

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

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

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 12 April 2013

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Programme for Government Delivery Plans

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they intend to publish the Programme for Government delivery plans for each Department.

(AQW 18856/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): Programme for Government online Delivery Plans are publicly accessible on the Executive's website. Officials have recently concluded detailed briefings on the plans for which this department is responsible with the OFMDFM Assembly Committee. All Assembly Committees are provided with departmental Delivery Plans through normal business proceedings.

Project Funding

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) why they decided to extend funding for projects to 2016; (ii) what was the rationale for this decision; and (iii) which individuals and organisations lobbied for a change in the timescale for funding.

(AQW 20346/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Social Investment Fund Steering Groups were established last year to identify the priority needs in their zones under the four key objectives of the Fund. In December 2012 we decided that, in response to feedback received from Steering Groups during the area planning process, the first phase of the Fund would be extended to March 2016. The area planning phase itself was also extended as a result. The majority view of the Steering Groups was for an extended delivery period in order to maximise the impact of interventions.

Childcare Strategy

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will make an announcement on the proposed Childcare Strategy.

(AQW 20896/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Public consultation on the Childcare Strategy closed on 5 March 2013. All responses and views received, including those from the series of public consultation events, will inform development of the Strategy which is now underway. We anticipate that we will make an announcement on the proposed Childcare Strategy within the next few months.

Age Discrimination Legislation

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether goods, facilities and services within Age Discrimination legislation will apply to everyone, including under 18s, as indicated in the Delivering Social Change Children and Young Person's Early Action Document that was published in November 2012.

(AQW 21125/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering the scope of the legislation and are examining the experiences of similar jurisdictions in the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Canada and Australia where different approaches to its ambit have been adopted.

Delivering Social Change

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will publish the delivery plans for delivering social change.

(AQW 21315/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Work on the implementation of the six Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes, which we announced on 10 October 2012, is ongoing. In taking this initial phase of work forward, lead departments have been responsible for developing Delivery Plans in respect of each of the individual programmes.

Delivery plans are agreed by First Minister and deputy First Minister before funding is released from the consolidated fund. We would intend publishing all the schemes once they are fully completed.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Food Processing Chain

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 18589/11-15, whether the division of responsibility, whereby Environmental Health Officers are responsible for inspection controls at retail level and in respect of processed beef products, is consistent with her Department maintaining an adequate overview of relevant inspection throughout the food processing chain.

(AQW 19323/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): Primary responsibility for food safety rests with Food Business Operators. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is the competent authority in matters of food safety in all parts of Britain and the north of Ireland, and matters of authenticity in Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland.

DARD deliver Official Controls on the FSA's behalf in approved slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments under a Service Level Agreement with the FSA in the north of Ireland (FSA in NI). DARD also enforces the 'Beef Labelling' legislation, which provides customers with assurance about the origin of beef, in abattoirs and approved cutting plants insofar as they pertain to fresh & frozen cuts of beef and mince. District Council Environmental Health Officers are responsible for the 'Beef Labelling' controls on processed meat products, cold stores and at retail level.

Beef Traceability and Labelling in the North was found to be satisfactory during the EC's Food and Veterinary Office audit of Britain and the north of Ireland in 2011.

The meat hygiene work done by DARD on the FSA's behalf is governed by a Service Level Agreement with the FSA in NI, and senior officers from my Department are in regular formal and informal contact with the FSA in the north of Ireland to ensure consistent and effective delivery to the agreed standard.

District Councils are responsible for meat hygiene official controls in relation to food safety in other meat processing establishments.

The FSA performs regular checks and independent audits here, to ensure the quality of the work delivered on its behalf.

There is regular liaison between FSA in the north of Ireland, DARD and DCs relating to dual enforcement issues in meat establishments. This includes the sharing of audit findings, joint approval visits and regular meetings of an approval forum.

Rural Development Programme Funding

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how much funding has been allocated to date to each of the Rural Development Programme clusters; and (ii) how much each cluster has spent on administering the programme.

(AQW 19423/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The table below shows how much each cluster has been allocated (i) the total project spend and the administration spend (ii).

Cluster	Allocation (i)	Project Spend	Admin Spend (ii)
GROW	8,890,899	2,451,439	789,662
DRAP	13,498,066	2,589,801	1,194,362
NER	13,181,300	3,891,582	1,286,062
SWARD	20,522,227	6,521,515	2,211,907
LRP	8,691,556	2,132,320	892,072
ARC	18,484,112	5,346,233	1,938,284
SOAR	16,731,839	4,731,527	1,537,909

Rural Development Programme

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the applications which have been assessed under the Rural Development Programme (a) from the GAA; and (b) that have a GAA pitch or training area included in the application; (ii) which areas assessed these applications; (iii) the funding measures under which each application has been assessed; and (iii) the applications which have received a letter of offer.

(AQW 20207/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The table below provides details of the number of applications from the GAA that have been assessed under Axis 3 of the NIRD 2007-2013 and number of Letters of Offer (LoO) issued broken down by area (columns 3-8) and by funding measure (column 1). All applications from the GAA are for the development of community projects for use by the wider rural community, as is required by the terms of the Programme. This may include the provision or enhancement of pitches. Where an organisation wishes to promote a project that benefits the wider rural community and which is separate from their primary activity, this may be considered for funding.

		GROW	NER	DRAP	SOAR	ARC	SWARD	Total
3.2	Applications					1		1
	LoO's Issued					0		0
3.4	Applications	1	2	1	4	6	3	17
	LoO's Issued	1	0	0	1	3	0	5
3.5	Applications			1			1	2
	LoO's Issued			0			1	1
3.6	Applications					2	1	3
	LoO's Issued					1	0	1

Rural Development Programme

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the applications which have been assessed under the Rural Development Programme from a sport other than the GAA; (ii) which areas assessed these applications; (iii) the funding measures under which each application has been assessed; and (iii) the applications which have received a letter of offer.

(AQW 20208/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department does not provide assistance for the promotion of sport or sports clubs and therefore does not collate programme information on the basis of sports. Axis 3 is a demand led programme, and funding is disbursed on the basis of applications received which are then assessed competitively.

I have interpreted your question to refer to applications from sporting organisations other than the GAA for projects which have a community impact which have been processed by the LAG and JCC up to the point of recommendation or rejection.

The table below provides details of the number of applications from a sporting organisation other than GAA that have been assessed under Axis 3 of the NIRDP 2007-2013 and number of Letters of Offer (LoO) issued broken down by area (columns 3-8) and by funding measure (column 1).

		GROW	NER	LRP	DRAP	SOAR	ARC	SWARD	Total
3.1	Applications	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
	LoO's Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.2	Applications	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
	LoO's Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.3	Applications	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	4
	LoO's Issued	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	6
3.4	Applications	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	6
	LoO's Issued	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
3.5	Applications	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	LoO's Issued	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
3.6	Applications	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	LoO's Issued	0	0		0	0	0	0	0

Postage Costs

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department has spent on postage, in the last three financial years.

(AQW 20918/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The total amount spent on postage by my Department in the three financial years from April 2010 to the end of February in the current year is as follows:

2010/2011	£401,571
2011/2012	£439,303
2012/Feb 2013	£451,010

In addition to meeting the day to day general postal costs, my Department also funds large volume postage exercises such as farm surveys, Grants and Subsidies literature, Scheme maps along with all other correspondence for the agricultural community. Spend outlined does not include the cost of the courier service for internal departmental deliveries.

Departmental Resources Available to Support Farmers

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 19332/11-15 and following her press release of 7 March 2013 on shared grazing, if departmental resources will be made available to support farmers to establish a legal Common.

(AQW 21147/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: To establish a legal common, it is necessary for a Trust Deed to be drawn up. Areas of common land must be managed by Trustees, who assume full responsibility for the management of the Common and the allocation of grazing rights through the Trust Deed.

Where a Trust exists, my Department liaises with the Trustees of the Common Land and requests information on the allocation of grazing rights for the purposes of administering EU area based support schemes.

Farmers who may be considering establishing a legal common should seek legal advice. To assist farmers exploring this option, Departmental officials will be happy to provide advice on how common land is treated under the various EU area based support measures.

Slaughter Houses

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 20059/11-15, to detail the nature of the non-conformances and the dates they occurred, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 21158/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The non-conformances referred to in the Answer to AQ 20059 referred to the local rendering plants. During the past 5 years DARD has recorded 102 inspections of the 2 approved rendering plants. One of the plants only started operations in 2009.

It would not be appropriate to go into the details of specific non-conformances since these are a matter of commercial confidentiality between the operators and the Department. However I can state that the majority of the non-compliances found were of such a minor nature that they have not been recorded, as they were dealt with satisfactorily at the time of the visit. I have also been made aware of the nature of the other non-conformances that have been recorded, and can confirm that they too were of an operational nature, and were rapidly attended to by the respective operators.

I have been assured by my officials and am content that these issues presented no significant risk to public or animal health.

Land Parcel Identification System

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for a breakdown of the number and grades of departmental staff employed to operate the Land Parcel Identification System, broken down by month, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 21210/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The following tables provide a breakdown of the number and grades of staff employed in my Department to develop and implement the Land Parcel Identification System, broken down by month, in each of the last three years.

YEAR 2010-11

Grade of Staff	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11
Grade 5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Grade 6												
Grade 7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DP	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Grade II	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grade III						1	1	1	1	11	10	
SO					0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.8	2.8
Group 4		2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Group 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EOII	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
AO							1	1	1	1	1	1
ICT Lev6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
ICT Lev4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	5.8	7.8	8.8	8.8	9.6	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.6	20.6	21.6	11.6

YEAR 2011-12

Grade of Staff	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
Grade 5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Grade 6								0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Grade 7	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DP	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Grade II	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Grade III					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
S0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Group 4	1	1	7	10.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4
Group 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EOII	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
A0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
ICT Lev6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
ICT Lev4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	13.6	14.6	20.6	24	35	35	35	35.6	36	36	36	36

YEAR 2012-13

Grade of Staff	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13
Grade 5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Grade 6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Grade 7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DP	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Grade II	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Grade III	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SO	2.8	2.8	3.8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Group 4	18.4	18.4	17.4	17.4	14	13	13	13	13	13	18	18
Group 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EOI												1
EOII	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
AO	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1.6	0.6
ICT Lev6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
ICT Lev4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	36	36	36	34.2	30.8	29.8	29.8	29.8	29.8	29.8	34.4	33.4

Single Farm Payment

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) which countries, outside of the UK, received work from her Department relating to the Single Farm Payment; and (ii) the nature of the work, in each of the last five years,
(AQW 21212/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) In 2012, my Department conducted a small number of On the Spot Checks to determine land eligibility for Single Farm Payment using remote sensing technology. To do so, we contracted a company from the south of Ireland, through an open procurement competition, to provide specialist services which were not available within my Department.
- (ii) Also, as part of the DARD mapping work Land & Property Services (LPS) employed 2 companies based in Britain and the north of Ireland, Blom (UK) and DSM Geodata to positionally improve Ordnance Survey mapping associated with improving the mapping within the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), which is part of the administration of the Single Farm Payment. The Blom work was carried out in their offices in Romania and the DSM Geodata work was carried out in their offices in India.
- (iii) Remote Sensing uses ortho images taken by satellite or aerial photography to check the individual parcels (fields) included in a Single Application Form claim. This is done through a specialised technique called Computer Aided Photo Interpretation (CAPI).

The ortho images are used to verify land eligibility for Single Farm Payment claims without the need for a physical inspection. There may be a small number of exceptions where field visits are required if eligibility cannot be verified remotely.

As far as DARD mapping work is concerned this was undertaken in 2011/12 and 2012/13 and involved the positional improvement of Ordnance Survey mapping

Farmer Compensation

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many cases of error, including departmental error, that were deemed not to be farmer error occurred in the last two years; and (ii) was the farmer compensated in each case.
(AQW 21213/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The European Council Regulations, which govern the administration of the Single Farm Payment (SFP) Scheme, provide for reductions and exclusions to be applied to claims where the information provided by the applicant is incorrect. Reductions and exclusions are not applied to SFP claims where an incorrect claim is identified as being solely attributable to incorrect information provided by the Department. Information is held on the Grants and Subsidies System only in respect of adjustments actually applied to SFP claims. Information is not systematically available in respect of reductions and exclusions waived in respect of SFP as a result of incorrect information supplied by the Department, so this information cannot be provided.

No compensation has been paid in the past two years in respect of errors by the Department in respect of Single Farm Payment assessments.

NISRA Report Recommendations for Future Research into Spatial Deprivation

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the implementation of the NISRA report Recommendations for Future Research into Spatial Deprivation recommending that further research is undertaken into the identification of rural deprivation, giving consideration to the geographical unit of analysis and the suitability of indicators employed.
(AQW 21279/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy 2009-13 established the framework which guides the Department's investment in research and development across its strategic interests. This Strategy is implemented through four research Programme Management Boards (mapped to the Department's principal strategic goals), which seek to identify evidence and innovation needs and to prioritise research commissioning within an annual, policy-led process that takes on board stakeholder views and input.

The recommended research identified in the NISRA report relating to the geography of rural deprivation is within the scope of one of the recognised evidence gaps, but research to address this specific aspect has not yet been commissioned as other socio-economic research needs have been judged to be of higher priority (e.g. research projects to explore access to public services in rural areas, to assess the impact of the recession on the rural labour market, and to identify the causes of spatial disparities in economic growth). However, the recommendation in the NISRA report will continue to be considered as a potential area of research in competition with other existing and emerging research needs within the Department.

Assisted Rural Travel Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the amount spent on the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.
(AQW 21290/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD, in conjunction with the Department of Regional Development (DRD), continues to fund the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS).

The area based information detailing DARD spend on ARTS subsidised fares is set out in the table below:

DARD FUNDING FOR ASSISTED RURAL TRAVEL SCHEME 2010/11 TO 2012/13

Operational Area	Rural Community Transport Partnership	Council Catchment Areas	April 2010 To March 2011	April 2011 To March 2012	April 2012 To Jan 2013
Southern	ART	Armagh City and District Council Area;	£15,913.00		
	DART	Banbridge District Council Area; Craigavon Borough Council Area;	£10,385.50	£65,493.06	£53,824.90
	NMCT	Newry and Mourne District Council Area;	£15,407.09		
Cookstown, Dungannon Magherafelt (CDM)	CRCT	Cookstown District Council Area;	£17,615.50		
	DDCT	Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council Area;	£17,276.00	£76,705.65	£79,030.75
	OACT	Magherafelt District Council Area;	£17,295.00		
Down District	DDAT	Down District Council Area; Ards Borough Council Area; North Down Borough Council Area;	£38,499.85	£32,456.00	£20,256.80
Easilink	EASILINK	Strabane District Council Area; Derry City Council Area Omagh District Council Area;	£50,452.15	£75,526.61	£59,035.00
North Coast Community Transport	NCCT	Limavady Borough Council Area			
		Coleraine Borough Council Area; Ballymoney Borough Council Area;	£38,941.09	£67,083.99	£64,312.20
		Moyle District Council Area; Ballymena Borough Council Area;			

Operational Area	Rural Community Transport Partnership	Council Catchment Areas	April 2010 To March 2011	April 2011 To March 2012	April 2012 To Jan 2013
Fermanagh Community Transport	FAST	Fermanagh District Council Area;	£20,579.50	£34,829.20	£31,217.25
	RURAL LIFT	Fermanagh District Council Area	£25,536.20	£32,047.00	£28,941.00
Loughside	LVRT	Lisburn District Council Area; Castlereagh District Council Area;	£10,449.80		
	SACT	Larne City Council Area; Carrickfergus Borough Council Area; Antrim Borough Council Area; Newtownabbey Borough Council Area	£17,480.75	£42,334.50	£35,107.00
	Totals		£295,831.43	£426,476.01	£371,724.90

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Participation in Cricket

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to increase participation in cricket.

(AQW 20109/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Responsibility for increasing participation in cricket rests, in the first instance, with the governing body for the sport, Cricket Ireland. Having said that, my Department's strategy for sport, Sport Matters, identifies a number of high level targets aimed at increasing participation rates in sport generally, including cricket. To help achieve these targets, Sport NI has invested a total of £833,212 in exchequer and lottery funding over the last three financial years, up to March 2012 to assist with the development of the sport and increase participation rates.

In addition, Sport NI through its Active Communities Programme has appointed four Active Communities Coaches to provide opportunities for people to participate in cricket across a number of areas in the north of Ireland.

Legal Advice Costs

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much her Department has spent on legal advice in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 20129/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department spent the following amounts on legal advice in the last three financial years:

Year	Amount (£)
2009-10	8,075
2010-11	3,536
2011-12	4,414

Staff Travel Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the cost to her Department of staff travel claims in each of the last three years.

(AQW 20191/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In the financial years 2009-10 to 2011-12 inclusive, the Department spent the following amounts on the reimbursement of staff travel claims:

Year	Amount (£)
2009-10	128,691
2010-11	136,741
2011-12	141,732

Eel Management Plan for Lough Erne

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the contents of the eel management plan for Lough Erne and where a copy of the plan can be accessed.

(AQW 20401/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The following is a brief outline of the contents of the North Western River Basin District Eel Management Plan (EMP), which covers Lough Erne:

- 1 Description of Management Unit;
- 2 Description & Analysis of Present Eel stocks;
- 3 The North Western International River Basin District Commercial Eel Fishery;
- 4 Escapement - local stock modelling;
- 5 Environmental quality assessment;
- 6 Stocking;
- 7 Monitoring
- 8 Management Measures;
- 9 Post EMP monitoring.

The EMP can be found on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website at:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/documents/fisheries/emp/ni-northwest.pdf>

Department of Education

Grant Applications from Sectoral Support Bodies

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education, in relation to grant applications to his Department from sectoral support bodies, what mechanisms he will use to ensure that bodies will be awarded funding on a fair and equitable manner.

(AQW 20619/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The main mechanism for funding the sectoral support bodies will be the fair application of the agreed definition of policy on sectoral support: Sectoral Support Post RPA (September 2012) – a copy of which has already been placed in the Assembly Library. This definition was agreed with all sectors. It sets out the functions of sectoral support that will be funded by DE. Further to this common basis for funding, a common format for grant applications has been circulated.

Encouraging Girls into Politics

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education whether he plans to create a programme for schools to encourage girls to go into politics.

(AQW 20876/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Programmes to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) subjects are one of my Department's priorities and we are currently supporting a number of STEM careers programmes that aim to encourage the uptake of STEM subjects in schools. These programmes encourage pupils to choose careers in the fields of science, engineering and technology, which may have traditionally been seen as male occupations. The programmes aim to raise awareness amongst all pupils of STEM careers through the development of STEM knowledge and skills, by providing an insight into a range of career areas within STEM, and by promoting STEM careers by offering opportunities for pupils to meet and talk to positive role models from the world of work. It is through programmes such as these that girls can be encouraged into non traditional areas. I believe we all have a role to play both as politicians and wider society in providing positive role models to our young people.

I have no plans to introduce a specific programme to encourage girls into politics. Pupils do have the opportunity to study significant political, social, economic, cultural and religious developments

in the past and investigate its impact on our world today within the revised curriculum as part of the history strand of the Environment and Society area of learning at Key Stage 3. Under the entitlement framework, Government and Politics is a subject of choice at Key Stage 5. This is a subject perhaps to which Political Parties should pay more attention by promoting equality of opportunity for young woman to engage in politics.

Careers in Predominately Male Sectors

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education whether there is programme in place in schools to encourage girls to consider careers in predominately male sectors such as construction, engineering and chemistry.

(AQW 20877/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Programmes to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) subjects are one of my Department's priorities and we are currently supporting a number of STEM careers programmes that aim to encourage the uptake of STEM subjects in schools. These programmes encourage pupils to choose careers in the fields of science, engineering and technology, which may have traditionally been seen as male occupations. The programmes aim to raise awareness amongst all pupils of STEM careers through the development of STEM knowledge and skills, by providing an insight into a range of career areas within STEM, and by promoting STEM careers by offering opportunities for pupils to meet and talk to positive role models from the world of work. It is through programmes such as these that girls can be encouraged into non traditional areas. I believe we all have a role to play both as politicians and wider society in providing positive role models to our young people.

I have no plans to introduce a specific programme to encourage girls into politics. Pupils do have the opportunity to study significant political, social, economic, cultural and religious developments in the past and investigate its impact on our world today within the revised curriculum as part of the history strand of the Environment and Society area of learning at Key Stage 3. Under the entitlement framework, Government and Politics is a subject of choice at Key Stage 5. This is a subject perhaps to which Political Parties should pay more attention by promoting equality of opportunity for young woman to engage in politics.

Use of School Premises for Political Events

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education, in light of the circular issued by his Department on 27 February 2013 on the Use of School Premises for Political Events, what action he will take should evidence emerge that MLAs or other politicians have taken part in such activity.

(AQW 20964/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Circular Number 2013/04, issued by the Department on 27 February, provides specific guidance for the Board of Governors and Principals of schools only.

Special Educational Needs

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 19430/11-15, by what means Education Library Boards ensure that the provision detailed in part 3 subsection 2 of a statement of special educational needs is normally quantified.

(AQW 21050/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have confirmed that the provision detailed in part 3 subsection 2 of a statement of special educational needs is normally quantified by agreement between the relevant professionals involved in the process e.g. the ELB educational psychology service, the local health trust, specialist teachers etc. This agreement is likely to take account of the individual child's needs in terms of the type, frequency and duration of any support and detail any necessary equipment to assist the child's learning.

Children Attending their Local Parish School

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education what priority his Department places on children attending their local parish school.

(AQW 21127/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department determines enrolment and admissions numbers for each school. It is then the responsibility of each school's Board of Governors in accordance with Article 16 of the Education Order 1997 to determine the admissions criteria it wishes to apply to the placement of pupils at the school. A school may, if it so wishes, decide to include residing within a parish (or parishes) as part of its criteria and determine at what order within the criteria it should appear. The Department has no involvement in determining a school's admissions criteria.

In considering requests from oversubscribed schools for temporary variation increases of their numbers, the Department has to take account of the availability of places at other schools within the same educational sector that are within reasonable travelling distance of the child's home address. Residence in a particular parish is not a factor in the Department's consideration of the school's request.

Kilcooley and Clandeboye Primary Schools

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education why an additional review has been included in the South Eastern Education and Library Board's Area Plan for Kilcooley and Clandeboye Primary Schools.

(AQW 21268/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Historically, both Clandeboye Primary School (PS) and Kilcooley PS have had high levels of unfilled places. This is currently 363 in Clandeboye PS and 428 in Kilcooley PS.

Given the need to reduce numbers of unfilled places, and the proximity of the schools, the SEELB draft Primary Area Plan proposes a review to explore a local area solution.

The review referred to in the plan is the current review being carried out by Boards of Governors of both schools. This is to explore a local solution where the SEELB has put forward a proposal to realign the enrolment numbers for both schools to reflect the needs in the area for both education and the related parental and community development services provided at the schools.

Holocaust

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what steps are being taken to increase pupils' awareness of the Holocaust.

(AQW 21322/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am very conscious of the importance of making children aware of the Holocaust and the lessons that can be learned. The curriculum in place in all schools in the north of Ireland provides opportunities to explore the Holocaust and related issues, for example through contributory elements such as History, Local and Global Citizenship and The World Around Us.

There are a number of educational resources relating to the Holocaust, tailored to meet the needs of children at each key stage. The C2k Education Network service (the managed ICT service in schools) currently provides links to educational resources/lessons on the Holocaust for schools to use. The Department of Education also recently agreed to make a DVD produced by the Holocaust Educational Trust and a Holocaust DVD resource from the Imperial War Museum available to schools through the Education Network service.

Newly Qualified Teachers

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education to outline the measures he has introduced to assist newly qualified teachers in their search for employment; and whether he has any plans to enable newly graduated teachers to overcome barriers in obtaining employment.

(AQW 21355/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department does not employ teachers but I acknowledge that, in the current economic climate, it can be difficult for many newly qualified teachers (NQTs) to find employment in schools. The same can be said of graduates in a wide range of professions. However, I have taken a number of significant steps to improve employment prospects of NQTs, including:

- urging employers to give preference to NQTs and experienced nonretired teachers when vacancies arise;
- providing guidance to schools about using the Substitute Teacher Register when booking substitute teachers, thus enabling schools to identify younger teachers;
- challenging schools and employing authorities as to why prematurely retired teachers are being re-employed in preference to NQTs or non-retired teachers;
- making schools liable for the total cost of employing prematurely retired teachers;
- restricting the pay of prematurely retired teachers who have received discretionary compensation ("added years") but who subsequently return to teaching.

In addition, over the last three years I have more than halved the number of days worked by retired teachers in providing substitute cover thus increasing opportunities for NQTs and non-retired teachers. I have also made a cut of 32% to the number of students entering initial teacher education courses which is designed to further reduce the pool of teachers seeking employment.

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

Regional Training Unit

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how much funding his Department has allocated to the Regional Training Unit for a post to develop educational materials for schools on social and emotional literacy.

(AQW 21397/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department provided financial assistance to the Regional Training Unit (RTU) to sustain its partnership arrangement, initially with Together 4 All and more recently with Barnardo's, to develop these materials. Funding of £34k was provided in each of the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13. Funding ceased at December 2012 and at that point the materials were ready.

Area Planning Steering Group

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many meetings of the Area Planning Steering Group have been held since his announcement on 26 February 2013.

(AQW 21400/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The first meeting of the Area Planning Steering Group took place on Monday 8th April 2013. It is intended that the Group will meet on a monthly basis or more frequently if the work programme requires it.

Area Planning Steering Group

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to list the people who have been appointed to the Area Planning Steering Group, broken down by sector.

(AQW 21402/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Area Planning Steering Group comprises the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, the Council for Integrated Education and Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta. The table below sets out the current membership of the Group by sector.

Sector	Members
Controlled	Clare Mangan, BELB Barry Mulholland, WELB Shane McCurdy, NEELB Gregory Butler, SEELB Tony Murphy, SELB
Maintained	Jim Clarke, CCMS
Integrated	Noreen Campbell, NICIE
Irish-medium	Dr Micheál Ó Duibh, CnaG

Gavin Boyd will attend meetings of the Steering Group in his role of Chief Executive (Designate) of the Education and Skills Authority.

The Group is chaired by a senior Departmental official.

The Minister has not ruled out inclusion of the voluntary grammar sector in the Area Planning Steering Group and he has agreed to meet with the Governing Bodies Association on this matter.

Temporary Classrooms

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 21321/11-15, to detail the number of temporary classrooms at each of the schools.

(AQW 21470/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following table contains the location and number of temporary classrooms in the North Down area;

School Name	No of Temporary Classrooms
Ballyvester Primary School	3
Bangor Central Primary School	5
Donaghadee Primary School	6
Grange Park Primary School	1
Hollywood Primary School	3
Millisle Primary School	2
Rathmore Primary School	2
St Anne's Primary School	1
St Comgall's Primary School	2
St Malachy's Primary School	1
Towerview Primary School	2
St Columbanus' College	8
Killard House Special School	7

School Sport and Physical Education

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Education what funding is available and what plans he has to improve the quality of school sport and physical education in primary and secondary schools.

(AQW 21525/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils at every Key Stage from age 4 to 16 and schools are encouraged to provide at least 2 hours of PE per week. The focus in the revised curriculum is on Physical Education rather than sport and it would be a matter for individual schools to decide on the specific sports they wish to offer their pupils.

In terms of available funding, the Department delegates as much funding and decision-making as possible to schools which are best placed to assess the needs of their pupils and it is therefore a matter for each school to decide how they use their budget for delivery of the curriculum.

The Department also makes additional funding available for the Curriculum Sports Programme and the Extended Schools programme.

£1.5 million continues to be made available each year to enable the delivery of the Curriculum Sports Programme. The programme aims to develop the generic physical literacy skills of our youngest pupils (Foundation and Key Stage 1) through participation in enjoyable physical activities. Key strengths of the programme are the extended opportunities it provides to build on children's basic movement skills and transfer these skills to other areas of PE and to build and develop teachers' expertise and knowledge of games skills.

The Extended Schools (ES) programme provides a range of services and activities beyond the school day to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community. The varied activities offered through the programme can include sports and leisure opportunities. In 2012/13 £11.5m of ES resources were allocated to 460 eligible schools.

DE has also been working towards achieving the targets set out in the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's sport and physical recreation strategy, Sport Matters. In March 2012, DE conducted an online questionnaire involving primary, post-primary and special schools to establish a baseline for the number of children of compulsory school age participating in a minimum of two hours quality PE per week. A summary report has been published on the DE website and it is intended that follow up visits to schools will be undertaken by the Education and Training Inspectorate.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

St. Patrick's Day Event Funding

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, to detail for which St. Patrick's Day events her Department provides funding, including the amount allocated to each.

(AQW 21148/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Following a successful application to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board Tourism Events Fund, the St Patrick's Festival in Armagh was awarded £20,000 through the Events Funding Programme in 2012/13 and also 2013/14.

InvestNI's Innovation Voucher Scheme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to InvestNI's Innovation Voucher Scheme, is a letter of offer issued and does it prohibit double funding.

(AQW 21169/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI's Innovation Voucher scheme has robust procedures in place which are accredited under ISO9001.

- Successful applicants are not issued with a Letter of Offer; rather they receive a Voucher with a unique reference number and associated Terms and Conditions of use. Their attention is drawn to the fact that the voucher is for the sole purposes of the knowledge question outlined in the original application form and is non-transferable. At the point of application, applicants declare that the proposed project is not already in receipt of, or likely to be in receipt of any other public funding.
- Successful voucher applicants choose one of the 41 registered Knowledge Providers for the scheme and a Terms of Reference for the project is agreed between both parties. The Knowledge Provider confirms in writing that there is no conflict of interest in relation to their engagement on the Project. Invest NI assess all project Terms of Reference prior to the issue of a purchase order direct to the Knowledge Provider.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the exploratory work which is being undertaken as regards to hydraulic fracturing, including the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

(AQW 21194/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The petroleum licence awarded to Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd in County Fermanagh is in Year 3 of its five-year initial term. The work programme associated with the petroleum licence is still in the pre-drilling phase of exploration which comprises analysis of pre-existing geophysical and geological data.

The company has stated its intention to drill a stratigraphic test borehole to recover rock core from the shale target interval, but it has not yet submitted drilling proposals for this borehole to my Department.

If the company completes this borehole and subsequently wishes to drill an exploration well, it will be required to apply for planning permission which will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment for which process the Northern Ireland Planning Service has primary responsibility.

Finance Available to Businesses

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) all the current avenues of finance available to businesses; (ii) the uptake of each scheme or fund; (iii) how they are marketed; and (iii) how success is monitored.

(AQW 21196/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In respect of Invest NI's Access to Finance strategy, 4 of the 5 funds are operational with the development funds expected to be in place later this year.

The current funds available and their performance to date and targets are:

- Northern Ireland Spin Out Funds (NISPO) – Proof of Concept grant – in operation since 2009. It was a £3 million fund; 153 grants have been awarded over 3 years against a target of 120 grant awards. The fund was fully committed and I am pleased that a £2 million extension has now been put in place.
- NISPO – Invest Growth Fund– in operation since 2009. It is a £5 million equity fund and it has made 20 investments to date and is ahead of target. Demand continues to be strong for this funding and I am pleased that a £2 million extension has now been put in place.
- Co-investment Fund NI – in operation since June 2011. There is £7.2 million available for co-investment with private investors over 6 years. It had a target of 12 investments by end December 2012 and £1.8 million co-investment. It met the target, invested £1.86 million and achieved leverage of 64%. Target leverage was 55%.
Growth Loan Fund – in operation since June 2012. The Fund has 30 loans approved - £6.85 million and 14 loans drawn down - £3.5 million.

- Small Business Loan Fund – in operation since February 2013. The Fund has 184 enquiries already from which 16 applications have been received. This suggests that there is a high level of pent up demand for lending from small businesses.

The funds are marketed through the Invest NI website, nibusinessinfo and through dedicated websites for each fund, managed by the fund managers. The fund managers actively engage with Invest NI staff, business organisations and the full range of intermediaries. Detailed legal contracts are in place for all of the funds and they provide a range of control clauses. All fund managers are required to be Financial Services Authority approved. Success will be monitored through periodic evaluations of each of the Funds.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she will implement the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Ombudsman on her Department's handling of the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

(AQW 21262/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department is reviewing procedures for the exercise of its Registry function over industrial and provident societies, and has published revised guidance notes on the legislative requirements for registration as an industrial and provident society.

UK Parliamentary Treasury Committee

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the criticism of her Department made by the UK Parliamentary Treasury Committee in February 2010.

(AQW 21264/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My primary focus following the collapse of the Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) was to work to develop an acceptable remedy to address the loss to its Members. DETI delivered on this, on behalf of the Executive, by enabling legislation and through the development of a rescue package which was put in place in July 2011.

Legal Advice

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many times she has sought legal advice on the issue of (i) petroleum licensing; (ii) unconventional fossil fuel; and (iii) hydraulic fracturing in the last 24 months; and the dates on which she requested this legal advice.

(AQW 21314/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My answer is informed by the general policy that applies in relation to legal advice to Ministers. The concept of legal professional privilege safeguards the rights of a person or organisation, including the Department, to obtain legal advice on a confidential basis and to refuse to disclose such information in the interests of the wider administration of justice. It has been the settled view that in this context, legal advice is not disclosed.

I can confirm that any legal advice which I believe has been necessary, or may become necessary, has or shall be sought.

Ballylumford B Station

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given a renewable energy target of 40 percent by 2020 and the planned closure of Ballylumford B station by the end of 2015 and a 50 percent reduction in capacity at Kilroot, what back-up of conventional plant will exist to cope with inadequate wind generated electricity; and how security of supply will be assured.

(AQW 21331/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In addition to base load plant, there is a need for flexible conventional generation which can respond rapidly to changes in wind generation availability. It is primarily the role of the market to

stimulate investment in new generation, and it is not the role of government to interfere in the detailed functioning of markets, but to maintain a high level oversight that they are functioning effectively.

Within the Single Electricity Market (SEM) the amount of renewable generation is expected to increase further, and the issue of incentivisation of additional conventional generation is kept under review, with particular consideration of security of supply.

Ballylumford B Station

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the planned closure of Ballylumford B station by the end of 2015 and a 50 percent reduction in capacity at Kilroot from 2016, for her assessment of the scale of reliance on importing electricity.

(AQW 21332/11-15)

Mrs Foster: A reduction in conventional generation capacity in Northern Ireland would result in increased dependence on electricity interconnection with Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, the scale of which is dependent on factors which include electricity demand, and the amount of available wind and other renewable generation.

I therefore wish to see progress in relation to provision of the new North-South electricity link and I have encouraged Mutual Energy to restore the Moyle electricity link with Great Britain to its full capacity as soon as possible.

Ballylumford B Station

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the planned closure of Ballylumford B station by the end of 2015 and a 50 percent reduction in capacity at Kilroot from 2016, for her assessment of the impact on competition within the electricity generating sector and on electricity prices.

(AQW 21333/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All generators on the island of 10MW or greater are required to bid their generation into the Single Electricity Market (SEM), and the market sets the most competitive wholesale generation price at any particular time.

It is not known at this time what impact the absence of the Ballylumford B station or reduced capacity at the Kilroot site would have on wholesale electricity prices, and ultimately retail prices. However, given the capacity of the generation units in question, compared to the overall level of generation within the SEM, their absence from the market is unlikely to have a significant impact on electricity prices.

Ballylumford B Station

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the planned closure of Ballylumford B station by the end of 2015 and a 50 percent reduction in capacity at Kilroot from 2016, whether she has any concerns in regard to security of power supply if indigenous thermal generation is so radically reduced.

(AQW 21334/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department have been engaging with the Utility Regulator and the system operator SONI to consider how best to ensure there is a sufficient future generation capacity margin and therefore adequate security of electricity supply for Northern Ireland.

Petroleum Licence Application: Number PL4/10

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide details of the withdrawn petroleum licence application number PL4/10; and why her Department could not provide this information to a member of the public through a Freedom of Information request.

(AQW 21350/11-15)

Mrs Foster: On 26 August 2010, my Department received an application for a Petroleum Licence which it registered as PL4/10. On 11 November 2010, the applicant withdrew this application. It is not appropriate to provide further details pertaining to PL4/10 as the information remains commercially sensitive.

My Department did not provide this information to a member of the public through a Freedom of Information request as the company's application, and subsequent letter withdrawing their application, are deemed to be commercially sensitive issues and exempt under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and regulation 12 (5) (e) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

My Department believes that no public interest would be served by release of this information.

Department of the Environment

Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency Initiative

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the estimated savings that have been achieved to date through the introduction of the Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency initiative in local Government.

(AQW 18661/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): The Local Government Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency (ICE) Programme is a sector-led initiative which is overseen by a Regional Governance Group (RGG) comprising one elected representative of all 26 councils. The sector has advised me, at present, that it cannot confirm estimated savings achieved across the ICE Programme; however, it can confirm that a wide range of collaborative initiatives are underway and that, while some short term efficiencies have been identified, the bulk of these will be delivered in the medium to long term.

That said, I continue to press councils to maximise savings by exploiting all possible opportunities for further collaboration and have added a report from the sector on progress with the ICE programme as a standing agenda item at the Regional Transition Committee, which I chair. I remain convinced that significant savings can be achieved, Councils need to push on with ICE, that more urgency is needed and that there are a number of good examples to date that can more generally be applied.

Accordingly, I advised the recent NILGA conference that I would be meeting with the ICE team to press on the issue of savings. I do not really understand how "estimated" savings to date are not available and I will address this matter at the meeting with the ICE reps on 30 April 2013.

National Parks

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 17838/11-15, whether he has completed an economic appraisal of the proposed National Parks in the Glens of Antrim and the Causeway Coast, including the employment opportunities that the parks would provide for these areas.
(AQW 20407/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The first step is to put in place enabling legislation for national parks. The completion of economic appraisals is for the next stage, when the designation of specific areas is under consideration and the relative merits of each one are being debated. The benefits that national parks have brought to other places are well recorded. There is no dispute about that.

For example, a Welsh study "Valuing our Environment: Economic Impact of the National Parks of Wales" found that for the period 2001-2006 the 3 Welsh National Parks supported nearly 12,000 jobs and produced an annual income of £177m for the local economy.

In addition, a report in 2006 from the Council of National Parks entitled "Prosperity and Protection" examined the economic benefit of national parks in the Yorkshire and Humber region. This study revealed that businesses in the parks and surrounding towns benefit from the park designation itself.

Visitors to the parks were estimated to spend about £400m annually within them and £260m in the rest of Yorkshire and Humber. This total visitor spend of £660m is estimated to support 12,000 jobs.

In the French regional National Park designated in 1989, visitor numbers increased from 5,000 in 1991 to 78,000 in 2004. A Swedish National Park at Fulufallet was designated in 2002 and 53,000 people visited the park in 2003; a 40% increase over visitor numbers in 2001

Within Northern Ireland, independent research into the possible tourism impact of a local national park was commissioned by the Tourist Board and the Mourne Heritage Trust in 2006. The study indicated that a national park, 10 years on from designation, could generate as much as an additional £81m per annum in tourism revenue and support an extra 4,700 jobs in a park area and surrounding districts.

Given the scale, wonder and beauty of our natural, built and archaeological heritage – arguably at its greatest in the glens and Causeway – it is entirely reasonable to believe the scale of opportunity by better promotion and development of this area is significant.

Legislation for Learner Drivers

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of the Environment when he plans to introduce the legislation for learner drivers that he announced in May 2012.

(AQO 3533/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The package of measures I announced in May 2012, which will introduce a system of Graduated Driver Licensing for new young drivers, is being progressed with the aim of being introduced to the Assembly in a Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill by April 2013.

Granted Planning Permissions

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 10899/11-15, for an update on the possibility of extending the five year validity period for granted planning permissions.

(AQW 21309/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Further to my previous response in relation to this issue, I can confirm that the Department currently has no plans within the Planning Bill to increase the 5 year period within which to commence development. However, the existing legislation does provide for a longer timeframe being granted if there are particular circumstances which dictate this.

I, of course, acknowledge the impact which the current economic climate is having on this issue I will continue to investigate ways in which planning can help. For example I can confirm that the reduction in fees for renewal applications is one such proposal which the Department is now to consult as part of the Fees and Funding Review in an effort to respond to this matter effectively. The consultation was cancelled on 17 September 2012 and, following its conclusion, I will bring forward proposals that will help the situation you identify.

Shale Gas Extraction

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment at what stage of the granting of permission for shale gas extraction is the impact of greenhouse gas emissions as a result of extraction taken into account.

(AQW 21312/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have repeatedly stated in my response – and do so again now - to a number of Assembly questions that any organisation that may propose to extract shale gas by means of hydraulic fracturing will be required to identify all the potential impacts of the process which will include potential gas emissions and how potential dangers to public health and safety and the environment could be mitigated. Any planning application will therefore be required to be accompanied by a robust Environmental Statement which will be fully considered by the Department and a range of consultees.

As I have stated in a recent response to AQW 20746/11-15, clearly in making an assessment, there will be a need to apply best science and deploy best practice. This would include emissions

measurement and, if this project was ever to proceed - and that is not currently the case – I will ensure that DOE has the internal capacity to ensure best practice and apply best science.

I have met with the US EPA in March 2012 and March 2013. The issue of emissions is one we discussed and it is one – of many – around fracking that must be robustly assessed, should the current exploration licence be taken further.

Driver Registration Details

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what safeguards have been put in place to ensure that information shared with other jurisdictions on driver registration details is not passed on to private companies.

(AQW 21319/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The release of information about vehicles and their keepers is governed by UK-wide law contained in Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002. This provides for the supply of information from the vehicle register to any person showing “reasonable cause” for needing the information. Legal advice is that the legislation does not limit the release of such information to within the UK.

In March 2010, a scheme was implemented to assist the enforcement authorities in NI and the Republic of Ireland to pursue unpaid penalties incurred by vehicles registered in either jurisdiction. The scheme provides for the exchange of information, including names and addresses of keepers between the relevant licensing authorities (DVA in Northern Ireland and the Vehicle Registration Unit in the RoI).

Each licensing authority is authorised to obtain vehicle keeper data from the other authority and to pass this information to relevant bodies in their own jurisdiction provided they are satisfied that there is reasonable cause for supplying the data and that the data will only be used for legitimate purposes.

Under this arrangement DVA supplies keeper data, through the RoI Licensing authority, to local authorities and the National Roads Authority about NI-registered vehicles that are alleged to have failed to pay charges or penalties in RoI and DVA obtains vehicle keeper information from RoI in relation to RoI-registered vehicles with unpaid parking penalties in NI.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drawn up between the two respective parent Departments, the Department for Transport in the UK (for which DVA acts in relation to vehicle licensing) and the Department of Transport in RoI. The MOU provides that the Vehicle Registration Authority in each jurisdiction will be responsible for providing assurance to the other Authority that vehicle keeper data is requested solely for the purposes set out in the MOU, that the data supplied is used solely for those purposes and that it is transferred, stored, processed and disposed of in a secure manner. To satisfy this provision quarterly reports are received setting out the action taken to provide assurance that the provisions of the MOU have been fully applied.

Both Departments carry out audits to ensure the terms of the MOU are complied with. The audits examine the source record of offence, adherence to the data security requirements and evidence that policy and procedures are being adhered to.

Since the scheme’s introduction in 2010 there have been no reported incidents of misuse of keeper data.

Snares

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 17709/11-15, why his Department has not issued a consultation paper on the use of snares.

(AQW 21358/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A consultation paper on snares was published on 15th March with a closing date for responses of 7th June. A copy of the consultation can be viewed or downloaded from the Department’s website:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/natural_environment/habitats_and_species.htm

Exemption of Pre-1960 Vehicles from MOT Testing

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment what is the timescale for amending the legislation to exempt pre-1960 vehicles from MOT testing.

(AQW 21388/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have answered this question a number of times, most recently in AQW 21246/11-15.

The Department has consulted on possible exemption of certain categories of historic vehicles from MOT testing. The responses indicated that there is broad support for exemption of pre-1960 vehicles from periodic testing, in line with the British Government's exemption which has been in place since 18 November 2012.

The Environment Committee has indicated that it is content with the Department's proposed way forward following the consultation, which is to make use of the exemption in Roadworthiness Directive 2009/40/EC concerning the periodic testing of pre-1960 vehicles.

However on 13 July 2012, the European Commission published a 'Roadworthiness Package' which, amongst other things, addresses periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles, therein making changes to the rules that apply to historic vehicles; the proposals are expected to be introduced no earlier than August 2014.

If implemented as then drafted, these proposals would narrow the parameters within which the Department can provide for exemptions to historic vehicles, as the definition of a historical vehicle was more prescriptively described. While the Department's policy intentions remained the same; that is to make exempt pre-1960 vehicles from the MOT regime, we had to be mindful of the changing legislative context, to ensure that any changes we make are not made redundant by incoming EC Regulations.

Following receipt of a further update on the EU negotiations regarding the roadworthiness package, one of the main amendments in which was a change to the definition of "historic vehicles" which allows vehicles that have not undergone "substantial" changes to be still classed as historic, I have instructed officials to proceed with legislative amendment to exempt pre-1960 vehicles from the MOT test.

We are now resolving some outstanding issues with Departmental Solicitors, including provision for a voluntary MOT test for such vehicles (for purposes including cherished plate transfer; this is an area where Northern Ireland law differs from British law). I hope to be able to move forward in the short term.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Public Service Pensions Bill

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the pension schemes that will be affected by the Public Service Pensions Bill.

(AQW 20642/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The main public service schemes which will be reformed under the Bill are:

Northern Ireland Teachers' Pension Scheme

Local Government Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)

Health and Social Care Pension Scheme

Firefighters Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)

New Firefighters Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)

Police Service of Northern Ireland Pension Scheme

New Police Service of Northern Ireland Pension Scheme

The Bill will specify that these schemes are reformed by 1 April 2015. The Local Government Pension Scheme for Northern Ireland will introduce new pension arrangements from 1 April 2014.

My officials are working with Departments to identify additional public sector pension schemes, which make pension provision for employees of public bodies not captured by the main schemes, and could also be affected by the Bill. These have been identified as:

North/South Pension Scheme

Foyle Fisheries Commission Pension Scheme

(in as far as these two schemes apply to their Northern Ireland members)

Northern Ireland Water Limited Pension Scheme

Ulster Supported Employment Limited Pension Scheme

The Bill will require that such schemes are restricted for the future. The legislation will contain provisions for their incorporation into new public body pension schemes or alternatively they may be extended access to one of the mainstream public service schemes.

The Bill will contain provisions for schemes to be added or removed from the list of restricted schemes as required.

The Bill will make future provision for new schemes for judicial offices and my officials are working with Department of Justice to assess the extent of immediate provision which may be required for this group as at April 2015.

Flights Taken by Civil Servants

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of flights taken by civil servants, in each the last five years; and (ii) the cost of these flights, broken down by airline. **(AQW 20843/11-15)**

Mr Wilson: The information requested is presented on the attached tables and covers the period from 1 January 2008 to 20 March 2013.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Travel Management Contract is with a private travel company. Any flights booked outside of the Travel Management Contract are not included.

Top 10 Airlines 2008 (January – December)	Cost	Number of Flights
British Midland	£772,273	3640
Flybe British European	£354,522	3801
Aer Lingus	£189,467	664
Continental Airlines	£185,669	160
British Airways	£98,390	107
Easyjet	£87,248	1943
Virgin Atlantic	£76,913	36
Jet 2.Com	£17,058	260
Jet Airways	£16,025	5

Top 10 Airlines 2008 (January – December)	Cost	Number of Flights
Manx2	£2,727	19
Sub Total	£1,800,292	10,635
Others	£256,549	1,046
Total - All Ticketed Airlines	£2,056,841	11,681

Top 10 Airlines 2009 (January – December)	Cost	Number of Flights
British Midland	£633,104	2806
Flybe British European	£312,620	3392
British Airways	£162,819	157
Aer Lingus	£120,409	568
Easyjet	£83,076	1522
Jet2com	£23,197	251
Sas Skandanavian	£13,714	40
Ryanair	£10,682	350
Kingfisher	£4,800	3
Luxair	£1,977	10
Sub Total	£1,366,398	9,099
Others	£272,290	774
Total - All Ticketed Airlines	£1,638,688	9,873

Top 10 Airlines 2010 (January To October)	Cost	Number of Flights
BMI	£357,938	1484
Flybe British European	£352,591	2450
British Airways	£171,339	144
Continental Airlines	£145,413	118
Aer Lingus	£118,140	583
Easyjet	£94,157	1058
Virgin Atlantic	£50,618	15
United Airlines	£37,744	29
Bmi Baby	£25,269	236
Ryanair	£21,474	321
Sub Total	£1,374,683	6438

Top 10 Airlines 2010 (January To October)	Cost	Number of Flights
Others	£120,477	317
Total - All Ticketed Airlines	£1,495,160	6755

Top 10 Airlines 2011 (November 2010 –October 2011)	Cost	Number of Flights
Flybe	£473,197.82	3468
BMI	£434,750.26	1855
Easyjet	£181,085.96	1716
Aer Lingus	£145,041.34	672
Continental Airlines	£102,388.20	63
Bmi Baby	£52,414.73	528
British Airways	£48,766.31	72
Virgin Atlantic	£46,666.68	13
Jet2.Com	£15,335.52	108
Air Canada	£14,612.34	7
Sub Total	£1,514,259.16	8,502
Others	£129,205.38	349
Total - All Ticketed Airlines	£1,643,464.54	8,851

Top 10 Airlines 2012 (November 2011 – October 2012)	Cost	Number of Flights
Flybe	£616,577.09	4271
BMI	£320,109.23	1347
British Airways	£258,458.27	829
Easyjet	£217,639.12	2065
Aer Lingus	£148,111.16	702
United Airlines	£64,262.91	46
Continental Airlines	£46,618.22	18
Virgin Atlantic	£35,359.89	15
Bmi Baby	£29,276.92	276
Klm	£15,449.05	15
Sub Total	£1,751,861.86	9,584
Others	£160,387.02	440
Total - All Ticketed Airlines	£1,912,248.88	10,024

Top 10 Airlines 2013 (November 2012 – March 2013)	Cost	Number of Flights
British Airways	£271,360.20	816
Flybe	£176,481.91	1350
Aer Lingus	£98,344.56	655
Easyjet	£72,770.27	806
United Airlines	£66,456.22	36
Emirates	£29,208.64	20
Korean Air	£9,826.20	3
American Airlines	£6,064.50	9
Brussels Airlines Fly	£5,237.62	21
Etihad Airways	£4,931.50	3
Sub Total	£740,681.62	3,719
Others	£32,278.94	159
Total - All Ticketed Airlines	£772,960.56	3,878

Customer Deposits in Northern Ireland Banks

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what guarantees he has received from HM Treasury that customer deposits in Northern Ireland banks, which operate both in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, are guaranteed; and what assurances he can give that there will be no deductions from customer deposits undertaken by Government.

(AQW 21285/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have not sought nor received any assurances recently from HM Treasury on this matter.

Depositors with banks that are incorporated or have incorporated subsidiaries in the UK, including the Allied Irish / First Trust Bank, Bank of Ireland, Danske / Northern Bank, and Ulster Bank are covered by the UK's Financial Services Compensation Scheme up to a limit of £85,000.

I have no indication or expectation that the Government would consider making deductions from UK deposits. The situation in Cyprus in this regard is very much different to ours and is in the context of an agreement on a future EU / IMF bailout programme to address the exceptional financial challenges the authorities there are currently facing.

Equitable Life Compensation Arrangements

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, given the recent Parliamentary commitment to extend Equitable Life compensation arrangements to include policyholders who bought annuities prior to 1992, despite there being no legal obligation to do so, whether similar provision can be made in respect of Northern Ireland Civil Service pensioners who are pursuing equal pay provisions.

(AQW 21341/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have no intention of extending the NICS equal pay settlement to those who have no legal entitlement to it. I have a very clear responsibility to the taxpayer to meet legal obligations whilst protecting so far as possible the public purse. Going beyond that to make payments to people who have no legal right to them would have affordability implications for other spending programmes, which must be set against the background of the current public expenditure pressures.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Organ Donor Register

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the Public Health Agency has not run any campaigns to encourage people to join the organ donor register.

(AQW 21184/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has responsibility to promote organ donation to the public across the UK and has run several campaigns over the years, which would also have had a local component built into them. Recently NHSBT has focussed its efforts to encourage people to join the organ donor register (ODR) around exploring 'prompted choice' initiatives.

The Public Health Agency has not been responsible to date for an organ donation campaign, although they have been involved in promoting the ODR by various other communications methods.

As responsibility for encouraging people to join the ODR falls to NHSBT, my Department does not directly run or fund any campaigns on this issue. However, I recently launched the "Life's amazing Pass it on" campaign on behalf of the Health and Social Care Trusts. The campaign, which consists of poster advertisements, encourages people to join the ODR.

In addition, I recently announced my intention to survey public attitudes towards organ donation, which would be accompanied by a strong message to join the ODR. The arrangements for the implementation of the consultation will be announced as soon as possible.

Organ Donor Register

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to run an information campaign to boost the levels of organ donation and encourage people to join the organ donor register.

(AQW 21185/11-15)

Mr Poots: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has responsibility to promote organ donation to the public across the UK and has run several campaigns over the years, which would also have had a local component built into them. Recently NHSBT has focussed its efforts to encourage people to join the organ donor register (ODR) around exploring 'prompted choice' initiatives.

The Public Health Agency has not been responsible to date for an organ donation campaign, although they have been involved in promoting the ODR by various other communications methods.

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In addition, I recently announced my intention to survey public attitudes towards organ donation, which would be accompanied by a strong message to join the ODR. The arrangements for the implementation of the consultation will be announced as soon as possible.

Healthcare Facilities in the Ballygowan, Lisbane and Killinchy Areas

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans there are to assess and review healthcare facilities in the Ballygowan, Lisbane and Killinchy areas.

(AQW 21189/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is the Health and Social Care Board's responsibility to assess and review the provision of, and access to, healthcare facilities in specific areas. In relation to the provision of primary medical services the Health and Social Care Board contract directly with GP practices.

I am aware that following a recent application by a GP practice in Lisbane to close its branch surgery in Ballygowan, the Health and Social Care Board has undertaken a consultation exercise to gather patients' views on the possible impact this would have on healthcare provision for the population of the Ballygowan area.

The outcome of the consultation exercise is currently being considered by the Board before any decision on the future of the branch surgery in Ballygowan is made.

Apart from the current review of healthcare facilities in the Ballygowan and Lisbane areas the HSCB has no further plans to review services in these or the Killinchy areas at this time.

Locum Appointment for Training or for Service

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many doctors were recruited at each training level, in each hospital in each of the last five years, as either a (i) Locum Appointment for Training; or (ii) Locum Appointment for Service, broken down by speciality.

(AQW 21206/11-15)

Mr Poots: Locum Appointment for Training and Locum Appointment for Service posts for the last five years, by hospital, speciality, and training level, are shown below. These figures were obtained from the Health and Social Care Trusts, and have not been validated by the Department.

Table Notes:

- 1 For the Western HSC Trust, figures before 2011 are as at February of the stated year.
- 2 Figures for 2009 were not available from the Belfast HSC Trust.
- 3 Training levels were not available from the Northern HSC Trust, as the information is not centrally held and a time-consuming manual exercise would have been required.

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR TRAINING 2009

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 1-2	ICU	1	Craigavon Area
ST 1-2	ENT	1	Craigavon Area
ST3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Craigavon Area
ST 1-2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	1 Craigavon Area, 1 Daisy Hill
ST 1-2	Paediatrics	1	Craigavon Area
ST3	General Medicine/ Rheumatology	1	Craigavon Area
ST1-2	General Medicine	5	2 Craigavon Area, 3 Daisy Hill
ST 1	A&E	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Ophthalmology	2	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Psychiatry	1	Altnagelvin

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
CT2	General Medicine	2	Erne
CT2	Paediatrics	1	Erne
ST 2	Paediatrics	3	Erne
ST 1	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
CT 2	Psychiatry	2	Tyrone & Fermanagh
CT1	Surgery	3	Erne
CT 2	Paediatrics	1	Erne
CT 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	3	Erne
ST 1 / 3	General Medicine	6	Ulster/Lagan Valley/ Downe
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	3	Ulster
ST 2	Psychiatry	2	Downe/Lagan Valley
ST 2	Emergency Medicine	2	Ulster/Lagan Valley
ST 1	Emergency Medicine	4	Ulster/Lagan Valley

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR SERVICE 2009

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST3	General Surgery	1	Craigavon Area
ST3	Urology	1	Craigavon Area
ST 1 - 3	General Medicine	3	Ulster/Lagan Valley
ST2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Ulster
ST1	Emergency Medicine	1	Ulster
ST3	Plastic Surgery	1	Ulster
	General Medicine	1	Antrim
	Paediatrics	1	Causeway

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR TRAINING 2010

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 1	A&E	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	ENT	1	Altnagelvin

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	2	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Paediatrics	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	General Medicine	1	Altnagelvin
CT 2	General Medicine	2	Erne
CT 1	General Surgery	2	Erne
CT 2	Paediatrics	4	Erne
ST 1	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	3	Erne
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
CT 2	Psychiatry	1	Tyrone & Fermanagh
ST 3	Oncology	1	Belfast City
ST 3	General Medicine	1	Royal Victoria
ST 3	General Medicine (Respiratory)	1	Belfast City
ST 3	Genito-Urinary Medicine	1	Royal Victoria
CT 1	General Medicine	2	Ulster
ST 1	Emergency Medicine	6	Ulster/Lagan Valley
CT 1	Psychiatry	1	Lagan Valley
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Ulster
CT 2	Plastic Surgery	1	Ulster
DF 2	Dentistry	1	Ulster

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR SERVICE 2010

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	1 Craigavon Area, 1 Daisy Hill
ST3 and above	Paediatrics	2	Daisy Hill
F2	Paediatrics	1	Altnagelvin
F1	General Surgery	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1-2	ENT	1	Royal Victoria

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 3	Fractures	1	Royal Victoria
ST 3	General Surgery	1	Belfast City
CT 1-2	General Surgery	1	Royal Victoria
ST 2	Paediatrics	1	Ulster
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	Ulster
CT 3	General Surgery	1	Ulster
ST 3	General Surgery	2	Ulster

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR TRAINING 2011

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 3	Urology	1	Craigavon Area
ST 3	Anaesthetics	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Paediatrics	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Psychiatry	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Psychiatry	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	General Medicine	2	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	Erne
CT 4	Psychiatry	1	Tyrone & Fermanagh
ST 3	Haematology	2	Belfast City
ST 4	Paediatrics	2	Ulster
ST 3	Plastic Surgery	2	Ulster
ST 1, ST 2, ST 4	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	5	Ulster
ST 3	General Surgery	1	Ulster
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	2	Ulster
	Paediatrics	1	Antrim

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR SERVICE 2011

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 3	Urology	1	Craigavon Area Hospital
ST 1-2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Daisy Hill Hospital
CT 1-2	General Surgery	1	Craigavon Area Hospital
CT 1	General Surgery	2	Craigavon Area Hospital
ST 1-2	Paediatrics	1	Daisy Hill Hospital
CT 1-2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Daisy Hill Hospital
ST 1	ENT	1	Altnagelvin
F 2	Dermatology/ENT/Ophthalmology	1	Altnagelvin
DF 2	Oral Surgery	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	1	Altnagelvin
F 1	General Medicine	1	Erne
CT 1	General Surgery	4	Erne
CT 2	Paediatrics	3	Erne
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne
CT 1-2	ENT	3	Royal Victoria
ST 1	Ophthalmology	1	Royal Victoria
ST 1	Paediatrics	1	Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children
ST 1	Psychiatry	1	Downe/Lagan Valley
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Ulster
CT 2	Plastic Surgery	1	Ulster
	Paediatrics	1	Antrim
	Paediatrics	3	Causeway
	Psychiatry	2	Holywell
	Emergency Medicine	1	Causeway
	Surgery	2	Antrim

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR TRAINING 2012

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
CT 1-2	General Medicine	2	Craigavon Area Hospital
ST 3	General Surgery	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Paediatrics	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	2	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Psychiatry	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	General Medicine	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1	General Medicine	1	Erne
ST 2	Paediatrics	3	Erne
ST 3	Paediatrics	1	Erne
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	4	Erne
ST 3	Paediatrics	1	Ulster
ST 1	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	Ulster
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	2	Ulster
ST 3	General Medicine	1	Ulster
ST 1	Psychiatry	2	Downe/Lagan Valley

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR SERVICE 2012

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 1-2	General Medicine	1	Daisy Hill Hospital
CT 1-2	General Surgery	2	Craigavon Area Hospital
ST 1-2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Craigavon Area Hospital
ST 1	A & E	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1	ENT	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1	General Surgery	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1	General Medicine	1	Erne
CT 1	General Surgery	4	Erne
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Erne

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
CT 1	Psychiatry	2	Tyrone & Fermanagh
ST 3	General Surgery	3	Belfast City/Royal Victoria
ST 3	Vascular Surgery	2	Belfast City
ST 3	General Surgery	1	Ulster
	Surgery	1	Antrim
	General Medicine	1	Antrim

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR TRAINING 2013

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
ST 1	Ophthalmology	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	ENT	1	Altnagelvin
DF 2	Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery	3	Altnagelvin
ST 3	General Surgery	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	Trauma & Orthopaedics	1	Altnagelvin
ST 1	Psychiatry	1	Altnagelvin
ST 3	General Medicine	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1	General Surgery	2	South-West Acute
ST 2	Paediatrics	2	South-West Acute
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	South-West Acute
CT 3	Dermatology	2	Royal Victoria
ST 3	General Medicine	1	Ulster

LOCUM APPOINTMENTS FOR SERVICE 2013

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
CT 1-2	ENT	1	Craigavon Area Hospital
ST 3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Altnagelvin
CT 1	Surgery	4	South-West Acute
ST 2	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	3	South-West Acute
CT 1	Psychiatry	1	Tyrone & Fermanagh

Training Level	Specialty	Headcount	Hospital
CT1-2	Psychiatry	3	Mater/Muckamore/ Knockbracken
ST 1	Ophthalmology	2	Royal Victoria
ST3	Chemical Pathology	1	Belfast City
ST 4	Plastic Surgery	1	Ulster
ST 1	Psychiatry	1	Lagan Valley
	Medicine	1	Antrim
	Surgery	1	Antrim

Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency Posts

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the additional cost to the tax payer for training posts, that were to be filled by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, being filled by (i) Health and Social Care Trust Human Resources Departments; and (ii) locum agencies.

(AQW 21209/11-15)

Mr Poots: Direct recruitment to fill vacant posts incurs a cost. I have been advised that the additional costs incurred by HSC Trusts in filling these posts are directly related to advertising and administration. With the exception of the Belfast HSC Trust, Trusts do not collect the recruitment advertising spend separately and would incur disproportionate cost to try to identify these costs from within their overall advertising and administration budgets. Belfast Trust advised that its additional advertising and administration cost in 2012/13 of filling these posts directly was £6,930.

HSC Trusts indicated additional costs are incurred through the filling of vacant training posts through locum agencies. However, as Trusts collect information on all locum spend, not all could easily differentiate locum spend on training posts from locum spend on general vacancies. The Southern Trust indicated that the estimated additional cost of filling the vacant training posts through a locum agency for the period April 2012 to February 2013 was £402k, while the Western Trust indicated that the additional cost for the period August 2012 to February 2013 was £137k

Allocation of Doctors

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in what circumstances can a doctor, who has been appointed to the Northern Ireland Training Scheme by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, refuse to work in a particular hospital; and what are the potential implications for the doctor arising from a refusal.

(AQW 21211/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency is responsible for the recruitment of junior doctors to foundation and specialty training programmes within Northern Ireland ensuring they are given access to obtain necessary competencies for the relevant Royal College or Faculty. A junior doctor signs a training agreement to confirm that they will comply with the requirements of the training programme.

When they accept the programme of training they are asked if they have any special circumstances which need to be taken into consideration with regard to their allocation to a hospital in Northern Ireland, supported by necessary evidence. Adjustments are made to the training programme including hospital location according to the evidence submitted.

A junior doctor who refuses to work in a particular hospital in the absence of special circumstances is in breach of the training programme which he/she has signed up to and therefore has removed himself/herself from the training programme.

Allocation of Doctors

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many doctors appointed to the Northern Ireland Training Scheme by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, in each of the last five years, have refused an appointment, broken down by (i) speciality; and (ii) hospital. **(AQW 21214/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency has provided the following breakdown by specialty in each of the last five years of offers of training programmes, which have been declined, or have expired (without being accepted), or were accepted and subsequently withdrawn:

Specialty	Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Aug 2010	Aug 2009	Aug 2008
Foundation	0	0	0	0	0
Anaesthetics	5	8	4	4	5
Intensive Care Dual CCT	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Medicine	28	21	15	35	55
Medical Specialties	0	0	0	0	10
Core Medical Training	65	93	91	100	85
Acute Medicine	1	2	0	0	0
Cardiology	8	0	0	0	3
Clinical Oncology	0	0	0	0	0
Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	0	0	0	0	0
Dermatology	2	0	0	4	4
Endocrinology	2	0	0	0	0
Gastroenterology	0	0	2	0	0
Genitourinary Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Geriatric Medicine	0	0	1	1	3
Haematology	1	0	1	0	1
Immunology	0	0	0	0	0
Infectious Diseases	2	0	0	0	0
Neurology	0	0	0	0	0
Neurophysiology	0	0	0	1	1
Occupational Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Palliative Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Rehabilitation Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Renal Medicine	1	1	1	0	2

Specialty	Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Aug 2010	Aug 2009	Aug 2008
Respiratory Medicine	0	1	1	1	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0	1	2
Medical Oncology	2	0	2	0	0
ST6 Nuclear Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Core Psychiatry Training	8	22	17	18	26
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	1	1	0	0	0
Forensic Psychiatry	0	1	0	0	0
General Adult Psychiatry	1	0	0	0	0
General Adult Psychiatry/ Psychotherapy	0	0	0	0	0
Psychiatry of Learning Disability	0	0	0	0	0
Psychiatry of Old Age	0	0	0	0	0
Core Surgical Training	7	14	8	13	0
General Surgery	1	0	0	0	2
Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	1	2	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0	0	1
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiothoracic Surgery	1	0	0	0	0
Otolaryngology	0	0	0	0	0
Urology	0	0	0	0	0
General Practice	8	10	9	7	4
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	15	9	17	22	43
Paediatrics	7	3	6	12	12
Radiology	0	2	1	0	2
Forensic Pathology	0	0	0	0	0
Histopathology	1	1	1	1	4
Medical Microbiology	0	0	0	2	1
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0
Neurosurgery	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmology	0	3	1		8
Total	168	194	178	222	275

It is not possible to provide a breakdown by hospital as allocation to a hospital post occurs after an offer of appointment to the specialty training programme has been accepted.

Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency Budget

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what was the annual budget of the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency in each of the last five years; and to detail the cost of Speciality Recruitment for each of the last five years, broken down by speciality.

(AQW 21216/11-15)

Mr Poots: The annual budget for the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, in each of the last five years, is set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Budget
2012-13	£52,985,000
2011-12	£52,891,698
2010-11	£53,289,187
2009-10	£52,706,287
2008-09	£48,582,000

The specialty recruitment costs, in each of the last five years, are set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Specialty Recruitment costs
2011-12	£597,569
2010-11	£604,842
2009-10	£608,769
2008-09	£582,954
2007-08	£574,699

It has not been possible to analyse the specialty recruitment costs by speciality.

Kingscourt Care Home in Temple Rise, Templepatrick

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what financial support his Department has provided to the Kingscourt care home in Temple Rise, Templepatrick, over the last three years.

(AQW 21280/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Kingscourt Nursing Home is a privately run facility which provides nursing care services, respite and day care provision to older people and adults with a learning disability.

I am advised by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust that it contracts a rate with the Home for each client according to that client's assessed need. The Trust then considers how much a client can pay directly to the home towards the cost of their placement and the Trust then pays the remainder of the cost.

The total amount paid by the Trust to the home between 7 April 2010 and 2 March 2013 was £1,111,823.72.

Mental Health Advocacy Services Funding

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to extend funding for mental health advocacy services.

(AQW 21284/11-15)

Mr Poots: In May 2012 my Department published “Developing Advocacy Services – A Guide for Commissioners” alongside its associated Action Plan which was developed by the Health & Social Care Board (HSCB).

One of the actions within the action plan was for the HSCB to carry out a scoping study of existing advocacy provision (including mental health advocacy) in order to estimate costs associated with addressing any priority unmet need. This scoping study is currently underway. The outcomes of this study will help inform the future commissioning and delivery of all health and social care advocacy services (including mental health advocacy).

My Department is currently drafting new mental capacity legislation which subject to executive approval is likely to include a statutory right to advocacy for people who may be deprived of their liberty under the Bill (for treatment or care) and for those compulsorily treated under the Bill.

Standard Conditions of Contract (SS16A)

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many times the Standard Conditions of Contract (SS16A) has been reviewed since January 2007; (ii) on what dates the reviews were carried out; (iii) for what purpose the reviews were carried out; and (iv) who carried out the reviews.

(AQW 21299/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) One full review of the Standard Conditions of Contract (SS16A) has been carried out since January 2007.
- (ii) The full review was carried out during the first and second quarters of 2009.
- (iii) The review was to ensure that the standard conditions were not out of date and that they did not contain anything that was contrary to the new health and social care arrangements following RPA.
- (iv) Senior Officers within the Business Services Organisation (BSO) Procurement and Logistics Service (PaLS) and the Directorate of Legal Services conducted the review.

In addition, staff from BSO PaLS worked on a review group with the Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel during 2009, though no changes to the standard Terms and Conditions ensued.

As part of a joint task force between Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs) and Confederation of British Industry / Federation of Small Businesses, work is commencing to introduce a level of standardisation of terms and conditions across non-construction CoPEs.

Altnagelvin Hospital

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what impact the recent fire had on service provision at Altnagelvin Hospital; (ii) whether there has been a cutback in the orthopaedic provision; (iii) whether patients who were previously scheduled for surgery in Altnagelvin are now being sent to England for treatment; and (iv) whether there has been a reduction in the number of available beds.

(AQW 21345/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) I am advised by the Western Health and Social Care Trust that the fire incident that took place on 23 November 2013 and associated water damage to the wards immediately resulted in several wards being relocated throughout the hospital and to the Waterside Hospital with some elective surgery in all specialities being cancelled.

The Trust's business continuity arrangements ensured that those patients whose procedures were cancelled during that week were rescheduled as quickly as possible and as a result this had no material impact on waiting times in most specialities, with the exception of orthopaedics.

- (ii) and (iv) The orthopaedic ward was relocated to a ward with a reduced bed complement while work is underway to refurbish an alternative ward. This has resulted in a reduction of 14 beds and a loss of side rooms, which has had a significant impact on orthopaedic treatment times. The refurbished ward space with full bed numbers will be operational in June 2013.
- (iii) The Trust has advised that no patients scheduled for surgery in Altnagelvin Area Hospital have been sent to England for treatment; however eleven patients from the Trust's waiting list chose to attend a service provider in England for their treatment.

Secondary Care to Primary Care Treatments

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of treatment which has moved from secondary care to primary care over the last 10 years; and for his assessment of the impact that this has had on GPs' ability to perform their duties to a sufficient standard.

(AQW 21346/11-15)

Mr Poots: There has been a gradual shift in services from secondary to primary care through the provision of enhanced services and achievements through the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), as part of the General Medical Services Contract. There is no specific data available on the level of movement over the last 10 years, though the Health and Social Care Board, which monitors GP service performance under the Contract, is not aware of any negative impact on performance.

The implementation of Transforming Your Care will see an increased focus away from treating patients in hospital, with more services delivered in primary and community care settings when safe and appropriate to do so. All parts of the Health and Social Care sector, including General Practice, have a role to play in contributing to the implementation of Transforming Your Care to improve the quality of patient and client care.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, following the finding of the Francis report on Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, which showed that focusing excessively on targets was detrimental to patient care, why his Department has set higher targets in the GP contract than anywhere else in the UK.

(AQW 21347/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is not the case that the Quality and Outcomes Framework thresholds for Northern Ireland are higher in the rest of UK. Following the recent consultation exercise a total of 13 indicators will see an increase in their thresholds with the maximum upper threshold set at 90%. England and Wales have each increased the thresholds for 20 indicators with the majority of the upper thresholds set at levels higher than 90%.

The focus for my Department, as reflected in the changes secured under the General Medical Services Contract for Northern Ireland, is to promote improvements in the quality of care for patients and to ensure that more patients will benefit from care that enhances quality of life.

Transforming Your Care

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the consequences on the implementation of Transforming Your Care if GPs are not able to absorb the additional responsibilities.

(AQW 21348/11-15)

Mr Poots: In my Statement to the Assembly on the 19th March on the outcome of the consultation exercise on the proposals contained in 'Transforming Your Care: Vision to Action,' I explained that the consultation exercise demonstrated that there is clear support for the concept of changing the way in which health and social care is delivered in Northern Ireland. I also indicated that time was not on our side, and that we had to take action now to effect the changes that are so critically needed.

I acknowledged that all parts of the Health and Social Care sector, including General Practice, have a role to play in contributing to the implementation of Transforming Your Care.

It is vital that GPs play a full part in the transformation process to ensure that it is a success. That is in the interests of patients, GPs and the sector as a whole. My focus is to secure the best services for patients and clients across Northern Ireland.

Following the agreement with the Northern Ireland General Practitioners Committee of the BMA on changes to the General Medical Services Contract for 2013/14 I welcome the comments from the Committee supporting TYC and the commitment to delivering this important reform.

Melanoma Treatment

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many cases of melanoma have been treated by the Western Health and Social Care Trust over the last three years, broken down by (i) the age of patient; and (ii) hospital.

(AQW 21500/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not readily available.

However information is available on the number of hospital admissions for melanoma to the Western Health and Social Care Trust over the last three years broken down by (i) the age of patient; and (ii) hospital.

- i) Number of admissions by age group to hospitals in the Western HSC Trust with a primary diagnosis of melanoma, 2009/10 – 2011/12

Age	Year		
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
0-39	5	9	5
40-49	9	7	18
50-59	10	8	17
60-69	19	9	18
70-79	12	25	25
80+	9	5	13
Total	64	63	96

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

Due to the very small number of admissions for patients aged under 39 years, this age band has been aggregated to protect patient confidentiality.

- ii) Number of admissions by hospital in the Western HSC Trust with a primary diagnosis of melanoma, 2009/10 – 2011/12

Hospital	Year		
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Altnagelvin	47	42	67
Erne	4	5	3
Tyrone County	13	16	26
Total	64	63	96

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

The International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD 10) codes used to identify melanoma include both malignant melanoma of skin and melanoma in situ and have been searched for in only the primary diagnostic field.

The Hospital Inpatient System does not hold information on patients attending hospital as outpatients or patients treated within the primary care setting.

Department of Justice

Probation Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, given that the Probation Service does not carry out risk assessments on prisoners convicted of terrorist offences, what risk assessments, as distinct from social history reports, are carried out, and by whom, on such prisoners prior to home leave or moving to the working out schemes in Magilligan.

(AQW 20923/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): The Northern Ireland Prison Service takes a number of factors into account when considering applications for home leave and transfers to Foyleview at Magilligan. In addition to formal risk assessments it takes account of individual sentence plans, the level of engagement with PREPS (Progressive Regimes and Earned Privileges), results of drug tests, disciplinary and adjudication records, victims' representations, the extent to which a prisoner has complied with and participated in programmes or other interventions and, where applicable, relevant information from other criminal justice agencies and social services.

Public Consultations

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of public consultations undertaken by his Department, in each year since 2007; (ii) the type of consultation; and (iii) the total cost of each consultation.

(AQW 21144/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice came into existence on 12 April 2010; it is therefore not possible to provide the information preceding that date.

The number of consultations undertaken in each financial year since 12 April 2010 is shown in Table 1 below.

The type and the cost of each consultation undertaken since 12 April 2010 are shown in the Table 2 below. In relation to the type of consultation undertaken, the table details the method of consultation undertaken in each case including those that were published on the Department's website and those involving focus groups, meetings with stakeholders, public meetings and workshops.

In relation to the cost of each consultation, it is not possible to disaggregate staff costs as that type of expenditure is not recorded on the Department of Justice finance system in a way that makes this possible. The costs presented relate to external costs only.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN EACH YEAR SINCE 12 APRIL 2010

Financial Year	Number of Public Consultations
2010-2011	23
2011-2012	24
2012-2013	23

TABLE 2: TYPE AND COST OF EACH CONSULTATION SINCE 12 APRIL 2010 (REVISED)

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
2010-2011			
Provision of In-Court Interpretation Services	February 2010 (Closing date post devolution)	Published on website.	Nil
Increasing the Jurisdictional Limit of the County Courts in Northern Ireland	March 2010 (Closing date post devolution)	Published on website.	Nil
Local Partnership working on Policing and Community Safety Consultation & summary report of consultation	March 2010 (Closing date post devolution)	Published on website. Focus groups used. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
A Proposal to Revise the Means Test for Criminal Legal Aid in Northern Ireland	March 2010 (Closing date post devolution)	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups	Nil
Provision to allow the Public Prosecution Service to commence proceedings without recourse to a lay magistrate	March 2010 (Closing date post devolution)	Published on website.	Nil
Redrawing the Map: A Consultation on Court Boundaries in Northern Ireland	March 2010 (Closing date post devolution)	Published on website.	Nil

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Offender Levy and Victims of Crime Fund Consultation & Summary report of consultation responses	March 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Special Measures Consultation	March 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Arrangements for notification of sex offenders from jurisdictions outside the UK	April 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups	Nil
Consultations on proposals for achieving best evidence in criminal proceedings.	July 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Equality Impact Assessment for a Proposed Justice Bill (NI) 2010	August 2010	Published on website. Issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	£2065.18
Consultation on remuneration of Defence Representation in the Crown Court, including Section 75 Equality Impact Assessment	September 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups. Meetings held with Bar Council and Law Society.	Nil
Consultation on Section 75 Equality Impact Assessment of the Proposals on Reform of legal representation provided by way of criminal legal aid at the Crown Court	September 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on Section 75 Equality Impact Assessment of the Proposals on new Rules on Remuneration of Defence Representation in the Crown Court	September 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups	Nil

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Consultation on bribery prevention procedures for commercial organisations to be published under section 9 of the Bribery Act 2010	September 2010	Published on website. Awareness Raising event held. Issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	£1684.40
Consultation on a Code of Practice for Victims of Crime	October 2010	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups. Focus group used.	£1100.00
Consultation on a Sentencing Guidelines Mechanism	October 2010	Published on website. Public consultation notice placed in three main local papers. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	£1020.73
Department of Justice Draft Budget 2010 Consultation	January 2011	Published on website. Meeting with NI Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA).	Nil
Consultation on Long-Term Policing Objectives	January 2011	1 Discussion with stakeholders in advance of public consultation. 2 Meetings with stakeholders during consultation period. 3 Public consultation notice placed in three main local papers. 4 Notice letters issued to potential interested parties. 5 Ministerial press release issued.	£1,296.42
Consultation on a New Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland	January 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups Twelve public meetings. 47 focus group meetings with stakeholders.	^c £16,000

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Consultation on a Review of Community Sentences	February 2011	Published on website. Public consultation notice placed in three main local papers. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	£1555.70
Consultation on proposals for the retention and destruction of fingerprints and DNA in Northern Ireland	March 2011	Published on website. Consultees advised individually by letter.	£1217.27
Draft Equality Scheme for the Department of Justice 2011-2015	March 2011	Published on website. Meetings with key stakeholders.	Nil
2011-2012			
Consultation on the implementation of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships; Consultation on the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Independent Members for the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships	June 2011	Published on website. Focus groups used. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods: Approved Derogation and Transitional Provisions	July 2011	Published on the website. UK-wide targeted consultation of key stakeholders with a particular interest identified. Consultees advised individually by letter.	Nil
Consultation on the draft Carriage of Explosives (amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2011)	July 2011	Published on website. Full public consultation key stakeholders with a particular interest identified and included. Consultees advised individually by letter. Advertisements placed in the local papers.	£1359.76

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Consultation on Sex Offender Notification and Violent Offender Orders	July 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on fine default in Northern Ireland	July 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	£1108.91
Access to Justice Review	September 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on Review of Youth Justice	October 2011	Published on Website. Focus Groups. Workshops & Public meetings. Public Notices. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	£6441.35
Consultation on upper age limit for jury service	November 2011	Published on website. One consultation meeting.	£1,027.09
Tribunal Reform: Discussion Paper on the Future Administration and Structure of Tribunals in Northern Ireland	December 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on proposals to close Hearing Centres at Bangor, Larne, Limavady, Magherafelt and Strabane courthouses (NICTS)	December 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies and letters issued to stakeholders and interest groups. Public Meetings held in each Hearing Centre.	Nil
Consultation on revised draft PACE Codes of Practice	December 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Consultation on review of the criminal records regime in Northern Ireland	December 2011	Published on website. Sent to all AccessNI Registered Bodies. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Costs Protection for Litigants in Environmental Judicial Review Applications	December 2011	Published on website.	Nil
Consultation on the provision of victim impact statements and victim impact reports	December 2011	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups. Focus group used.	£1200.00
Consultation on the European Framework Decision on the transfer and supervision arrangements for offenders	January 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on the Reform of Committal Proceedings.	January 2012	Published on website. Stakeholders and Interest Groups notified by email with link to Consultation Document. Focus group used.	£792.71
Consultation on Encouraging Earlier Guilty Pleas	January 2012	Published on website. Website Stakeholders and Interest Groups notified by email with link to Consultation Document. Focus group used.	£948.11
Consultation on proposals to introduce a recovery of defence costs scheme	February 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on the governance and accountability of the PPS	February 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Proposed amendments to the Legal Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2005	February 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on the proposals to align the Pyrotechnic Articles Directive and the Civil Explosives Directive to the new legislative framework	Feb 2012 May 2012	Published on website. Full public consultation key stakeholders with a particular interest identified and included. Consultees advised individually by letter.	Nil
Disability Action Plan 2012-2015 Consultation	February 2010/2	Published on website. Invitations to respond e-mailed to key stakeholders.	Nil
Consultation on the Future Operation of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland	March 2012	Published on website. One public meeting.	£122.00
Prison Service Pay Review Body Regulations 2012	November 2011	Published on website. Invitations to respond e-mailed to remit staff associations.	Nil
2012-2013			
Consultation on legislative amendments and Department of Justice engagement in relation to Human Trafficking	April 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Review of Criminal Records Regime further consultation	May 2012	Published on website. Invitations to respond e-mailed to prospective respondents.	Nil
Future Regulation of the Private Security Industry	May 2012	Published on website. Published on Security Industry Authority (SIA) website and on nibusinessinfo website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups. 3 Industry workshops (Newry, Londonderry, Belfast). Focus group used.	£604.25

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Provision of Community Impact Assessments	May 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups. Focus group held.	£1300.00
Consultation on the Introduction of a Scheme to allow for the early removal of Foreign National Prisoners	May 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on proposals to extend the use of live links in courts	June 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on proposal to vary Firearms Licensing fees	June 2012	Published on website. Discussion with stakeholder in advance of publication. Full public consultation key stakeholders with a particular interest identified and included. Advertisements placed in the local papers.	£1727.11
Strategic Framework for Reducing Offending Consultation	June 2012	Published on website. Stakeholder Workshops.	£1018.55
Consultation on the future of the prison estate in Northern Ireland	June 2012	Published on NIPS website. Public meetings. Workshops.	£2309.00
NIPS Employability Strategy	June 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Draft guidance on the Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Protection of Adult Victims of Human Trafficking.	July 2012	Published on website. Targeted consultation.	Nil

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
Consultation on proposals to extend Mental Capacity legislation to the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland and implications for Mental Health powers	July 2012	Published on website. Focus Group (Criminal Justice organisations). Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on discount rate and how it should be set	August 2012	UK-wide consultation carried out jointly with Ministry of Justice and Scottish Government. Publication announced on website with link to paper on Ministry of Justice website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Making a Difference – Improving Access to Justice for Victims and Witnesses of Crime	October 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to key stakeholders and interest groups. Focus group used.	£1400.00
Review of the Magistrates' Courts and County Court Appeals (Criminal Legal Aid) (Costs) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2009 (The Rules)	November 2012	Published on website. Meetings held with Bar Council and Law Society.	Nil
Managing Criminal Cases	November 2012	Published on website. Stakeholders and Interest Groups notified by email with link to Consultation Document. Focus group used.	£184.80
Reform of publicly funded legal representation in the Civil and Family Courts	November 2012	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Pre Consultation on Refresh or Women's Strategy	December 2012	Stakeholder Workshops.	£372 (to date)

Name of Consultation	Month and Year Consultation Undertaken	Type of Consultation	External Cost of Consultation
The Future Administration and Structure of Tribunals in Northern Ireland	January 2013	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups. Roundtable discussions with voluntary, advisory and legal sector.	£33.80
Review of Statutory Discount Rate – Review of the Legal Base Consultation	February 2013	UK-wide consultation carried out jointly with Ministry of Justice and Scottish Government. Publication announced on website with link to paper on Ministry of Justice website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Safeguards to Protect Individual Decisions on the Granting of Civil Legal Aid	February 2013	Published on DOJ website. Letters and hard copies issued in line with the DOJ User Guide to Stakeholder Consultation.	Nil
Equality Consultation for a Proposed Justice Bill (NI) 2013	March 2013	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil
Consultation on proposals for the use of live links in weekend courts	March 2013	Published on website. Electronic copies issued to stakeholders and interest groups.	Nil

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 18977/11-15, how many Northern Ireland Prison Service's staff have been dismissed and subsequently have had that decision upheld by the Northern Ireland Civil Service Appeal Board, since 2004.

(AQW 21218/11-15)

Mr Ford: Since 2004 the Civil Service Appeal Board has upheld six dismissal cases.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 18977/11-15, how many Northern Ireland Prison Service staff have been dismissed but subsequently had that decision overturned by the Northern Ireland Civil Service Appeal Board and then reinstated, since 2004.

(AQW 21219/11-15)

Mr Ford: To date the Northern Ireland Prison Service has not reinstated any members of staff where a decision to dismiss has been overturned by the Civil Service Appeal Board.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 20042/11-15, why those Northern Ireland Prison Service staff and senior management responsible for administering gross misconduct cases are failing to identify serious, fundamental flaws in procedures and unfair dismissals since 2008.

(AQW 21221/11-15)

Mr Ford: Those staff currently responsible for administering disciplinary actions, do so in accordance with the current Code of Conduct and Discipline.

The Member will however, be aware from my responses to previous Assembly Questions that the Northern Ireland Prison Service is developing a revised disciplinary system, in response to the findings and recommendations of a number of external inspections and reviews.

Injury on Duty Reviews

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice to detail, in each of the last five years (i) how many Injury on Duty Reviews were carried out; and (ii) in each case was the band of the decision (a) upgraded; (b) reduced; or (c) stayed the same.

(AQW 21227/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Policing board has provided the information given in the table below:

(1) ALL INJURY ON DUTY REVIEWS

Year	Reviews carried out	Band decreased	Band increased	Band remained the same
2008/09	121	76	52	2
2009/10	96	75	39	11
2010/11	No reviews conducted			
2011/12	No reviews conducted			
2012/13	37	29	4	4

Note: The number of reviews does not always tally with the number of results due to overlapping from one financial year to another.

In addition to the above information the member requested details of a further breakdown of:

(2) INJURY ON DUTY REVIEWS FOR THOSE WHO ARE AGED 65.

Year	Reviews carried out	Band decreased	Band increased	Band remained the same
2008/2013	80	58	4	18

Note: The above figures are from May 2008 when reviews were first carried out until March 2013. This information is not available in financial years.

Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to 20500/11-15, whether this person has been deemed dangerous as defined by the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008; and whether this was the case on either release date.

(AQW 21276/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 does not apply in this case as the individual was convicted of murder prior to the commission of this legislation.

Northern Ireland Prison Officers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 19857/11-15, to detail (i) whether the two prison officers concerned were interviewed during the initial investigation and whether similar allegations were made; (ii) what action was taken against the Governor concerned in respect of these specific allegations; and (iii) given the seriousness of the allegations, whether the two officers were interviewed as potential witnesses in terms of criminal and disciplinary offences, particularly as the encouragement or assistance of an offence is a criminal matter.

(AQW 21323/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) All staff interviewed were asked to respond to all allegations made during the investigation.
- (ii) On conclusion of the investigation, the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) did not consider that there was evidence of a criminal offence having been committed by any staff. This view was confirmed by legal advisers. As you are aware two Governors were charged under the NIPS Code of Conduct and Discipline (COCD). They were charged with contributing to the reputational damage of the Northern Ireland Prison Service under Section 3 of the COCD. Both Governors were found guilty and given a written warning.
- (iii) All staff interviewed were told in advance of the interview commencing, that the investigation was being conducted under the NIPS COCD and that if evidence was found of a criminal offence having been committed by staff then this would be passed to the Police Service of Northern Ireland for further investigation.

Assaults on Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 19071/11-15 whether prior to the date of the AQW being tabled, a member of Northern Ireland Prison Service staff was assaulted whilst in the course of duty, and to detail (i) whether this was by a prisoner; (ii) whether any assailant was charged and/or reported for prosecution; (iii) whether any injury was sustained; and (iv) the circumstances and/or situation which led to the incident.

(AQW 21324/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have been informed by the Governor of each prison that no member of staff was assaulted in the course of his/her duty.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Absence Procedures

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in light of findings by the Northern Ireland Prison Ombudsman in relation to how the Northern Ireland Prison Service handles staff Absence Procedures, whether any recommendations will be applied retrospectively to all staff who were dealt with in a similar manner and who subsequently took grievance proceedings or appealed the action but the decisions were upheld based on the incorrect application of procedures.

(AQW 21329/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) applies the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sickness Absence and Inefficiency Sickness Absence policies in order to manage sickness absence and unsatisfactory attendance.

The Northern Ireland Ombudsman raised issues in relation to a specific case and concluded that the procedural issues would not have changed the outcome.

NIPS will not be applying any recommendations on a retrospective basis.

PSNI Helicopters

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department is taking to minimise the disruption to people in the Foyle area when PSNI helicopters are used at night.

(AQW 21363/11-15)

Mr Ford: The deployment of the PSNI helicopter is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Department for Regional Development

TV, Radio and Newspaper Advertising Campaigns

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail his Department's TV, radio and newspaper advertising campaigns, in each of the last three years; and the spend on each campaign.

(AQW 21060/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): My Department has not carried out any advertising campaigns in the last three years.

Repairing Potholes

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent repairing potholes, in the last three years.

(AQW 21131/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service does not separately record the amount spent on repairing potholes. However, the table below details the total expenditure on carriageway patching, for the past three financial years, which includes the cost of repairing a range of surface defects, such as, cracking, potholes, depressions, edge deterioration etc:

Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Cost of Patching	18,012,000	19,236,000	19,415,000

Road Standards

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development how much money is required to ensure that all roads are to the required standard.

(AQW 21132/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: It has been independently established that some £126 million, at 2012 prices, is needed annually to maintain the road network in its current condition. However, this figure does not include maintenance costs for the majority of the motorway network and some of the trunk road network which is maintained by private companies, on behalf of Roads Service.

The level of funding allocated to my Department has historically been well below what is required and, in 2011, it was estimated the maintenance backlog exceeded £800 million. As a result of successful in-year bids, Roads Service expenditure on the road network on 2011/12 was £120 million and the budget for 2012/13 is likely to be in the region of £110 million, much higher than in previous years, albeit still leaving shortfalls of £6 million and £16 million respectively, when compared with the level recommended.

As the Member will also appreciate, as roads deteriorate through a lack of planned maintenance, they require relatively expensive patching to avoid public liability claims and maintain road safety, which draws further funds away from better value resurfacing and surface dressing.

Road Resurfacing

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria by which roads are graded to prioritise resurfacing.

(AQW 21133/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Article 8 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 places a duty on my Department's Roads Service to maintain all public roads and footways in reasonable condition to ensure that these assets remain safe and serviceable to users. To this end, Roads Service operates a system of regular safety inspections to ensure that essential response maintenance is identified and completed, as necessary.

In accordance with the Roads Maintenance Standards for Safety, Roads Service inspects the condition of public roads and information collected, along with consideration of a number of other factors including road usage, general surface condition, structural deformation, public enquiries and public liability claims is used in the preparation and prioritisation of Roads Service's annual reconstruction and resurfacing programme.

These programmes are subsequently presented by Roads Service to the various District Councils at their Spring/Autumn meetings.

Road Resurfacing in North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Roads Service has a waiting list of roads that need resurfaced in North Down.

(AQW 21134/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service carries out routine safety inspections on all carriageways and footways and any surface defects, which are deemed hazardous to the public, are identified and prioritised for repair.

In addition, Roads Service prepares a flexible and reactive programme of carriageway resurfacing and footway reconstruction works, which takes account of the level of funding available.

These programmes are reviewed on a regular basis and priorities reassessed, using the most up-to-date information available, including data from the on-going routine cyclic inspections. These programmes are therefore subject to change, depending on the condition of the road network.

Roads Service is currently finalising its 2013/14 programme for North Down and details will be published in its next Spring and Autumn reports to North Down Borough Council.

Public Consultations

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of public consultations undertaken by his Department, in each year since 2007; (ii) the type of consultation; and (iii) the total cost of each consultation.

(AQW 21145/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below sets out the number of public consultations undertaken each year since 2007, the type of consultation, and the cost of each consultation.

	Financial Year	Type of consultation (EQIA/policy/legislations/other)	Consultation name	Total Costs £s
1.	2007/08	Legislation	Airports (Sale of Aircraft) Order	1503
2.		Legislation	Penalty Fares (increase) Order 2008	1503
3.		Legislation	Donaghadee (Harbour Area) Order 2008	1349
4.		Policy	Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2007-2009	7390
5.		Policy – NICS wide consultation lead by OFMdFM	Disability Action Plan 2007	Nil
6.		EQIA	Sub Regional Transport Plan	12981
7.		Legislation	Cross Border (Railway Services) Working Time Regulations 2008	1500
Total Cost 2007/08				26226
8.	2008-09	EQIA	Equality Impacts of DRD Elements of draft PfG 2008/11, Draft Budget 2008/11 and draft Investment Strategy - Equality Unit	2908
9.		Policy	Setting Local Speed Limits	1200
10.		EQIA	NI concessionary Fares Scheme; free fares for people aged 60-64	1230
11.		Legislation	The Water Supply - Water Fittings Regulations (NI) 2009	3753
12.		Legislation	The Water Supply – (Water Quality) Amendment Regulations (NI) 2009	1710
13.		Legislation	Cross Border Services Working Time Regulations	1062
14.		Targeted consultation	RDS Review pre-consultation stakeholder meetings	38,518

	Financial Year	Type of consultation (EQIA/policy/legislations/other)	Consultation name	Total Costs £s
15.		Targeted consultation aimed at key environmental groups and NIEA to enable key environmental issues to be identified and discussed	RDS strategic environmental assessment scoping	20310
16.		Policy & EQIA	Setting Local Speed Limits (approx advertising costs)	1200
17.		Policy	Guidance on Port Master Plans for Sea Ports	646
18.		Policy	Draft Social and Environmental Guidance for the Water & Sewerage Industry	1396
Total Cost 2008/09				73933
19.	2009/10	Policy	ATS Action Plan 2009-12	8280
20.		Strategy	Regional Transport Strategy Discussion document	948
21.		Policy	Rathlin Island Policy	1696
22.		Legislation	Railways Infrastructure Access and Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings (Amendment Regulations)	1230
23.		Legislation	Donaghadee Harbour Order	1349
24.		Legislation	River Bann Navigation Order	1349
25.		Legislation	Level Crossing Order	1490
26.		Legislation	Train Driving Licences and Certificates (Amendment)	1357
27.		Policy	Belfast Rapid Transit	3480
28.		Policy & EQIA	Restricted Zones Access Permits (translation and advertising costs)	1400
29.		Legislation	The Airport (Sale of Aircraft) Regulations Order	1503

	Financial Year	Type of consultation (EQIA/policy/legislations/other)	Consultation name	Total Costs £s
Total Cost 2009/10				24082
30.	2010-11	Policy & EQIA	Public Transport Reform Consultation	21445
31.		Policy	Policy Proposals for a Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	2422
32.		Legislation	Stakeholder Workshop on the Consultation on UK Aviation Strategy	378
33.		Strategy & EQIA	Regional Transportation Strategy – Consultation Document	4955
34.		Policy & EQIA	Public Transport Reform Consultation – Final	3746
35.		Strategy	Regional Development Strategy Review	18743
36.		Policy	Cross Border/Spatial Strategies	1090
37.		EQIA	Bi-lingual Traffic Signs (translation and advertising costs)	2500
38.		Policy	Review of Financial Assistance for Domestic Properties not Served by a Watermain	2696
39.		Legislation	Roads(Functions of District Councils)Bill	2152
40.		Legislation	Belfast International Airport(Control over Land) Order	3877
41.		Legislation	City of Derry (Control over Land) Order	3711
42.		Legislation	Coleraine (Transfer of Harbour Undertaking) Order	1594
43.		Legislation	Rail Passenger Rights and Obligations (Exemption) Regulations	1404
44.		Policy	Disability Action Plan	1434
45.		Policy	Equality Scheme 2011 – 16	Nil
46.		Policy & EQIA	Draft EQIA and Departmental Spending & Savings Plans	Nil
47.		Policy & EQIA	Belfast Rapid Transit Proposals	7419

	Financial Year	Type of consultation (EQIA/policy/legislations/other)	Consultation name	Total Costs £s
48.		Policy	Building an Active Travel Future for NI	3510
Total Cost 2010/11				83076
49.	2011/12	EQIA	Policy to permit Rail Journeys to be purchased using half fare smart passes only.	810
50.		EQIA	Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035	1567
Total Cost 2011/12				2377
51.	2012/13	Policy	Accessible transport strategy draft Action plan 2012 -15	3820
52.		Policy & EQIA	Review of the Door 2 door scheme	3696
53.		Policy	Future Railway Investment A Consultation Paper	6091
54.		Legislation	Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations & Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Application for Exemption Orders) Regulations	2254
55.		Policy	Aviation Policy Framework -Stakeholder Event	189
56.		Policy & EQIA	Taxis in Bus Lanes (Advertising Costs)	1160
		Policy	Disability Action Plan (Braille copies)	43
Total Cost 2012/13				17253

Road Surface Maintenance Post Pipe Laying Contracts

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail of the number of actions taken against NI Water in relation to road surface maintenance post pipe laying contracts in the past five years.
(AQW 21207/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has carried out over 31,000 inspections of NI Water reinstatements over the past five years, identifying almost 4,400 defects. A further 5,000 inspections have been carried out to ensure those defects were repaired. In the last five years, my Department has also taken two successful prosecutions against NI Water for offences relating to failure to reinstate to the required specification.

Roads Resurfacing in Lisburn, Banbridge, Down and Craigavon

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent on roads resurfacing in the council areas of Lisburn, Banbridge, Down and Craigavon, in each of the last five years
(AQW 21208/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service does not maintain an analysis of its spend in the format requested, however, it does hold an analysis of its total Structural Maintenance spend, which includes the maintenance activities of Resurfacing, Surface Dressing and Structural Drainage.

Details of its total Structural Maintenance spend in each of the Council areas requested, during the last five years, are set out in the table below:

District Council	Structural Maintenance Spend £'000				
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Lisburn	3,066	4,364	4,604	5,411	5,297
Banbridge	2,734	1,880	2,811	3,572	4,212
Down	2,552	3,336	3,377	4,065	5,323
Craigavon	3,614	2,231	3,867	4,809	5,417

However, it should be noted that whilst the actual spend on a resurfacing scheme may be within one district council area, the benefits are not confined to the district council in which the work was completed.

In addition, details of total spend on resurfacing, as part of the total spend on Structural Maintenance in Northern Ireland, during the last five years, are set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Total Spend on Resurfacing £'000	Total Spend on Structural Maintenance £'000
2007/08	38,361	77,332
2008/09	24,412	62,986
2009/10	41,444	85,190
2010/11	40,521	88,313
2011/12	63,335	120,437
Total	208,073	434,258

Legal Costs

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Regional Development when will he be in a position to detail the total legal costs his Department incurred in relation to the recently concluded Declan Gormley case.

(AQW 21235/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: While my Department is endeavouring to finalise this matter as quickly as possible it has not yet received details of the legal fees and outlay from the Plaintiff's solicitors referred to in my answer to AQW 20361. In the absence of this information, I am not in a position to specify when the quantum of the legal costs is likely to be available.

If it would be helpful I will be happy to write to you when the details of the legal fees incurred in this case are available.

NI Railways

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development what has been the cost of damage, due to anti-social behaviour, to the rolling stock of NI Railways over the last three financial years.

(AQW 21237/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that their management information systems do not include a specific code under the description 'anti-social behaviour'. However, they record incidents of 'damage' which will include instances of events arising as a result of such behaviour.

The table below details information relating to damage costs over the last 3 full financial years, as well as the associated cost for the current financial year, to date. It should be noted that most of "damage" is as a result of trains coming into contact with obstacles on track (debris/trees/livestock) but also includes broken windows and damage to train interiors.

	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 to end Period 11 £
NI Railways	243,303	247,510	259,904	284,175

Translink Bus Fleet

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development what has been the cost of damage, due to anti-social behaviour, to the Translink bus fleet over the last three financial years.

(AQW 21239/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink have advised me that the information is not available in the format requested as its management information systems do not include a specific category to record damage under the description of anti-social behaviour. However, it does record incidents of 'malicious damage' which often arise as a result of such behaviour.

The table below details the relevant cost information, recorded under this category over the last 3 full financial years, as well as the associated statistics for the current financial year, to date.

	2012/13 to end Period 11	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Ulsterbus	£264,305	£261,979	£353,287	£319,710
Metro	£123,871	£105,346	£175,778	£263,195
Total	£388,175	£367,325	£529,064	£582,905

Vandalism of Bus Shelters

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development what has been the cost of damage, due to anti-social behaviour, to bus shelters over the last three financial years.

(AQW 21240/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Maintenance of bus shelters, provided by Adshel through its contract with my Department's Roads Service and most District Councils, is funded by the company at its own expense. My Department, therefore, does not hold information on the costs incurred by Adshel in fulfilling its contractual commitments.

A4 Dual Carriageway

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration he has given to the provision of a flyover or connecting bridge on the A4 dual carriageway to connect Moygashel with west-bound traffic.

(AQW 21274/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am aware that you previously raised this issue with my Department's Roads Service following the opening of the A4 dual carriageway. I understand your concern was that as a consequence of the new Moygashel junction layout on the dual carriageway, westbound traffic from Moygashel had to

travel eastwards along the A4 to the junction at the end of the M1 and from there join the westbound A4 traffic.

Following your discussions with Roads Service officials, at that time, additional signage was provided at the exit to the Linengreen retail park directing all traffic to return to the A4 and M1 via the A29 and Junction 15 (Stangmore Roundabout). This route adds approximately two kilometres to the return journey and is not considered to be unreasonable.

I further understand Roads Service also provided additional signage directing traffic south of Moygashel to gain access to the A4 westbound carriageway, via the Syerla Road underbridge and the Syerla Link Road to the A4 along Mullybrannon Road, which connects with the westbound carriageway on the south side of the route. This route adds approximately one kilometre to the return journey. Traffic counts confirm that this route is lightly used, as it carries approximately 700 vehicles per day.

Given the current low levels of traffic using the Syerla Link road and the fact that not all of that traffic uses the route to gain access to the westbound A4 carriageway and the associated costs, the provision of a flyover to convey traffic leaving Moygashel to the westbound A4 carriageway could not be justified.

Parking Tickets in County Tyrone

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of parking tickets handed out in each town in County Tyrone over the last 12 months.

(AQW 21277/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in each main town in County Tyrone during the 12 months, to end February 2013, is detailed in the table below:-

Town	PCNs Issued	PCNs issued as percentage of Northern Ireland total
Strabane	2,019	1.9%
Omagh	4,179	3.8%
Cookstown	1,522	1.4%
Dungannon	2,036	1.9%

It should be noted that a further 174 PCNs were also issued during this period in various villages throughout the county.

Chairman of NI Water

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 20673/11-15, whether the information contained on the NI Water website as to the experience of its Chairman is accurate.

(AQW 21298/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am advised by NI Water that it has reviewed the information contained in the Chairman's profile on its website and acknowledges that the reference to 25 years of experience relates to both private and public sector roles.

However, it is also accepted that the information is not up-to-date and, as a matter of good governance, the NI Water Board has agreed that all director profiles should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they contain only relevant and consistent information. It is planned to republish revised profiles as soon as practicable.

Public Salt Boxes

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the locations of the public salt boxes in (i) Newtownabbey; (ii) Carrickfergus; and (iii) Larne Borough Council areas.

(AQW 21303/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the locations of salt boxes in the Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus and Larne Borough Council areas are available in the Assembly Library.

Public Salt Boxes

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria used for the location of public salt boxes.

(AQW 21304/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Salt bins or grit piles may be provided for use by the public, on a self help basis, on roads which do not qualify for inclusion onto the gritting schedule, providing the necessary criteria are met. There are no limits placed on the number of salt bins which may be provided, although they will not normally be provided within 100m of another bin.

Roads Service will consider the provision of a salt bin when the following criteria are met:

- the location in question must be on the publically maintained road network;
- the gradient of the road in question must be over 5 per cent;
- no reasonable alternative route shall be available; and
- the subject road attains a minimum overall score, derived using a specific formula, where points are awarded depending on road geometry, residential usage, community welfare and commercial usage.

Salt boxes can also be provided to schools that are regularly affected by severe wintry weather.

New bins will not be provided unless requested by a member of the public, who also agrees to spread the salt provided.

Public Salt Boxes

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the criteria used for the location of public salt boxes has changed within the past five years.

(AQW 21305/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm that the criteria used for the location of salt bins, which I outlined in my answer to AQW 21304/11-15, was amended in September 2010 to include the provision, upon request, of salt bins for rural schools.

Public Salt Box

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the cost of providing a public salt box.
(AQW 21306/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the average cost of supplying and maintaining a grit box is approximately £167.00 for the first year, which includes the capital costs of the grit box and costs associated with the average winter replenishment cycle.

Precise details of costs cannot be provided for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

Public Salt Boxes

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the annual maintenance cost of public salt boxes in the (i) Newtownabbey; (ii) Carrickfergus; and (iii) Larne Borough Council areas.

(AQW 21307/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service does not separately record details of costs incurred maintaining salt levels in salt boxes. However, based on records held, approximate costs have been calculated which are set out in the table below:

Borough Council	Number of salt boxes	Approximate annual maintenance cost
Newtownabbey	202	£10,500
Carrickfergus	77	£4,000
Larne	60	£4,500

Whilst the number of refills varies each year according to the prevailing weather conditions, an average of five refills has been assumed for the purposes of this exercise.

A6 Road Scheme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on progress of the A6 scheme.
(AQO 3738/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am pleased to advise the Member that I have recently received the Inspector's Report on the proposed A6 Londonderry to Dungiven dualling scheme. I intend to publish a statement on the way forward in due course after issues arising from the report have been fully examined and resolved.

The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 includes construction of a number of high priority schemes on the M2, A6 and A26, as part of a £390 million package funded through alternative finance in the period 2015/16 to 2020/21. However, a commitment to fund the revenue consequences of this roads package will be required, therefore, the timing will depend upon future resource budget settlements. In the event of alternative finance not being available, the scheme could be included, together with other priority schemes, in the bidding process for conventional funds, in the next Budget period.

Belfast on the Move

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the current phase of Belfast On The Move.

(AQO 3739/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The current phase of Belfast on the Move works began on 28 January and is progressing well, in line with my Department's programme.

Works on College Avenue and College Square East are nearing completion with the new road layouts, including a new southbound bus lane, planned to be introduced this week.

Works on Grosvenor Road and Great Victoria Street through to Wellington Place are also well advanced with the new road layouts, including a new northbound bus lane on Great Victoria Street through to Wellington Place, planned to be introduced by mid April.

The final part of the works will focus on Wellington Place, Donegall Square North, Donegall Square East and Chichester Street.

Despite the recent exceptionally adverse weather conditions which held up our resurfacing programme, I am confident that the remaining work to complete the final phase of the Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures, will be completed by the end of May this year.

DRD: Declan Gormley

Mr Brady asked the Minister for Regional Development what was the total cost of settling the recent legal case with Declan Gormley.

(AQO 3740/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department does not yet have the details of the total legal fees. However, the terms of the settlement included an apology which was read out in Court on the 27 February 2013 and an agreement that the Department would pay Mr Gormley's reasonable legal costs to date. There will be no damages or compensation.

The Plaintiff's solicitors will submit a note of their fees and outlay in due course. These will then be considered by my department in consultation with the Departmental Solicitor's Office, prior to agreement and payment.

Tourism Signage Policy

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the steps being taken to implement the recommendations from the review of the Tourism Signage Policy.

(AQO 3741/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can confirm that Roads Service is currently working in partnership with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), with a view to achieving a mutually agreeable and sustainable change to the current policy following the joint DETI/NITB review.

DRD Capital Works 2013-14: South Antrim

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Regional Development what capital works are planned for the South Antrim constituency in the 2013/14 financial year.

(AQO 3742/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise that the detailed budget for the 2013/14 financial year has not yet been finalised and it is therefore not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

Information on completed and proposed road schemes can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils.

These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following address:

<http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/publications-details.htm?docid=8571>

Railways: Larne Line

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the increase in passenger numbers on the Larne railway line over the last 12 months.

(AQO 3743/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advise that up to the end of their period 11 (17 February 2013) there have been 2,119,960 passenger journeys made on the Larne railway line. In the corresponding period in 2011/12 there were 1,923,416 journeys made. This is an increase of 196,544 journeys or more than a tenth over the last year.

The increase in passenger journeys covers both those paying fares and those on concessionary schemes.

Rivers Agency

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of any proposal to transfer the Rivers Agency from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to his Department.

(AQO 3744/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I support the proposal to transfer Rivers Agency to my Department, provided it is accompanied by reasonable funding. This will consolidate the three main drainage agencies within one Department and was one of the recommendations in the Executive's Review of Response to Flooding on 27th and 28th June 2012. I have written to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development urging her to support the proposal.

Department for Social Development

Industrial Injuries Benefit Tribunals

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the arrangements that exist for holding Industrial Injuries Benefit Tribunals outside of Omagh and Belfast.

(AQW 20747/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): At this time there are no arrangements for holding Industrial Injuries Benefit Tribunals outside of Omagh and Belfast. However, The Appeals Service is currently assessing additional hearing venues.

Industrial Injuries Benefit Tribunals

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development how many Industrial Injuries Benefit Tribunal cases have been heard in (i) Omagh; and (ii) Belfast in the last twelve months.

(AQW 20748/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In the period 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2013, 35 Industrial Injuries Benefit Tribunal appeals were heard in Omagh and 138 were heard in Belfast.

Employment Support Allowance

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development, over the last two years, how many people in each constituency were successful in their Employment Support Allowance (ESA) appeals but were called for reassessment by ESA within three months of the Appeals Service Decision.

(AQW 20749/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department is unable to provide the information requested regarding how many ESA claimants were called for a re-referral within three months of a successful appeal outcome, as this information is not currently available. The Chairman of the Tribunal records whether the decision made on appeal was either more or less advantageous than a previous decision. A more advantageous decision may increase the allowance or direct that a new award be made. A less advantageous decision may reduce the allowance or make no change to the original determination.

The following table details the overall number of ESA appeals that have received a final determination/outcome and how many were successful in the last 2 years up to 31 January 2013. The selection of venues for appeal hearings is determined by the postal district within which the appellant resides. The data is only available by tribunal districts.

Tribunal District	1st April 2011 - 31st March 2012		1st April 2012 - 31st January 2013	
	Final Outcome	More Advantageous	Final Outcome	More Advantageous
Armagh	150	43	193	61
Ballymena	398	116	523	162
Ballymoney	72	35	89	29
Banbridge	114	29	131	40
Belfast	2,054	705	2,420	773
Coleraine	259	67	248	78
Cookstown	88	25	117	36
Craigavon	479	163	501	164
Downpatrick	224	66	228	80
Dungannon	292	105	249	74
Enniskillen	292	129	236	91
Limavady	120	60	134	46
Londonderry	505	235	517	213
Magherafelt	189	59	161	48
Newry	369	89	335	105
Newtownards	324	106	394	139
Omagh	270	112	234	87
Strabane	119	49	176	73
Grand Total	6,318	2,193	6,886	2,299

Capital Works Projects

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development what capital works projects are currently being considered by his Department, including social housing projects.

(AQW 20955/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive plans to start a total of 3,275 new social homes across Northern Ireland over the two year period 2013/14 and 2014/15. This will complete the social housing element of the Programme for Government commitment to deliver 8,000 new social and affordable homes by 2015. The individual schemes are published on the Housing Executive's website at http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/services/housing_need.htm.

The Social Security Agency is considering capital works in regards to modernising its local office network. This project is at a very early stage and a business case is being developed to consider all the potential options. The Agency is also considering any capital works that may be required to support the introduction of welfare reform.

On the Urban Regeneration front, the Department will be progressing a wide range of different capital schemes in the next 2 years. Details can be found on the Investment Strategy NI website – ISNI.gov.uk. The site is usefully organised on a regional basis.

Transgender Community

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked Minister for Social Development, in terms of its legal obligation under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, how his Department consults with the transgender community.

(AQW 21066/11-15)

Mr McCausland: All consultations are conducted in accordance with the Department's Equality Scheme and its Section 75 consultee mailing list, which includes The Rainbow Coalition and the Coalition on Sexual Orientation, who represent the transgender community.

Housing Executive Rent Arrears

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development (i) what proportion of Housing Executive tenants are in rent arrears; (ii) how this figure compares to the same period in each of the last five years; and (iii) what is the average level of arrears.

(AQW 21105/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has provided the information below regarding the proportion of its tenants in rent arrears (i) at 28 February 2013; (ii) the previous five years; and (iii) the average level of rent arrears.

Date	% of tenants in rent arrears	Average level of arrears
28 February 2013	26.8%	£476
31 March 2012	26.7%	£462
31 March 2011	24.9%	£402
31 March 2010	25.7%	£399
31 March 2009	26.2%	£431
31 March 2008	26.7%	£449

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.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Association and Private Rented Properties

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the proportion of households living in (i) Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties; (ii) housing association properties; and (iii) private rented properties assisted with housing benefits, in which there is no member of the household in paid employment.

(AQW 21107/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has provided the information below regarding the proportion of households living in (i) Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties; (ii) housing association properties; and (iii) private rented properties assisted with housing benefits, in which there is no member of the household in paid employment.

Type of Tenure	Proportion of Housing Benefit claims where no member of household is in paid employment
Housing Executive	90%
Housing Associations	90%
Private Rented	87%

Note: 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.

Public Consultations

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of public consultations undertaken by his Department, in each year since 2007; (ii) the type of consultation; and (iii) the total cost of each consultation.

(AQW 21146/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Please see the attached table which details the information you have requested

Year	Number of consultations
2007	16
2008	45
2009	25
2010	26
2011	33
2012	71
2013	59

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Glen Road Development Framework	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	£210.50
Physical Regeneration Concept Masterplans	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	£19,053.80
Hesketh Park	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Donegall Road/ Greater Village	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Highfield Estate	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Lanark Way/ Cupar Way	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Lenadoon Estate	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Lower Shankill scheme	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Sandy Row/Lower Donegall Road	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Shankill Rd Tree Planting scheme	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Suffolk Estate	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Turf Lodge Banks	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Victoria Parade	Public consultation. Costs relate to venue hire and hospitality for community consultation events.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballygomartin Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballysillan Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballysillan Road D scheme Ballysillan Road E2 scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Beersbridge Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Bloomfield Avenue tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Castlereagh St/ Beersbridge Rd/ Albertbridge Rd	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Cromac Street	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Crumlin Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Falls Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Glen Road A	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Glen Road B	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Glen Road D2	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Glen Road D4 scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Glenwood/ Woodside Estates	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Grosv Road, C'ville Road & A'Bridge Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Grosvenor Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Holywood Road/ Belmont Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Kennedy Way	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Lanark Way/ Shankill Rd Junction	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ligoniel Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Newtownards Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
North Queen Street	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Nubia Street	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ormeau Rd Widening	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Sally Gardens	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Shankill Rd Junctions	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
St Comgalls	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Upper Crumlin Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
West Circular Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Wheatfield Link	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Woodstock Link	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodvale Avenue	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodvale Cricket Club	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodvale Park	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodvale Park & Glen Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodvale Park Phase 2	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodvale Park/ Ballygomartin Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballygomartin Road/Woodvale Park	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballysillan	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Ligoniel Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
White's Rise/ Bogstown Glen	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Deanby Youth Club	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Forthriver Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Holywood Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Oldpark Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Springfield Road tree planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodstock Link tree planting scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
York Road/ Shore Road tree planting scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Albertbridge Gateway	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Albertbridge Planters	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Andersonstown Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Colin gateway	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Colin Mill shops	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Eversleigh Street play park	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Grosvenor Road shops	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Albertbridge/ Templemore Junction PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Andersonstown Roundabout PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Ardoyne Roundabout Ardoyne Shops Junction	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballysillan Park tree Planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Brucevale Park	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Castlereagh Street Virtual Shops	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Clifton Park Avenue Tree Planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Clifton Street Gateway PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Clifton Street Graveyard	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Cliftonville Circus	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Cliftonville Community Centre	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Colin Glen Trust Fencing	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Conway Street PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Cross Community Corridor PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Divis Street Gateway PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Donegal Road Pedestrian Island	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Donegal Road Roundabout	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Donegal Road Tourist Blades	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Everton Complex	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Gaeltacht Quarter PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Giants Foot Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Glen Road Roundabout	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Gransha Shops PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Infill and Replacment Tree Planting on Donegal Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Infill tree planting at Agnes and Northumberland Street	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Infill tree planting at Templemore Avenue	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Kennedy Way Roundabout	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Land at McSweeney Centre	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Monarch Laundry	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Mountforde Playground	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Mountpottinger Road/ Templemore Avenue Tree Planting Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
New railings at Hamilton Sculptures	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Newtownards Road Shop Frontage	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
North Belfast	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Oldpark Road PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ormeau Road Tree Planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Peters Hill Gateway PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Pitch and Mitch Playpark	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
PREI Scheme at 519 Falls Road (Old Barracks Site)	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI Scheme at Crumlin Road Courthouse	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI Scheme at Millenium Way	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ravenhill Road Tree Planting	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ravenhill/Short Strand Gateway PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Replacement and Infill tree planting at Donegal Pass	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Springmartin Estate	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Suffolk Road Shops PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Tree Planting Scheme at Glenn Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodstock Road Virtual Shops	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Yard Men	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
York/Shore Road PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Albert Street PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Avoca Street PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballysillan Leisure Centre Boundary fencing	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ballysillan Playpark	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Carrs Glen Link	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Castlereagh Street Linkage	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Central Station PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Cooldarragh park Shopping Node	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Donegall Road/Broadway	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Forfar Street Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Frontage Scheme at Lower Newtownards Road (BCC)	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Frontage Scheme at Ormeau Road (BCC)	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Hamiltons Sculptures	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Infill Tree planting Donegal Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Infill Tree Planting on Templemore Avenue	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ladybrook Bus turning Circle	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Ladybrook Shopping Node	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Land Adjacent to Cloona house	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Limehill Grove Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Lower Newtownards Road Linkage	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Manor St/Oldpark Road Landscaped area	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Millenium Way	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Mount Vernon Community Garden and Park	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Mountpottinger Road PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI Scheme Andersonstown Link	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI Scheme at Ballymacarrett Road and Cycle Paths	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI scheme at Bridgend	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI scheme at Denmark Link	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
PREI Scheme at Roden Street Bridge	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Sandy Row/ Linfield Junction	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Shankill Gateway PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Shankill Lost Streets	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Shaws road Shopping Node	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Stockman's Lane roundabout	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
The Ashton Centre	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Tree Planting Scheme at Glenn Road	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Tullycarnet Subways	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Tullymore Community Centre Garden	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Tyndale Grove PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Upper Crumlin Road Junction Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Upper Oldpark Road Shops	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Wheatfield Link Fencing	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodbourne Phase3 Art Project	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Woodstock/ Albertbridge PREI Scheme	Public Open/Face to Face - Through Partnership and local community groups and all businesses and property owners directly affected by the scheme.	Included in Professional Fees no breakdown available. Consultation is normal part of every scheme which takes place.
Warm Homes	Face to Face/Electronic	£5,820
Private Rented Sector Strategy	Electronic	£300
Mortgage Rescue Scheme	Electronic	£550
Consultation on Housing Amendment Bill	Face to Face/Electronic	£317.55
House Sales Scheme	Electronic	NIL
Fuel Poverty Strategy	Face to Face/Electronic	£690.99
Policy to Support Owner Occupiers in Redevelopment Areas	Electronic	NIL
Fundamental Review of Houses in Multiple Occupation	Electronic	£300
Reviewing Support for Repair and Improvement in the Private Housing Sector	Electronic	£300
Consultation on Housing Strategy	Face to Face/Electronic	£1,914

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Consultation on Interdepartmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services	Electronic	Cost not known at this time
Betting and Gaming Law – Proposed Changes including relaxation of Sunday restrictions	Public	NIL
Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007	Public	NIL
Consultation document on the number and location of Area Advice Centres	Public	£14,598.78
Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future	Public	£10,718.43
Draft Regeneration & Housing Bill	Public	£1,172.46
Regional Infrastructure Programme Review	Stakeholder	£552.30
Introduction of Powers to prohibit or restrict irresponsible alcohol promotions	Public	£972.32
Business Improvement Districts and Licensing of Pavement Cafés	Public	£1,280.50

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Guidance on the provision of local generalist Voluntary Sector Advice	Stakeholder	£452.30
Sunday Trading Laws	Public	NIL
Review of Gambling Law	Public	£1465.41
Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol	Public	£1222.32
Concordat between the Voluntary & Community Sector and the Northern Ireland Government	Stakeholder	£1,256
Irresponsible Drinks Promotions Regulations	Public	£968.70
Proposed changes to the law regulating the sale and supply of Alcohol in Northern Ireland.	Public	NIL
Street Trading and Pedlar Laws in compliance with European Services Directive	Public	£1245.24
Urban Regeneration & Community Development Policy Framework	Public	£93
Draft Masterplan for Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Barracks	Public/Stakeholder/Face to Face	£9,290.59
Draft EQIA Crumlin Road Gaol & Girdwood Park Masterplan	Public	£6,012.87

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Westside Masterplan (draft report)	Stakeholder	£9,393.84
Consultation on Access and Mobility Study for Belfast City Centre (draft report)	Public/Stakeholder/Face to Face	£2,984
Bank Square Consultation (Design proposals for Public Realm Scheme)	Public/Stakeholder	£4,998.75
Queen's Quay Draft Masterplan	Public/Face to Face/Stakeholder	Costs included in Consultancy Assignment therefore no separate costs available for consultancy process
BT1 Gateway & Library Square	Public/Stakeholder/Face to Face	Costs included in Consultancy Assignment therefore no separate costs available for consultancy process
Maximising Incomes and Outcomes – a Plan for Improving the Uptake of Benefits	Public Consultation	£1,016.77
Work Capability Assessment review – Call for Evidence Year 3	Public Consultation	nil
Work capability Assessment – Informal consultation on accounting for the effects of cancer treatments.	Public Consultation	Nominal*
Social Fund Reform Project – Public Consultation - Enniskillen	Face to Face Consultation	Nominal*

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Social Fund Reform Project – Public Consultation - Londonderry	Face to Face Consultation	Nominal*
Social Fund Reform Project – Public Consultation - Coleraine	Face to Face Consultation	Nominal*
Social Fund Reform Project – Public Consultation - Belfast	Face to Face Consultation	Nominal*
Social Fund Reform Project – Public Consultation – Londonderry	Face to Face Consultation	Nominal*
Work Capability Assessment review – Call for Evidence Year 2	Public Consultation	Nominal*
Work Capability Assessment review – Call for Evidence Year 1	Public Consultation	Nominal*
Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the closure of Cookstown Medical Examination Centre	Public Consultation	£1,000.00**
EQIA Initial Screening – Relocation of Corporation Street SSO and Gloucester House JobCentre	Public Consultation	£1,000.00**
EQIA Initial Screening – Relocation of Downpatrick SSO and Jobcentre	Public Consultation	£1,000.00**

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
EQIA Initial Screening – Decant of Newcastle SSO staff during Jobs & Benefits Office construction	Public Consultation	£1,000.00**
EQIA – Implementation arrangements for the Strategic Business Review	Public Consultation	£7,950.00
EQIA Initial Screening – Relocation of Downpatrick SSO and JobCentre	Public Consultation	£,1000.00**
EQIA Initial Screening – Relocation of Newtownards SSO and JobCentre	Public Consultation	£,1000.00**
EQIQ Screening Exercise – “Outreach Services for Older People”	Public Consultation	Nominal*
Proposed Changes to DSD National Statistics Benefit Publications	Internet based	Estimated internal costs-£1115
Consultations On the proposed withdrawal of national statistic Publications – Income related benefits estimates of take up Series northern Ireland	Internet based	Estimated internal costs-£2388

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Family resource Survey and households below average income user consultation survey	Internet based	Estimated internal costs-£3273
Housing statistics and housing bulletin user consultation survey	Internet based	Estimated internal costs-£4244
Child Maintenance Bill EQIA	Post	£63.41
Child Maintenance Green Paper "Strengthening Families", promoting Parental responsibility: the future of Child Maintenance	Email but 72 sent by post	£19.56
Disability Living Allowance Reform	Mostly by email but 32 by post Available online	£18.88
Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the Mesothelioma Bill	By post and available online	£246.22
Personal Independence Payment: Assessment thresholds and consultation	Mainly by email but 56 copies issued by post Available online	£61.60
The Child Support Maintenance Calculation Regulations 2013	Email	Nil
The Child Support Management of Payments and Arrears	email	nil

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
DLA Reform and Personal Independence Payment: completing the detailed design	Mainly by email but 60 issued by post Available online	£55.20
Supporting Separated Families: Securing Children's Futures	Email	nil
A State Pension for the 21st Century	Email with 60 hard copies	£44.00
Equality Impact Assessment "Proposals for a Pensions Bill"	Email with 60 hard copies	£55.00
The Single Tier Pension: a simple foundation for saving.	Email with 60 hard copies	£45.60
Draft Pensions Bill.	Email with 60 hard copies	£60.00
Social Fund: A New Approach	Email and post	£135.00
Housing Benefit Supporting People into Work – the next stage of HB Reform	Email and post	£135.00
Social Fund Debt, Credit and Low income households.	E mail and post	£135.00
Equality Impact Assessment on the Welfare Reform Bill (NI) 2012.	E mail and post	Direct mail to 65 organisations & available electronically on Departmental website. Estimated cost of postage.£80.60
Bereavement Benefit for the 21st Century	Email and post	DWP consultation Paper issued electronically to 44 consultees in Northern Ireland
Support for Mortgage Interest – Call for Evidence		nil

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Preparing for automatic enrolment Regulatory differences between occupational and workplace personal pensions.		nil
Automatic enrolment earnings thresholds review and revision 20/12-13.		nil
Meeting future workplace pension challenges improving transfers and dealing with small pension pots.		nil
Automatic enrolment earnings thresholds review and revision 2013/2014.		nil
Supporting automatic enrolment. A call for evidence on the impact of the annual contribution limit and the restrictions on transfers on the National Employment Savings Trust.		nil
Welfare Reform 21st Century Welfare		nil
Universal credit- Welfare that Works		nil

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Derry City Center Public Realm	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Strabane Limavady Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Limavady Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Clondermot	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Omagh Town Centre Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Ballymena Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Armagh City Centre Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Dungannon Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Antrim Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Downpatrick Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Larne Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Lisburn Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Carrickfergus Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Craigavon Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available

Name of consultation	Type of consultation i.e. face to face, electronic etc	Cost of Consultation
Newtownards Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Bangor Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Ballyclare & Glengormley Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Newry Town Centre Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Magherafelt Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Coleraine Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
Enniskillen Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available
South-East Coast Masterplan	Public Consultation	Commitment included in the consultancy assignment therefore no separate cost available

St Patrick's Day Events

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development which St Patrick's Day events his Department funds; and how much funding is provided in each case.

(AQW 21155/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Social Development did not fund any St Patrick's Day events in 2013

Volunteering Infrastructure

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant of AQW 20256/11-15, which volunteering organisations he has met over the last six months; and whether any of these meetings dealt with matters associated with the volunteering infrastructure.

(AQW 21160/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In my capacity as Minister with lead responsibility for volunteering I have attended and spoken at numerous events where I would have had contact with representatives from voluntary and volunteering organisations.

I have not met with any volunteering organisations over the last six months regarding volunteering infrastructure although my officials have had regular contact with volunteering organisations on volunteering matters including volunteering infrastructure.

Disability Living Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Carers Allowance

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development how many people receive (i) Disability Living Allowance; (ii) Employment Support Allowance; and (iii) Carers Allowance.

(AQW 21190/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below shows the number of recipients of each benefit as at November 2012.

Benefit	Recipients
Disability Living Allowance	192,280
Employment Support Allowance	53,740
Carers Allowance	38,230

Note: 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.

Department Funding

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding his Department has provided to (i) advice services; and (ii) the independent advice sector, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 21192/11-15)

Mr McCausland: All advice services funded by my Department are provided by the independent advice sector. This funding provides advice services and support at regional and frontline level on a range of issues.

In addition the Social Security Agency's Benefit Uptake Programme includes a range of uptake activities delivered through competitive tendering.

Details of funding over the last five years are in the table below.

Year	Funding for Advice Services	Funding to the Independent Advice Sector
2008/09	£4,882,447	£4,882,447
2009/10	£4,931,940	£4,931,940
2010/11	£4,747,030	£4,747,030
2011/12	£4,949,828	£4,949,828
2012/13	£4,906,574	£4,906,574
Total	£24,417,819	£24,417,819

Disability Living Allowance Claimants

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development, should the Welfare Reform Bill be enacted, how many Disability Living Allowance claimants, who are on a fixed term benefit, will have to apply for personal independent payment in June 2013.

(AQW 21195/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Personal Independence Payment is a new benefit which will replace Disability Living Allowance for working age claimants (16 – 64). Subject to the Welfare Reform Bill successfully completing its passage through the Assembly, it is now anticipated that Personal Independence Payment will be introduced in Northern Ireland in autumn 2013

There are 14,000 existing Working Age Disability Living Allowance claimants on fixed term awards and the Social Security Agency will be contacting those claimants in good time, some 20 weeks in advance of their Disability Living Allowance award ending to advise when they will need to apply for Personal Independence Payment and how to make a claim.

Under Occupancy Penalty Exemptions

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development how much it would cost to exempt from the under occupancy penalty (i) people with disabilities, where the house has been adapted to suit the individual's needs; (ii) families and individuals with disabilities who require additional rooms; (iii) people with caring responsibilities; (iv) foster carers; (v) people for whom the Department cannot provide suitable alternative and smaller accommodation; (vi) parents with caring responsibilities who are not the primary carers of their children; (vii) grandparents; (viii) parents with children who are attending university; and (ix) parents with children in the armed forces.

(AQW 21255/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Due to the wide variation of personal circumstances for claimants in receipt of Housing Benefit it is not possible to provide costs for the aforementioned specific groups. Taking the examples of grandparents and parents with children in the armed forces, for instance, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive would not be able to readily extrapolate statistics for those categories from their existing IT systems. Whilst the IT systems are designed to extrapolate data for high-level statistics, there are limitations to its use. In the absence of such detailed statistics, it is not possible to apply costs to the specific categories which you have identified.

Whilst I have not yet had time to fully consider the detail of Iain Duncan Smith's recent proposals in respect of exemptions and how they might impact in Northern Ireland, I am conscious that because of the potential difficulties here the additional resources for Discretionary Housing Payments previously announced will be a major factor in ensuring that the provisions can be implemented here. In my ongoing discussions on Welfare Reform with Lord Freud amongst others, I will be seeking to ensure that there are sufficient Discretionary Housing Payments available to assist those households who may require financial assistance to meet the shortfall in their rents.

Under Occupancy Penalty

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development for an estimate of the cost of administering the under-occupancy penalty.

(AQW 21257/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The costs of administering the Housing Benefit size criteria rules have not yet been estimated.

Universal Credit System

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether the expected Universal Credit system will allow payment to be made to claimants during the reconsideration stage, should they lose an element of their benefit.

(AQW 21260/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There is provision in the Northern Ireland Welfare Reform Bill to introduce changes to the appeals process so that claimants must seek a revision of a disputed decision before making an appeal to a tribunal.

The aim of a mandatory reconsideration is to ensure that the decision on a claimant's benefit is correct and to speed up decision making for the claimant so that the Department can revisit a case and, where necessary, correct the decision rather than have to wait for it to go to a tribunal.

Under existing provisions, if a claimant is refused benefit and requests a revision of that decision, benefit is not paid pending the consideration of that request. This will be carried forward into Universal Credit.

As the Universal Credit award will comprise a number of elements, those elements which are not subject to reconsideration will be paid. This will allow, for example, for the protection of a claimant's housing costs while the decision on their entitlement to the limited capability for work element is being reconsidered.

Another decision maker will review the original decision, requesting extra information or evidence as required, and where appropriate, correct the decision without the need for an appeal. Where a decision is revised following reconsideration, payment will be made in accordance with the revised decision.

Employment Support Allowance Claimants

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether, under the welfare reform changes, Employment Support Allowance claimants, who have their claim disallowed, will be entitled to have their benefit paid to them during the reconsideration stage.

(AQW 21261/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Under new proposed welfare reform changes, Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants, who have their claim disallowed, will not have an entitlement to ESA during the reconsideration stage. This does not represent a change from existing arrangements for those claimants who choose to challenge a decision to disallow ESA by opting to have a reconsideration undertaken of the original decision. However, where the decision is subject to a formal appeal, a claimant can seek a pending-appeal award of ESA from the date the appeal is lodged plus arrears for the "gap" period (ie the period between date of the claim being disallowed and the date of lodgement of appeal).

The proposed welfare reform changes will also introduce a new rule that will require mandatory reconsideration of the benefit decision before a case goes to formal appeal. This change is intended to help reduce the number of people who have to go to appeal by introducing a formal review stage allowing them to submit additional information and having the case reviewed by someone not involved in the original decision. The 'mandatory reconsideration before appeals' rule is due to be introduced for ESA in October 2013.

Employment Support Allowance

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in Derry are currently claiming Employment Support Allowance.

(AQW 21263/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The most recent published figures show that at November 2012, in the Local Government District of Londonderry, there were a total of 4,440 people claiming Employment and Support Allowance.

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.

Housing Waiting List in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are on the housing waiting list in North Down, broken down by electoral ward.

(AQW 21287/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate data by Electoral Ward. However, the Housing Executive has provided details of the waiting list, including the numbers in Housing Stress, in its Bangor District Office for the last five financial years and the current year (at 1 March 2013) as set out in the table below: -

Position at:-	Total Applicants	Applicants in Housing Stress (30 points or more)
31 March 2008	1,913	1,011
31 March 2009	1,930	1,006
31 March 2010	1,885	958
31 March 2011	1,323	748
31 March 2012	2,197	1,081
1 March 2013	2,406	1,194

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.

One and Two Bedroom Houses

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the need for one and two bedroom houses in each Housing District area of Upper Bann; and what plans he has to meet these needs.

(AQW 21292/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the Upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency consists of their District Office areas of Lurgan, Portadown and part of Banbridge.

Waiting list demand is reported by household type rather than bedrooms required. Typically one and two bedroom houses are allocated to single persons, small adult households and lone parents/small families (subject to the ages and sexes of the children). Elderly applicants can also be allocated one or two bed properties but they would not be adversely impacted by under occupation under Welfare Reform.

The household composition of first preference housing applicants on the social housing waiting list across the three District Office areas is detailed in the table below.

TABLE 1 – HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION OF HOUSING APPLICANTS

District Office Area		Single Person	Small Adult	Small Family	Elderly
Lurgan	Total Applicants	487	90	340	171
	Housing Stress	196	38	136	99
	Allocations	82	9	72	25
Portadown	Total Applicants	346	66	209	120
	Housing Stress	99	9	50	48
	Allocations	74	22	60	29

District Office Area		Single Person	Small Adult	Small Family	Elderly
Banbridge	Total Applicants	265	50	134	108
	Housing Stress	113	19	53	69
	Allocations	80	7	40	21

Notes: Waiting list figures as at December 2012

Allocation figures December 2011 to December 2012

The Housing Executive currently owns a total of 1,075 one bed and 2,360 two bed dwellings across all three District Office areas. The majority of waiting list demand is met through social housing allocations (521 for the period December 2011 to December 2012). With Welfare Reform, I recognised the potential for under occupation within current housing stock and the need for additional one bed units. I instructed the Housing Executive, who manage the Social Housing Development Programme, to ensure that Housing Associations bring forward additional single units over the next three years. The current Social Housing Development Programme for the three District Office areas currently comprises seven schemes totalling 67 units. The housing mix for these schemes allows for three one bed and 34 two bed units. However, these numbers may be subject to change as designs evolve.

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.

Owner Occupiers Grants

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what grants are available through his Department for owner occupiers who wish to improve insulation, treat damp or make general home improvements. **(AQW 21317/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the current grants/schemes available to owner occupiers are as follows:

- Renovation Grants/Home Repairs Assistance Grants
 - only available in exceptional circumstances to improve homes where there is imminent and significant risk to the health and safety of the occupants
- Warm Homes Scheme
 - To provide loft and cavity wall insulation, and to provide new heating where none exists or to replace Economy 7 heating with oil or gas
- Boiler Replacement Scheme
 - To replace old, inefficient boilers which are more than 15 years old in owner occupied homes

Employment Support Allowance

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of phone calls to the Employment Support Allowance ongoing-claims phone number, in each of the last three years; and what steps have been taken to ensure that there are sufficient staff to deal with the volume of calls. **(AQW 21318/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Employment and Support Allowance Centre operates two telephone lines for claimants and their representatives; a 0800 number for making a claim and a 0845 number that handles calls about an existing claim when someone wants to report a change of circumstances or has a general enquiry about a claim.

The tables below detail the number of phone calls received by the Employment and Support Allowance Centre in each of the last three years, along with the response rates:

0800 CLAIM LINE

Year	Calls received	Response rate
2010/11	53,642	92.8%
2011/12	61,017	92.9%
April 2012 – February 2013	49,882	91.8%

0845 ENQUIRY LINE

Year	Calls received	Response rate
2010/11	235,783	92.6%
2011/12	249,392	91.3%
April 2012 – February 2013	233,631	90.7%

The Social Security Agency's Integrated Complementing System is used to determine appropriate staffing levels for the Employment and Support Allowance telephone lines. The Integrated Complementing System determines the appropriate staff resource for each of the Social Security Agency's benefit activities which is an accepted, HM Treasury approved, methodology. While the Employment and Support Allowance centre operates within this model the staffing levels allocated are kept under constant review and when demand to answer telephone calls fluctuate the number of call handlers can be increased using trained staff from other areas across the Centre.

Discretionary Housing Payment Budget

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the discretionary housing payment budget for each of the last three years; and the projected budget for the next three years.

(AQW 21353/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Discretionary Housing Budget is detailed in the table below.

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
DHP Budget (m)	£1.142	£1.713	£3.426	£6.944	£5.939	£4.431	£4.431

Landlord Registration

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development (i) when Landlord Registration is due to commence; (ii) whether a decision has been taken on who will be the scheme registrar; and (iii) what stakeholder engagement his Department has had in relation to the running of this scheme.

(AQW 21516/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I informed the Assembly on 15 January 2013 that it was intended that a landlord registration system would be ready by the summer. Officials are still working to this date. As to the design of the system and the appointment of a Registrar no final decision has been taken.

Early in the development of the Landlord Registration Regulations, the Department established a stakeholder forum representative of key stakeholder bodies in the private rented sector. This forum assisted the Department in the drafting of the Regulations.

Welfare Reform: Underoccupancy Penalty

Ms Brown asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the level of protection that tenants with disabilities can expect following the introduction of the under occupancy penalty.

(AQO 3755/11-15)

Mr McCausland: While I am supportive of the need for reform of the benefit system where it seeks to support people back into work and offer help to those who are genuinely in need of assistance, I am also very aware of the concerns people have about the Welfare Reform proposals and the need to protect the vulnerable in our society.

Generally, there will be no exceptions to the application of the size criteria rules for tenants with a disability, although there will be certain cases (such as those in supported housing) where the restrictions will not apply. The size criteria will allow a disabled claimant or partner who needs a non-resident overnight carer an extra room. If there is another reason that an extra room is necessary, help may be available through the Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme.

Many houses in Northern Ireland will already be adapted to the needs of disabled occupants so it will not always be practical or cost effective for many disabled people to move to alternative accommodation. In such cases it may be more appropriate to use Discretionary Housing Payments to make up the shortfall in their rent.

Financial support to tenants by way of Discretionary Housing Payments could, for example, act as a safety net for claimants who need to find alternative accommodation, or longer term support for claimants who are less able to move to new accommodation. They offer flexibility and are based on local decisions which can be targeted as needed. To this end, I have already increased the budget allocated to the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme over the next number of years.

This includes additional funding specifically targeted at those living in accommodation that has been significantly adapted for their needs (including new builds).

Dereliction in Dungiven

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Social Development what steps he is taking to deal with dereliction in Dungiven.

(AQO 3756/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Dungiven has a population of approximately 3,000 and is therefore defined as rural by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. As Dungiven is not defined as an urban settlement, DSD does not have a role in its regeneration as we focus solely on regeneration of urban areas. Responsibility for the regeneration of rural areas lies with the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Rural Housing: South Armagh

Ms Fearon asked the Minister for Social Development what his Department is doing to deal with the unfitness of rural properties in the South Armagh area.

(AQO 3757/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive operates a specific Rural Plan and the latest plan covering the period 2013 – 2015 will be launched in May 2013. The Rural Action Plan is designed to ensure that rural areas get their “fair share” of available resources.

The 2011 House Condition Survey estimated that there were some 35,200 dwellings that were statutorily unfit in Northern Ireland. This represents a headline rate of 4.6 per cent.

Unfitness figures by District Councils cannot be provided until later this year as work is underway to produce modelled estimates.

However, I would say to the Member that if she has a particular issue in her own constituency to approach me with details and I can investigate.

Double Glazing Scheme

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the implementation of the Programme for Government commitment to install double glazing in all Housing Executive homes by 2015, particularly in relation to the Newtownabbey 1 district area.

(AQO 3758/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive plans to complete the programme of installing double glazing in all its stock by 2015 in line with the Programme for Government target. They intend to achieve the target of 8,600 dwellings to have double glazing installed this year. This target includes 1134 dwellings in Newtownabbey which had double glazing installed as follows: -

- 250 dwellings in Ballyduff
- 58 dwellings in Bawnmore
- 38 dwellings in Longlands
- 621 dwellings in Rathcoole
- 165 dwellings in Ballyclare
- 2 individual dwellings in Glengormley

There are a further 9,000 dwellings programmed for 2013/14 and the remaining 4,000 approximately are programmed to be completed in 2014/15. This will include 387 dwellings in its Newtownabbey District Office areas as follows: -

- 81 dwellings in Rathcoole
- 55 dwellings in Monkstown
- 16 dwellings in Mossley
- 234 dwellings in New Mossley
- 1 dwelling in Queens Park

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