:	75% within 30 days.
ILEX:	99% within 30 days.
Charity Commission:	100% within 30 days.

The Charity Commission

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the total cost of running the Charity Commission since it was established.

(AQW 17917/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The total cost of running the Commission since it was established on 27 March 2009 to 31 March 2012 is £1,986,748.

Peace Bridge, Derry

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development what action his Department will take on gritting the Peace Bridge in Derry this winter.

(AQW 18086/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Ilex Urban Regeneration Company is responsible for the maintenance of the Peace Bridge in Londonderry. The Department has asked Ilex to take such measures as are reasonable to ensure that users of the Peace Bridge will be reasonably safe, including undertaking a programme of salting the pedestrian surface of the bridge when icy conditions are forecast.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Parliament Buildings Cost Breakdown

Mr Allister asked the Assembly Commission to provide a breakdown of the (i) cost to date; and (ii) projected cost, of the access work being undertaken at the front of Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 17270/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission has always been mindful of the need to make Parliament Buildings more accessible to all users and, following consultation with representatives of disability support groups, agreed to extend the ramped access to the building (previously available at the side entrances only) to include the primary entrance to the building.

The construction work has been completed to a high standard in keeping with the impressive frontage of the listed building and greatly improves the visitor experience, particularly for visitors with mobility issues.

The estimated cost of the project, including professional fees (excl. Vat) is £300k. Some minor additional work items, including areas of smooth paving to further improve accessibility, were included in the project but the final project cost will still be within the approved figure.

- (i) The cost to date of the construction works is £179,058.52 (excl. Vat)
- (ii) The projected final cost of the construction work is £260k (excl. Vat)

Prompt Payment to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

Mr McGlone asked the Assembly Commission what practices, protocols and measures are in place to ensure prompt payments to contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers.

(AQO 3043/11-15)

Mr Cree (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): On 1 December 2008, the former Minister of Finance and Personnel, Mr Nigel Dodds MLA, announced a target for all NI Departments to pay invoices within 10 working days of receipt. At that time further guidance was issued from the Department of Finance and Personnel to Accounting Officers highlighting the commitment of the NI Civil Service departments to the Better Payments Practice Code, as detailed in Annex 4.6 of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI). While it is recognised that the Assembly Commission is not a “department” it is committed to ensuring that the principles of best practice, as detailed in MPMNI are applied.

On the introduction of this new target all of processes for receiving, checking and approving invoices was reviewed. New processes and controls were introduced within the financial accounting systems, specifically designed to ensure that where possible queries are resolved promptly and that this enhanced target is achieved.

Each year the Assembly Commission publishes its policy on payment of suppliers (including all third party payments) and the performance against this and other targets in the Annual Report and Resource Accounts. The following table indicates its performance over the past number four years:

PERCENTAGES OF THIRD PARTY INVOICES (INCLUDING, CONTRACTORS, SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS) PAID WITHIN TARGETS

	Years			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Target for Payment				
30 days after delivery of goods or issue of invoice (whichever is latest)	98.30%	98.70%	98.60%	98.50%
10 days after delivery of goods or issue of invoice (whichever is latest)	N/A	96.10%	96.00%	95.30%

Youth Assembly

Mr Eastwood asked the Assembly Commission to detail what meetings have been held on planning for the establishment of the Youth Assembly.

(AQW 17745/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Following research work by Assembly officials, initial proposals for the development of a Youth Assembly were presented to stakeholders, including young people, in October 2009. Informal discussions were also held with a range of

stakeholders including officials from the OFMDFM, the Department of Education, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY), the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Public Achievement.

The Youth Panel, comprising 30 young people aged 16-18, worked to develop the proposals between March 2010 and February 2011. It undertook a range of research and evidence gathering activities including meetings with a wide range of stakeholders, including parties represented in the Assembly, regional workshops with young people, research visits to other youth assemblies and an online survey. Additional research was also undertaken by the Assembly's Research and Library Service to support this work.

The Youth Panel published its proposals for a pilot Youth Assembly for Northern Ireland in the spring of 2011 with a closing date of the September of the same year. Following the close of the consultation period, representatives from the Youth Panel met in November 2011 to consider the consultation and, based on the responses, to shape the proposals to the Commission.

A subsequent meeting was convened by Assembly officials with representatives of the youth sector to consider age appropriate and innovative approaches to recruitment. Consideration of this issue in particular was given to ensure that suitable messages, methods of communication, recruitment approaches and levels of support were established that encouraged application from young people of all descriptions throughout Northern Ireland.

Discussions have been undertaken with officials in the Department for Education and the OFMDFM. Further discussions are planned with officials in the Department for Employment and Learning and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, as these departments have programme funds aimed at young people.

A paper outlining options to seek support from Executive Departments will be presented to the Assembly Commission in January 2013.

Youth Assembly

Mr Eastwood asked the Assembly Commission, in relation to the Youth Assembly, to detail the (i) terms of reference; (ii) constitution; and (iii) election process.

(AQW 17747/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):

(i) Terms of reference

An over-arching structure which details the number of Youth Assembly Members, the duration of a term and the frequency of meetings has been proposed based on responses to the consultation exercise held in 2011. It is anticipated that there will be 54 Members of the Youth Assembly (MYAs) comprising three from each constituency. In addition, it is expected that a Youth Assembly mandate will be two years, with up to 10 meetings a year scheduled.

It is expected that that the elected Members of the Youth Assembly will create the terms of reference.

(ii) Constitution

Similarly, it is expected that the elected Members of the Youth Assembly will create the constitution.

(iii) Election process

Membership of the Youth Assembly would be determined by a regulated selection process. It is important that the MYAs are reflective of their peer group and there must be reference to Section 75 as appropriate.

The opportunity to become an MYA will have to be communicated widely through a number of different media and will also be communicated directly to young people and through a variety of organisations,

including schools and youth groups, etc. This approach is required to ensure that the recruitment reaches and is open to as broad an audience as possible, with the emphasis on being as resourceful and innovative as possible in reaching the target age group. The facility to receive applications in a variety of formats would need to be established to overcome any barriers that young people may experience.

Recruitment will be held in all constituencies with three representatives from each being appointed.

Youth Assembly

Mr Eastwood asked the Assembly Commission when it is envisioned that the Youth Assembly will first sit. **(AQW 17749/11-15)**

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): A paper detailing options to seek support from Executive Departments to fund a Youth Assembly will be presented to the Assembly Commission in January 2013. Until the Commission has had the opportunity to review the information contained in that paper, it is not possible to provide a date at this stage.

Written Answers Index

Department for Regional Development	WA 422	Tribunal Cases	WA 350
Bus Lane from Sprucefield to Belfast	WA 424	Tribunal Cases	WA 350
Car Parking Charges in North Down	WA 427	Tribunal Cases	WA 350
Combating the Risk of Flooding	WA 426	Tribunal Cases	WA 350
Craigantlet Road Scheme Proposals	WA 426	University of Ulster: Magee Campus	WA 347
Footbridge and Subway Projects	WA 422	University of Ulster: Teacher Training	WA 352
Free Off-Peak Travel to Under 25s	WA 427	University Teacher Training	WA 354
Gransha Road Roundabout, Bangor	WA 423		
Hollywood Costal Path	WA 429	Department for Social Development	WA 433
Increases in Bus Fares	WA 433	30 Day Payment Performance Targets	WA 449
Legal Cases	WA 422	Appeal Panels	WA 443
Lennon-v-DRD Fair Employment Tribunal	WA 427	Art Pods Project, Bangor	WA 447
Lennon-v-DRD Fair Employment Tribunal	WA 433	ATOS Assessments	WA 441
Liability Arising from the A5 Court Case	WA 425	ATOS Medical Staff	WA 434
Ministerial Private Office: Running Costs	WA 429	Capita	WA 444
NI Railway Fuel Costs	WA 424	Charities: Pensions	WA 442
NI Water: Contracts	WA 428	Cold Weather Payments	WA 442
NI Water: Contracts with Huber	WA 428	Co-Ownership Applications	WA 447
North Down Roads Depot	WA 424	Employment and Support Allowance	WA 443
Potential Severe Winter Weather Roads Maintenance	WA 430	Employment and Support Allowance	WA 444
Salt Bins and Grit Piles on Public Roads	WA 426	Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance Panels	WA 443
Spend on New Single-Decker Buses	WA 429	Employment and Support Allowance Assessments	WA 440
Translink Fuel Costs	WA 423	Foyle Constituency: Carbon Monoxide Alarms	WA 446
Translink TaxSmart Card	WA 424	Housing Associations	WA 447
		Housing: Cost of Welfare Reform	WA 445
		Housing Executive: Asbestos Surveying	WA 439
Department for Employment and Learning	WA 345	Housing Waiting List	WA 446
30 Day Payment Performance Targets	WA 353	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	WA 433
Colleges: Republic of Ireland	WA 352	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	WA 434
Departmental Private Office	WA 352	Peace Bridge, Derry	WA 449
Engineering Degrees	WA 346	Personal Independence Payment Assesments	WA 444
Further Education Colleges	WA 345	Queen's Parade Project, Bangor	WA 446
Implications of Student Migration between BIC Member Administrations	WA 347	Redevelopment of Queens Parade, Bangor	WA 445
Institute of Professional Legal Studies	WA 349	Sites Acquired by the Belfast Regeneration Office	WA 435
Labour Relations Agency	WA 348	Social Housing Development Programme	WA 441
Labour Relations Agency	WA 348	Social Sector Units	WA 445
Labour Relations Agency	WA 348	Social Security Benefit Fraud	WA 440
Labour Relations Agency	WA 348	Tenants Purchasing Housing Executive Homes	WA 447
Late Payment Directive	WA 353	The Charity Commission	WA 449
Republic of Ireland Universities	WA 351	Welfare Reform	WA 434
Students from the Irish Republic Attending Further and Higher Education Courses in Northern Ireland	WA 352	Welfare Reform Bill	WA 448
		Welfare Reform Bill	WA 448

Welfare Reform Concessions	WA 441	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools	WA 330
Window Replacement Schemes	WA 435	Education Advisory Working Group	WA 344
Winter Fuel Allowance	WA 448	Education and Library Board: Running Costs	WA 333
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	WA 308	Education and Skills Authority	WA 332
30 Day Payment Performance Targets	WA 309	GCSE: Abolish and Replace	WA 333
2009 Cackle Fishing Experiment	WA 309	Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt	WA 344
Ash Dieback Disease	WA 311	Integrated Education	WA 345
Ash Dieback Disease	WA 312	New Bangor Grammar School Site, Bangor	WA 331
Environmental Protection Schemes	WA 310	Nursery Provision	WA 330
Farmers' Debt with Banks	WA 309	Nursery School	WA 332
Funding to Tyrone Gaelic Athletic Association	WA 311	Part-Time Schooling	WA 331
Mussel Beds in Carlingford Lough	WA 308	Pre-School Applications	WA 331
Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme	WA 310	Raymond McCreesh Park in Newry	WA 329
Relocation of Forest Service Posts	WA 311	School Starting Age	WA 338
Rural Childcare Programme	WA 310	Science: The World Around Us	WA 329
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	WA 313	Severe Challenging Behaviour	WA 336
30 Day Payment Performance Targets	WA 320	Special Educational Needs	WA 334
Active Communities Sports	WA 320	Special Educational Needs	WA 334
Administration Costs	WA 313	Student Application Problems	WA 337
Antrim's Centre of Participation at Dunsilly	WA 319	Teachers Suspended from Schools	WA 321
Arts Council: Band Instruments	WA 321	Teaching and Learning	WA 344
Bliain Na Gaeilge/The Year of Irish Language	WA 320	Welfare Reform	WA 329
Boddagh and Black Boddagh Fish in the Lough Neagh Basin	WA 319	Western Education and Library Board	WA 335
Cost of the Event in Custom House Square	WA 318	Western Education and Library Board	WA 335
Cross-Community Engagement	WA 315	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	WA 354
Cross-Community Engagement	WA 315	AQW 11415/11-15	WA 355
Departmental Contracts	WA 313	Bangor to Holywood Coastal Path	WA 356
Department Electricity Costs	WA 319	Bangor to Holywood Coastal Path	WA 360
Funding Agreement: Odyssey Trust Company	WA 319	Bombardier	WA 354
Funding to Derry City Football Club	WA 313	Engineering Graduates	WA 355
Illegal Netting	WA 314	Foreign Direct Investment	WA 357
Late Payment	WA 321	Fuel Prices	WA 359
Sport in the Community Project	WA 318	Habitats Regulations Assessment	WA 361
Ulster Orchestra	WA 314	Head Office Relocation	WA 360
Department of Education	WA 321	Improvements to the A75 Road	WA 356
Bus Passes	WA 339	InvestNI	WA 357
Bus Passes	WA 340	InvestNI	WA 358
Bus Passes	WA 342	InvestNI	WA 358
Centralised Body of Parent Representatives	WA 333	InvestNI	WA 358
City and Guilds 6131 Certificate for Workshop Competence Course	WA 338	InvestNI: Jobs Promoted	WA 362
Class Size Limit	WA 337	Market Coupling	WA 356
Controlled Sectoral Body	WA 344	Mobile Coverage	WA 361
		Non Departmental Public Bodies	WA 358
		Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd	WA 362
		Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd	WA 362
		Northern Ireland Events' Company	WA 359
		Petroleum Licence Holders	WA 362
		Quinn Group	WA 360
		Shale Gas	WA 363

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	WA 360	Programme for Government	WA 397
Tamboran Resources	WA 361	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 405
Tamboran Resources	WA 362	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 405
Wind Turbines	WA 357	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 405
World Police and Fire Games 2013	WA 359	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 405
Department of Finance and Personnel	WA 383	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 406
Annual EU Budget	WA 385	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 406
Chancellor's Autumn Statement	WA 387	Ravara House Residential Home, Bangor	WA 406
Chief Executive of InvestNI	WA 387	Social Services Client Administration and Retrieval Environment System	WA 402
Civil Service Vacancies	WA 383	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Complaints	WA 408
Civil Service Vacancies	WA 386	Southern Health and Social Care Trust	WA 404
Foyle Constituency	WA 387	Southern Health and Social Care Trust	WA 408
Green New Deal	WA 386	Southern Trust: Registered Child Mindors	WA 403
Limavady Borough Council: Rates Arrears	WA 392	Specialist Pain Services	WA 396
Net Fiscal Balance Report	WA 392	Suicide Prevention	WA 400
Net Fiscal Balance Report	WA 393	Transforming Your Care	WA 394
Net Fiscal Balance Report	WA 393	Transportation of Critically Ill Children	WA 400
Net Fiscal Balance Report	WA 393	Vacancy Control Policy	WA 396
Procurement Exercises	WA 386	Department of Justice	WA 409
Public Sector: Senior Executives	WA 386	330 Day Payment Performance Targets	WA 411
Rate's Debt Collection	WA 388	Bangor Courthouse	WA 421
Rates Relief Scheme	WA 389	Change Managers in the Northern Ireland Prison Service	WA 414
Rates Relief Scheme	WA 390	Closure of Courthouses	WA 409
Rates Relief Scheme	WA 391	Closure of Courthouses	WA 412
Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	WA 385	Code of Conduct and Discipline by the Secretary of State	WA 410
Solicitors	WA 385	Counterfeit Food	WA 410
Working Parents on Minimum Wage	WA 388	Courthouse Closures	WA 414
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	WA 394	Criminal Justice Inspectorate	WA 414
Autism	WA 402	Criminal Justice Inspectorate	WA 415
Autism	WA 402	Criminal Justice Inspectorate	WA 416
Autism Assessment	WA 403	Dissident Republican Prisoners	WA 420
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	WA 398	Former Governor of Hydebank	WA 413
Cancer Diagnosis	WA 394	Guidance Booklet on Medical Pensions and Injury on Duty Awards	WA 417
Charity Funding	WA 395	High Court Case Costs	WA 413
Children's Needs Assessment Worker	WA 403	HMP Maghaberry: Prison Canteen	WA 421
Children's Paediatric Cardiac Care	WA 399	Late Payment	WA 410
Children's Paediatric Cardiac Care	WA 399	Magherafelt Courthouse	WA 413
Children's Paediatric Cardiac Care	WA 400	Mobile Phone Usage	WA 421
Diabetes Awareness	WA 394	Newry Magistrates Court	WA 416
Drug abuse	WA 402	Northern Ireland Prison Service	WA 412
Emergency Services Youth Engagement Programme	WA 406	Northern Ireland Prison Service	WA 413
Fire and Rescue Service	WA 398	Northern Ireland Prison Service	WA 416
Food Safety Promotion Board	WA 400		
Health and Social Care Trusts: Interpreter Fees	WA 395		
Invest to Save Initiative	WA 408		
Mefipristone (RU 486)	WA 401		
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	WA 401		
Paediatric Cardiac Surgery	WA 407		
Paediatric Cardiac Surgery	WA 407		

Northern Ireland Prison Service	WA 418	Westminster Government's Growth and Infrastructure Bill on Northern Ireland	WA 371
Northern Ireland Prison Service	WA 420	Winter Driving	WA 381
Northern Ireland Prison Service: Change Team	WA 419	Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	WA 449
Northern Ireland Prison Service Nursing Staff	WA 419	Parliament Buildings Cost Breakdown	WA 449
Northern Ireland Prison Service: Ombudsman	WA 412	Prompt Payment to Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Suppliers	WA 450
Northern Ireland Prison Service: Retirement Age	WA 420	Youth Assembly	WA 450
Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff	WA 410	Youth Assembly	WA 451
Percentage Disablement Reviews	WA 417	Youth Assembly	WA 452
Percentage Disablement Reviews	WA 418	Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	
Personal Injury Claims	WA 413	AQW 14987/11-15	WA 305
Prisoner Held in HMP Maghaberry Under a False Name	WA 409	Assets Management Unit	WA 307
Sex Offenders Register	WA 419	Childcare Strategy	WA 306
Sex Offenders Register	WA 419	Childcare Strategy: Departmental Research	WA 308
Sexual Offences Prevention Order	WA 418	Childcare Strategy: Welfare Reform	WA 306
Sexual Offenders Prevention Order	WA 418	Delivering Social Change: East Belfast	WA 305
Thompson House, Belfast	WA 416	PEACE III Funding for the Maze Project	WA 305
Thompson House, Belfast	WA 416	Social Investment Fund	WA 307
Department of the Environment	WA 363	Social Investment Fund	WA 307
Article 31 Major Planning Applications	WA 374	Strategy for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration	WA 306
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan	WA 382	The Exception of Teachers from The Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998	WA 305
Buildings Delisted	WA 380	Victims and Survivors Service: Funding Applications	WA 306
Consultation: Snares	WA 370		
Councils: Part-Time Managers	WA 363		
Emissions Gap Report	WA 373		
Environmental Enforcement	WA 369		
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	WA 363		
Financial Assistance: Listed Buildings	WA 373		
Flood Prevention Measures	WA 370		
Historic Monuments	WA 374		
Houses in Multiple Occupation	WA 380		
Listed Buildings	WA 375		
Listed Buildings: North Down	WA 376		
Local Government Reform	WA 370		
Local Government Reform	WA 383		
Marine Division	WA 369		
Marine Division	WA 369		
No Cycling By-laws	WA 368		
Planning Applications	WA 372		
Planning Permission: Quinn Cement	WA 373		
Planning Policy Retail Applications	WA 382		
Royal Town Planning Institute	WA 370		
Rubble Crushing and Recycling Facilities	WA 371		
Senior Council Officials Severance	WA 382		
Solar Panel Developments	WA 381		
Spatial Planning Policy	WA 364		
Special EU Programmes Body	WA 364		
Transitional Committees	WA 382		



Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

Online

www.tsoshop.co.uk

Mail, Telephone, Fax & E-mail

TSO

PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522

Fax orders: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: customer.services@tso.co.uk

Textphone 0870 240 3701

TSO@Blackwell and other Accredited Agents

ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

© Copyright Northern Ireland Assembly Commission 2013

ISBN 978-0-339-70276-9

