

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 21 June 2013

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

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Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 21 June 2013

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Active Ageing Strategy

Mr McCarthy asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Active Ageing Strategy. (AQO 3829/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The new draft Active Ageing Strategy has been extensively reworked following feedback from the Ageing Strategy Advisory Group, chaired by Claire Keatinge, the Commissioner for Older People.

The draft Active Ageing Strategy highlights the key issues facing older people and will be implemented through the Delivering Social Change framework with a focus on what departments can do to add to existing work to make a strategic change to services or programmes in relation to older people.

The specific scope of the Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes, their associated targets and reporting mechanisms are currently the focus of revised discussions with departments. We are keen that these targets should be robust and ambitious and have asked officials to revisit this in a new round of meetings with relevant departments prior to full public consultation.

Delivery of Goods, Facilities and Services: Age Discrimination

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the consultation on age discrimination in the delivery of goods, facilities and services will be launched. (AQW 23165/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering the scope of the legislation and the implications of the various options available to us for taking this forward.

When we are satisfied that a full suite of policy proposals has been developed to achieve the intended outcome, we will launch the consultation.

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 22807/11-15, to outline the relevant guidance referred to in the answer. (AQW 23801/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The projections were calculated in line with departmental guidance relevant to the internal business case process.

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre: Education, Research, Teaching and Learning Work

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 22921/11-15, to outline the preliminary overview of the Education, Research, Teaching and Learning work strand of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre.

(AQW 23804/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Education, Research, Teaching and Learning work strand of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre will support conflict resolution, peace building studies and research both here and internationally.

It will potentially provide a venue for local conferences, workshops and summer schools and explore issues relating to conflict, racism and wider citizenship work. It will build on the existing expertise of Queen's University, the University of Ulster and other education providers.

Extensive stakeholder engagement will take place on the development of the functions and services of this important work strand. No final decisions have been taken on the nature of the work.

Internet Safety for Children

Mrs Overend asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the gapping and mapping exercise in relation to internet safety for children.

(AQW 23916/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Given growing concern over the online dangers children face, OFMDFM in collaboration with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety initiated an exercise earlier this year to take stock of actions being undertaken or planned by relevant Executive Departments to address this issue.

To facilitate this exercise, key departments were asked to report on current actions under the headings of policy and strategy, awareness, best practice, regulation, research and monitoring and 'other' gaps in terms of existing actions or measures and any further actions which could be taken forward to promote better internet safety for children and young people.

The opportunities for cross-departmental action in response to the findings are currently under consideration.

M1 Link

Mr Craig asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the success of the recent Balmoral Show at its new venue, can they confirm that adequate funds will be provided to facilitate the provision of the M1 link and fit for purpose infrastructure between the site and the Knockmore rail halt.

(AQO 4234/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The regeneration of the Maze/Long Kesh site is one of the Executive's commitments identified under the Programme for Government for 2011-15. Under that commitment, a key objective for the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation is delivery of the necessary infrastructure both internally and externally to facilitate the development of the site.

OFMDFM allocated £21m in the current CSR period to prepare the site and provide the essential utilities, including development of necessary roads infrastructure. Therefore, funding for the infrastructure you have outlined could be made available from within the current allocation, if required.

The processes and timescales involved in developing this type of infrastructure would indicate that we may require expenditure in the next budget period and, if so, we would bid to secure all necessary funds to ensure the completion the work.

We are committed to working with the MLK Development Corporation, Roads Service and the Minister for Regional Development to seek the completion of the necessary road infrastructure as quickly as possible.

St Patricks Barracks, Ballymena

Mr Frew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for what short-term purpose will the land at St Patricks Barracks, Ballymena be used, until a master plan for the site is agreed.

(AQO 4242/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our officials have met with and continue to liaise with Ballymena Borough Council to consider if there is potential for short-term uses for the land at St Patricks Barracks in Ballymena. Discussions have also been held with other public sector organisations on the potential use of land or buildings as an interim measure but no firm proposals have been received and the lack of on-site utilities and services limits the uses which would be feasible.

Under the Hillsborough Agreement, the St Patricks site was gifted to the Executive to raise funds from the eventual disposal of the site and not for the purposes of regeneration by OFMDFM.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

DARD Staff

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of people; and (ii) the community background, of those recruited to her Department, in each of the last five calendar years.

(AQW 23784/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): Although the NICS Departments are largely autonomous business units covering a wide range of functions and responsibilities, their Human Resource policies and practices including recruitment are common and corporate. In addition, for the purposes of the fair employment legislation, the NICS is regarded as one employer and the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) therefore carries out equality monitoring on behalf of all NICS Departments and Agencies.

The NICS does not hold the religious background of staff, however as required by fair employment legislation, information is gathered on the perceived community background of staff and applicants for NICS posts. This enables DFP to provide the statutory annual monitoring returns to the Equality Commission for NI and to carry out regular three-yearly reviews of workforce composition and employment policies and practices.

The information requested is set out below:

| | Protestant | Roman Catholic | Not Determined | Total |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 2012 | 43 | 51 | 13 | 107 |
| 2011 | 30 | 39 | 13 | 82 |
| 2010 | 33 | 38 | 6 | 77 |
| 2009 | 41 | 32 | 6 | 79 |
| 2008 | 88 | 77 | 12 | 177 |

Note

Based on joiners records on HRMS/HRConnect.

Includes both permanent and temporary appointees.

Excludes existing NICS employees successful in external recruitment competitions.

Single Farm Payment: Buffer Zone Tree Compounds/Areas

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to clarify the position of farmers in relation to Single Farm Payment for buffer zone tree compounds/areas created through the building of major roads and such similar constructions.

(AQW 23928/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Land will only be eligible for Single Farm Payment (SFP) following the completion of building or construction work if it remains in agricultural use and meets Land Eligibility requirements. These are set out in the 2013 guidance booklet on the DARD website at: http://www.dardni.gov.uk/guide_to_land_eligibility_updated_2013_final.pdf

In general, woodland is not eligible for Single Farm Payment (SFP).

There are however, some exceptions to the eligibility of trees and woodland for SFP. These include:

- Grazed woodland with more than 50 trees per hectare may be considered eligible if there has been a history of acceptable grazing practice and there continues to be sufficient forage and evidence of acceptable grazing. The grazing must not be damage the ecological value of the site. If these areas have been fenced off and are not accessible to and grazed by animals, then they are not eligible for SFP
- Land that was eligible and on which SFP was paid in respect of 2008 scheme year and is subsequently (after 31 December 2008) converted to forestry under an EU scheme or has been planted with trees under an EU Agri-environment scheme, remains eligible for the duration of the forestry or EU Agri-environment scheme.

If there are single trees, a line or a small clump of trees with grazing available right up to the trees, these can be considered eligible.

Where eligible trees or woodland have been temporarily removed from agricultural use to accommodate land vested for the building of roads or other similar construction, it may be possible to consider this under the force majeure or exceptional circumstances provisions in relation to a claim for SFP.

Farmers who find themselves in this position have to complete the relevant application form within 10 days of being in a position to do so and provide evidence to support this application. These are considered on a case by case basis. Further information is available in the Guide on how to complete the 2013 Single Application on the DARD website at http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-grants-and-funding/publications_grants_and_funding-single_farm_payment_2013.htm

Rural Villages in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the villages in North Down that are classified as rural villages.

(AQW 23992/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The villages in North Down that are classified as rural, for Rural Development funding purposes are

Location

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Craigantlet | ■ Orlock |
| ■ Crawfordsburn | ■ Seahill |
| ■ Groomsport | ■ Six Road Ends/Ballygrainey |
| ■ Helen's Bay | |

Rural Regeneration Spending

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the villages in County Down that have benefited from rural regeneration spending; and the total provided to each village.

(AQW 23994/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am presuming your question relates to rural development spending and in particular the Village Renewal and Development Measure of Axis 3 of the current Rural Development Programme. The villages in County Down that have benefited from rural development spending, so far, and the total provided to each village is listed in the attached Annex.

Single Farm Payment Applications

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, of the farms inspected where Single Farm Payment applications had been submitted, how many payments were made five months or more after the initial application was made, in each of the last four calendar years.

(AQW 24006/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In the past four years the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has made all Single Farm Payments (SFP) more than five months after 15 May, the annual deadline for the submission of applications without penalty. This is because the European Council legislation which governs the administration of the SFP Scheme permits Paying Agencies to commence full payments on or after 1 December each year.

European Fisheries Fund

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the budget available from the European Fisheries Fund for each measure for each year between 2009 and 2015; (ii) the amount spent on each measure within each year to date; (iii) the number of applications for each measure which were (a) successful; and (b) unsuccessful for each year to date.

(AQW 24030/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The EFF budget available is set out in Table 1, the yearly spend in Table 2 and number of successful and unsuccessful applications in Table 3 below.

In addition to the yearly measure level spend detailed in Table 2, £161,336 of Axis 5 Technical Assistance has been spent by the Department to assist with the delivery of the Programme.

TABLE 1: TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION APPROVED IN THE MEASURE LEVEL BUSINESS CASES FOR THE PERIOD 2009 TO 2015

| | Budget Available 2009 -2015 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity | £2,500,000 |
| Small-scale coastal fishing | £600,000 |
| Productive investments in aquaculture | £1,600,000 |
| Investments in processing and marketing | £2,400,000 |
| Collective actions | £2,416,000 |
| Protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora | £1,500,000 |
| Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters | £3,500,000 |

TABLE 2: AMOUNT SPENT ON EACH EFF MEASURE.

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 (to 31 May) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity | £0 | £0 | £67,558 | £347,904 | £57,364 |
| Small-scale coastal fishing | £0 | £0 | £0 | £10,374 | £5,532 |
| Productive investments in aquaculture | £0 | £0 | £59,210 | £261,875 | £28,887 |
| Investments in processing and marketing | £0 | £120,800 | £282,946 | £599,853 | £59,459 |
| Collective actions | £0 | £205,980 | £325,814 | £623,691 | £74,714 |
| Protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora | £0 | £259,210 | £0 | £287,400 | £269,730 |
| Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters | £0 | £700,192 | £164,124 | £1,916,063 | £225,233 |

TABLE 3: THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR EACH MEASURE WHICH WERE (A) SUCCESSFUL; AND (B) UNSUCCESSFUL

| | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 (to 31 May) | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) | (a) | (b) |
| Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 29 | 9 | 31 | 4 | 23 | 1 |
| Small-scale coastal fishing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Productive investments in aquaculture | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Investments in processing and marketing | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Collective actions | 7 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Fishing, Processing and Aquaculture Sectors

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what advice, support and assistance her Department provides to the fishing, processing and aquaculture sectors, apart from the grant support element of the European Fisheries Fund.

(AQW 24031/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department's Sea Fisheries Inspectorate offers advice, support and guidance through fishery officers based at the 3 main fishing ports of Ardglass, Portavogie and Kilkeel and the north coast. Technical advice and assistance is also frequently provided to the industry by Headquarters based inspectorate and policy staff on issues such as compliance with European Regulations, fishing vessel licencing, quota and effort management, and making grant applications.

The Aquaculture and Fish Health inspectorate also provide technical support to fish farmers and are available to facilitate trade in aquaculture products. Again, advice and guidance to the aquaculture sector on implementation of the EU aquatic animal health regime including assistance with regard to import and export requirements documentation is readily available.

The Department also funds the Fisheries and Aquatics Ecosystems Division of Agri-food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). AFBI carries out a comprehensive range of research and surveys of fish stocks and marine ecosystems around our coast that is used by fisheries managers and stakeholders manage and develop sustainable fisheries. Examples of AFBI's recent work includes camera surveys of the Irish sea Nephrops stocks and acoustic surveys of Irish Sea herring stocks that have been vital for robust stock assessments and increasing and maintaining the Total Allowable Catch available to our fishermen.

My Department also co – funds, along with the Sea Fish Industry Authority, a dedicated local facilitator who works on behalf of sea fishing industry to identify and develop beneficial projects and opportunities.

European Fisheries Fund

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when each measure within the European Fisheries Fund programme (i) had its measure-level business case approved; and (ii) opened for applications.

(AQW 24032/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Please find attached at Appendix 1 a table detailing the dates of approval of the business cases for each measure of the European Fisheries Fund and when each opened for applications.

APPENDIX 1

| Measure | Date measure level business case approved | Date opened |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity | 24 August 2010 | 1 September 2010 |
| Small-scale coastal fishing | 21 February 2011 | 23 February 2011 |
| Productive investments in aquaculture | 27 July 2009 | 3 August 2009 |
| Investments in processing and marketing | 24 July 2009 | 3 August 2009 |
| Collective Actions | 28 July 2009 | 3 August 2009 |
| Protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora | 26 January 2010* | 8 April 2010 |
| Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters | 7 August 2009 | 24 August 2009 |

*No measure level business case was required as the only identified need for support under this measure was the Lough Neagh Eel Management Plan. Matched National funding is provided by DCAL, which secured budget approval on 26 January 2010.

Fisheries Grants Unit Staff

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of staff employed within the Fisheries Grants Unit in each of the last four years.

(AQW 24033/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Please find attached at Appendix 1 a summary of the staff employed within Fisheries Grants Unit in each of the last four years

APPENDIX 1

| Grade | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Grade 7* | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| Deputy Principal | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Staff Officer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Executive Officer 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Executive Officer 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Administrative Officer | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

* Proportion of Grade 7 time allocated to Fisheries Grants Unit

Independent Review Panels

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 23334/11-15, to list the 63 recommendations of The Independent Review Panel accepted by her Department; and the actions taken to implement these recommendations.

(AQW 24055/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The 63 accepted or accepted in principle recommendations from the NI Agri-Food Better Regulation and Simplification Review which my Department had input to are listed on the attached table (placed in library) together with the actions taken to implement them.

Strategic Projects: Capital Project Funding

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many (i) cricket; and (ii) GAA clubs have applied for funding for Capital Projects under the recent Strategic Projects offer.

(AQW 24058/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under the recent competitive call for strategic projects there were no applications from cricket clubs and two applications for GAA clubs. Of the two GAA clubs one was successful in securing an offer of funding.

Brucellosis: Pre-Movement Tests

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 22602/11-15, how many animal movements were there in the twelve months ending 28 February 2013.

(AQW 24076/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: There have been 1,548,048 individual cattle movements in the north of Ireland, in the year up to 28 February 2013.

Regulation of USPCA

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development who regulates the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

(AQW 24246/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the USPCA) is a registered charity and as such is regulated by the Charity Commission. Historically, the USPCA has had no statutory role or enforcement powers under animal welfare legislation; and the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 does not change that. The provisions to protect animal welfare in the Welfare of Animals Act apply equally to the USPCA as they apply to any individual, organisation or charity.

Land Owned by the Forest Service

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the land owned by the Forest Service in the greater Belfast area; and to provide a map detailing this.

(AQW 24253/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Forest Service agency of my Department, manages approximately

93ha of land in the Greater Belfast area, at Belvoir Park Forest and Hydebank Wood. Approximately 34ha of this land is owned and the remaining 59 ha is leased from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. A map detailing the total area is attached (placed in library).

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Civil Case

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the Smith versus Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals civil case in Armagh court on 21 May 2013, what measures will she employ to monitor and regulate charities who work with animals and whether this is best addressed through new or amended legislation.

(AQW 24261/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The welfare of animals here is protected by the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). The 2011 Act is enforced by my Department in respect of farmed animals; Councils in respect of non-farmed animals; and the PSNI in respect of animal fighting and cases where other criminal activity is involved. It is an offence under the 2011 Act to allow an animal to suffer unnecessarily. Under the 2011 Act, Inspectors and PSNI Officers have powers to investigate such cases and prosecute offenders as necessary. These provisions apply to all protected animals including those held in animal sanctuaries run by charities and others.

As well as this, the 2011 Act provides powers for my Department to make subordinate legislation to regulate any activity involving animals in order to protect their welfare. Therefore, if it is deemed necessary, Regulations can be made specifically to protect the welfare of animals held in sanctuaries and charities.

Officials from my Department are reviewing Regulations regarding the welfare of animals in petshops, animal boarding establishments and riding establishments, the inspection of which currently falls to my Department. These Regulations were made under the Welfare of Animals Act 1972 and now need to be remade under the 2011 Act. I have asked my officials to take the opportunity to consider whether we need to legislate for other establishments such as open farms, pet grooming businesses, and animal charities, or sanctuaries. Any proposals will be subject to a full public consultation exercise.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Ulster Scots Newspaper

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what other publications her Department has produced since the inception of the Ulster Scots newspaper.

(AQW 20488/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): My Department has produced two Ulster-Scots related publications since the inception of the Ulster-Scots newspaper, as follows:

- (i) The draft Strategy for Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture in July 2012; and
- (ii) The proposed Development and Research Strategy and Associated Grant Scheme for The Ulster-Scots Academy in October 2012.

In addition to the two above strategies, the Ulster-Scots Agency provide a monthly electronic Newsletter to those who have subscribed to the service via the Agency website.

The Agency also produced an annual magazine – ‘Oot an About’, with editions in December 2008, December 2009 and June 2011. This magazine is no longer produced.

Third and Fourth Generation Synthetic Sports Pitches

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of third and fourth generation synthetic sports pitches in each council area.

(AQW 21288/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Neither my Department nor Sport NI retains up to date information on the number of third and fourth generation synthetic pitches in each council area. I have, however, asked Sport NI to carry out an audit of all sports facilities across the north of Ireland, including synthetic pitches. When completed, this information will be made available on Sport NI's website.

Third and Fourth Generation Synthetic Sports Pitches

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of new third and fourth generation synthetic sports pitches that are planned for each council area over the next three years.

(AQW 21289/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for the provision of local sports facilities rests, in the first instance, with district councils. Sport NI, which is an arms length body of my Department, advises, however, that it will be providing assistance through its Sport Matters Community Capital Programme towards the development of 3rd generation synthetic pitches in 2013/14. This will be subject to applicants meeting the terms and conditions of Sport NI's Project Management Reports. Pitches in the following council areas are planned:

| District Council | Number of pitches |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ards Borough Council | 1 |
| Armagh City and District Council | 1 |
| Banbridge District Council | 1 |
| Craigavon Borough Council | 2 |
| Dungannon District Council | 2 |
| Larne Borough Council | 1 |

In addition, I have asked Sport NI to carry out an audit of all sports facilities across the north of Ireland. This will include information on existing and planned synthetic pitches which in turn will assist with strategic planning. When completed, this information will be made available on Sport NI's website.

Glenavon Football Club

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a breakdown of all funding and assistance provided by her Department to Glenavon Football Club, in the last five years.

(AQW 21463/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, is the primary funder to sport in the north of Ireland. During the last 5 years, up to 31 March 2013, Sport NI has provided exchequer funding totalling £367,537 to Glenavon Football Club. This is broken down as follows:-

| Year | Amount | Programme |
|---------|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 2009/10 | £32,260 | Soccer Strategy Playing Facilities |
| 2010/11 | £208,598 | Soccer Strategy Playing Facilities |
| 2010/11 | £12,302 | Stadia Safety Urgent Works (Infrastructure) |
| 2011/12 | £94,598 | Soccer Strategy Playing Facilities |
| 2011/12 | £6,760 | Stadia Safety Urgent Works (Infrastructure) |
| 2011/12 | £5,342 | Stadia Safety Urgent Works (Equipment) |
| 2012/13 | £7,677 | Soccer Strategy Playing Facilities |

Translation Services

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much her Department spent on translation services for visiting foreign nationals in each of the last five years.

(AQW 21527/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department spent £2,888 on translation services for visiting foreign nationals in the 2012-13 financial year.

No such costs were incurred in any of the previous four financial years.

National Museums Northern Ireland

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a breakdown of the bonuses paid to the directors at National Museums Northern Ireland, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 21533/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The breakdown of the bonuses paid to National Museums' directors in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

| Calendar Year | Number of Directors employed | Total amount paid in bonuses (£) |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2003 | 3 | 50 |
| 2004 | 5 | 280 |
| 2005 | 5 | 6,215 |
| 2006 | 7 | 12,100 |
| 2007 | 7 | 11,812 |

| Calendar Year | Number of Directors employed | Total amount paid in bonuses (£) |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2008 | 8 | 20,200 |
| 2009 | 8 | 20,550 |
| 2010 | 6 | 1,000 |
| 2011 | 6 | 0 |
| 2012 | 6 | 0 |

Asset Management Unit of the Strategic Investment Board

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 17631/11-15, to detail the nature of the £0.62m in assets that her Department has identified to the Asset Management Unit of the Strategic Investment Board, broken down by year.

(AQW 21584/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The table below provides details of the assets and their valuations provided to the Strategic Investment Board.

I should emphasise that actual disposals, their timing and value may differ from this plan for a number of reasons, including market conditions. At the time of writing, two of the assets have now been disposed of: Ballymacarrett and Andersonstown Libraries.

| DISPOSAL PLAN | 2012/2013 Value | 2013/2014 Value | 2014/2015 Value |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ligoniel Library | £0.090m | | |
| Ballymacarrett Library | £0.075m | | |
| Andersonstown Library | £0.080m | | |
| Ballynahinch Library HQ | £0.150m | | |
| Braniel Library | £0.075m | | |
| Gilnahirk library | £0.040m | | |
| Dunmurry library | £0.050m | | |
| Belvoir library | | £0.020m | |
| Gilford library | | £0.040m | |
| Totals | £0.560m | £0.060m | |

River Samplers and Monitors

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action she is taking to ensure that lay people, such as those in River Trust and angling groups, are trained as samplers and monitors of our rivers.

(AQW 21588/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department of Environment, through the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), is responsible for taking water samples and monitoring the water quality of our rivers under the EU Water Framework Directive.

My Department has no role in sampling and monitoring water quality.

Lough Neagh: Illegal Netting

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the impact of the crackdown on illegal netting in Lough Neagh.

(AQW 21641/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL Fisheries Protection staff continue to carry out intelligence led operations, often in conjunction with other enforcement agencies, to detect, disrupt and deter those involved in illegal fishing activities on Lough Neagh.

Net seizures on Lough Neagh are down on the same period in the previous year, which would indicate that the focussed enforcement activities are having a deterrent effect on those involved in illegal fishing activity.

Lough Neagh: Fish Stocks

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how she plans to collect data on the fish stocks in Lough Neagh.

(AQW 21642/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Lough Neagh is the one of the largest freshwater lakes in Europe and this poses significant challenges in collecting accurate fish stock data.

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) places commitments on DCAL to record data on wild Atlantic salmon and this work is carried out by the Agri-Foods and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). Data is collected from the tributaries of Lough Neagh through electro-fishing surveys, habitat surveys, monitoring of adult runs through fish counters and from angling catch returns. Electro-fishing surveys and habitat surveys also provide the Department with details of other fish species present in Lough Neagh tributaries.

Eels stocks in Lough Neagh are monitored as part of the Neagh Bann Eel Management Plan and details of monitoring arrangements are detailed within it.

DCAL has commissioned AFBI to carry out a review of the status of wild trout stocks in the DCAL area, including Lough Neagh, and the report on this work is currently being drafted.

AFBI is currently undertaking netting surveys of all fish stocks on Lough Neagh and DCAL will have the results in due course.

Lough Neagh: Illegal Netting

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the amount of illegal netting found in Lough Neagh; and the work ongoing to prevent such illegal netting.

(AQW 21643/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: For the period 1 April 2012 to the end of March 2013, 22 nets with a total length of 23,000m were seized in Lough Neagh by DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers. There have been a total of 111 boat patrols on Lough Neagh during that period.

The Department will seize illegal nets from wherever they are detected including boats, commercial premises, quaysides, vehicles etc.

DCAL Fisheries Protection staff continue to carry out intelligence led operations, often in conjunction with other enforcement agencies, to detect, disrupt and deter those involved in illegal fishing activities on Lough Neagh.

Salmon Conservation and Protection

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what studies her Department has made of salmon conservation and protection in other jurisdictions; and what lessons have been learned.

(AQW 21656/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department is committed to the work of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO). NASCO aims to conserve, restore, enhance and manage Atlantic salmon stocks through international co-operation and in exchanging best practice among the participating countries.

My Department reports annually on all salmon conservation measures and activities and the assessments have indicated that we are operating in line with NASCO principles and best practice.

My officials and AFBI scientists are active participants in NASCO meetings and expert panels involving countries within the European Union where wild Atlantic salmon conservation and protection are discussed in detail. They also provide direct support for the EU representatives at the NASCO annual conference.

My Department also works closely with both the Loughs Agency and Inland Fisheries Ireland on salmon conservation and protection issues across Ireland.

SportNI Lottery Funding

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding SportNI has returned to the National Lottery in each of the last three years; and to outline the reasons why this funding was returned.

(AQW 21666/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In the last three years SportNI has not returned any funding to the National Lottery.

Local Football Teams: Assistance or Capital Grants

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total financial assistance or capital grants provided to local football teams below the Premiership division, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 21731/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Over the last five years, Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, provided £6,256,009 funding to local football clubs, who were below the Premiership division at the date of the funding award. A breakdown of the total funding provided during this time is shown in the table below: -

| Financial Year | Exchequer | Lottery | Total Funding |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2008/09 | £976,217 | £1,642,000 | £2,618,217 |
| 2009/10 | £1,250,775 | £245,000 | £1,495,775 |
| 2010/11 | £1,138,541 | - | £1,138,541 |
| 2011/12 | £758,476 | - | £758,476 |
| 2012/13 | £245,000 | - | £245,000 |
| Total Funding | £4,369,009 | £1,887,000 | £6,256,009 |

400th Anniversary of the Granting of the Royal Charter

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to assist towns and cities celebrate the 400th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter.

(AQW 21751/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have approved funding for the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) – Ulster Scots Academy to undertake a partnership project with the Ulster Historical Foundation, to research the impact and contribution of the award of Town Charters in the early part of the 17th Century.

This project will have a particular emphasis on the Ulster-Scots dimension to Charters awarded across the island of Ireland. The research will be used to develop a Charters award touring programme in conjunction with the Ulster Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge to disseminate the findings across the island.

The MAG Academy has also allocated £42,500 to fund the development of a walking trail by Coleraine Borough Council. The project will create a legacy for Coleraine town centre to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the town's Charter.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has delivered a series of lectures on Charter Towns at a number of libraries including Enniskillen, Killyleagh, Bangor and Belfast. A future talk has also been organised for Coleraine. In collaboration with Belfast City Council and the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies, PRONI participated in the Belfast 400 Forum and the Belfast 400 Festival. PRONI has also supported 400th exhibitions in Belfast, Newtownards and Coleraine.

Libraries NI is developing a programme of exhibitions, history workshops and talks in partnership with other organisations. Libraries NI also has significant Heritage collections across the north of Ireland and it will be drawing on these resources to support this activity and promoting relevant materials as part of this programme.

National Museums is offering loan of relevant materials to museums and other appropriate venues across the North in support of relevant programmes.

Líofa Initiative

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the Líofa Initiative, how her Department targeted those from a socially or economically deprived background.

(AQW 21850/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme has been developed and the criteria established to target Líofa applicants who are from socially or economically deprived backgrounds and to support individuals with financial outlays which may otherwise be a barrier to them accessing an Irish Language Gaeltacht course.

Applicants must be signed up to Líofa and details of the Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme were e - mailed to all Líofa participants. The Department also advertised the Scheme widely in the newspapers and has distributed posters and leaflets to schools throughout the north which would include schools in socially and economically deprived areas. In addition, details of the Scheme were circulated to a wide range of Irish Language organisations some of which are located in socially and economically deprived areas.

Performing Arts Events

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure which performing arts events funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, has she attended in the last twelve months.

(AQW 21937/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I receive a large number of invitations to attend performances and other events and meetings related to the arts but due to competing commitments across the spectrum of my Department's responsibilities I am only available to attend a limited number of performing arts events. Not all of these will have received funding from the Arts Council.

During the past twelve months I attended two performing arts events that were funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Performing Arts Events

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many performing arts events departmental officials have attended in the last twelve months.

(AQW 21938/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In the 12 months from April 2012 to March 2013 my Departmental Officials have attended 48 performing arts events.

Professional Arts Sector

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps she is taking to address the lack of a coherent policy framework for the professional arts sector.

(AQW 21939/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The public consultation on the Arts Council's draft Plan For Arts in Northern Ireland 2013-2018 ends on 29th April. This will be brought for my formal approval once the responses to the consultation have been evaluated. In tandem my Department is currently at the initial stages of scoping the development of an Arts & Culture Strategy for the north.

Professional Performing Arts: Creative Industries

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what role the professional performing arts plays in the development of the creative industries.

(AQW 21940/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The performing arts include a diverse range of roles which create employment in the local economy. Whilst the focus is normally onstage, any performance requires a large number of supporting jobs in areas such as set design, costume, lighting and sound.

There are significant interdependencies between the performing arts and other creative industries. Many professionals will learn their 'craft' in theatre and then move into areas such as television, film, music and more broadly into education and community development.

The performing arts therefore help to develop knowledge, skills, training and networks that contribute to the development of the creative industries as a whole.

Capital Overspend

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps have been taken to ensure that the capital overspend, that was highlighted in the Audit Office report, cannot be repeated.

(AQW 21965/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I can confirm that my Department has accepted all of the recommendations made by the NIAO in its report and is taking appropriate action. However, it would be inappropriate to comment further in advance of the Public Accounts Committee's review.

Arts Council Grant Funding: Marching Bands

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much grant funding the Arts Council has awarded to marching bands in each of the last three years.

(AQW 21966/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Over the last three years the Arts Council NI has awarded the following grant funding to Marching Bands:

| Financial Year | Funding Awarded |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2012/13 | £213,491 |
| 2011/12 | £200,074 |
| 2010/11 | £216,712 |

Unanswered Question: AQW20685/11-15

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why AQW 20685/11-15 has not yet been answered.

(AQW 21994/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: AQW 20685/11-15 was answered on 24 April 2013.

Sports Clubs: Adjustments for People with Disabilities

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what assistance is available for sports clubs to make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities.

(AQW 22064/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for making reasonable adjustments in sports clubs, for people with disabilities rests, in the first instance, with the owners/operators of those clubs. Sport NI, however, which is an arms length body of my Department, invests annually in Disability Sports NI's (DSNI) Disability Mainstreaming Policy, through which advice, support and guidance is available to sports clubs, who are working towards becoming more inclusive.

Furthermore, in partnership with DSNI, Sport NI has developed and launched Design and Management Guidelines aimed at ensuring that all new sports facilities and extended/altered facilities in the north are built and managed to optimum levels of good practice in terms of access for people with disabilities. Further information can be accessed at: [www.dsni.co.uk/joanne/DSNI_-_Sport_NI_Design_&_Management_Guidelines_-_2010_Edition\[1\].pdf](http://www.dsni.co.uk/joanne/DSNI_-_Sport_NI_Design_&_Management_Guidelines_-_2010_Edition[1].pdf)

Soccer Teams for People with Disabilities

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what support is available to groups which wish to establish a soccer team for people with disabilities.

(AQW 22065/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for the development of soccer in the north of Ireland, including providing support for the establishment of soccer teams, both for able bodied and disabled people, rests in the first instance with the Irish Football Association (IFA).

I am aware that the IFA has a dedicated Disability Department which aims to ensure that all disabled people have the opportunity to participate in soccer activities and are able to fulfil their potential. Furthermore, over the past 8 years the IFA has implemented an extensive range of programmes in special education, disability football club coaching, leagues, cups and various impairment specific programmes.

Further information on the work of the IFA's Disability Department can be obtained from their website at www.irishfa.com/grassroots/disability-football/

World Police and Fire Games 2013: Volunteers

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when will those who applied to be volunteers at the World Police and Fire Games 2013 be informed of the outcome of their application.

(AQW 22084/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Notification of volunteers commenced on the 24th April 2013 and will continue through to June 2013.

Netting of Salmon off the Coast

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given the concerns about Northern Ireland's breach of international commitments and the EU Habitats Directive, whether she has issued licences this year for the netting of salmon off the coast.

(AQW 22086/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Applications have been received from two commercial coastal salmon netsmen, who, as they did in 2012, provided an undertaking not to fish for salmon during the 2013 season.

In light of the written undertaking not to fish during the 2013 season, my Department has issued licences to the two fishermen.

Licences for Fishing with Nets in Lough Neagh

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many licences for fishing with nets in Lough Neagh her Department has issued in 2013 to date; and for her assessment of the impact of this on the salmon population in the 2013 season.

(AQW 22088/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: There have been 11 Lough Neagh draft net licences issued so far in 2013. A total of 22 draft net licences were issued in 2012.

Salmon can only be legally taken on Lough Neagh with a draft net, but these are mainly used to target other fish species. Any salmon taken must have a carcass tag inserted. The returns submitted by draft net licence holders indicate that a total of 20 salmon were taken on Lough Neagh in 2012.

All draft net licence holders were sent a letter by the Department asking that they voluntarily do not fish for salmon in 2013 and where possible return any salmon caught to the water unharmed.

The small number of salmon reported taken by licensed fishermen on Lough Neagh would not have a significant impact on the overall population of salmon in the Lough and its tributaries.

Legislation is currently being drafted to take salmon off the Lough Neagh draft net licence from the 2014 season.

Salmon Nets

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department has sought to ensure that no salmon nets have been placed around the coast this year.

(AQW 22089/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers continue to carry out surveillance in the areas in which the coastal netsmen operated to ensure that they are complying with their undertakings not to fish and that no other illegal fishing activity is taking place. Patrols are carried out both at sea and along the coastline.

Licences for Salmon Nets

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the negotiations between the holders of licences for salmon nets and her Department on the permanent removal of nets.

(AQW 22090/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Departmental officials have had a series of discussions with the coastal salmon netsmen and this process is on-going.

My Department is currently drafting legislation that will bring about a mandatory cessation of all commercial salmon netting across the DCAL jurisdiction from the 2014 season.

Sectarianism in Sport

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her Department's approach to sectarianism in sport; and whether she plans to launch reviews of sectarianism in boxing and GAA.
(AQW 22120/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have repeatedly stated that I am committed to combating sectarianism in sport. To that end, my Department's strategy for sport, Sport Matters, contains a number of targets and actions that contribute to curbing sectarianism by helping to promote community cohesion through sport. These include targets to improve participation in sport and physical recreation particularly in under-represented groups of people such as those suffering social and economic inequality. Furthermore, Sport Matters endorses the provision of "shared spaces" for sport that promote community integration. This includes the development of facilities that are safe and accessible to all and the promotion of high standards of spectator conduct at major sporting events. I am aware that the governing body of boxing, the Irish Amateur Boxing Association, has launched a review of past claims of sectarianism within the sport.

Gaelscéal: Circulation Figures and Profit/Loss Recorded

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the circulation figures and the profit/loss recorded for Gaelscéal in each year from 2010 to date.
(AQW 22133/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The average weekly sales figures for the newspaper were as follows:

| | |
|------|-------|
| 2010 | 1,469 |
| 2011 | 1,846 |
| 2012 | 1,314 |

The publisher of Gaelscéal, Torann na dTonn Teoranta is a limited company and subject to the relevant company's legislation in the South. In addition to not achieving the contractual sales targets, Torann na dTonn reported to Foras na Gaeilge a small profit €534 in 2010 and losses of €52,128 in 2011 and €72,857 in 2012.

UK City of Culture

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether discussions have been held between UK City of Culture employees and elected representatives in the North West area to ensure that events held under the auspices of the first UK City of Culture year are capable of support from all sections of the community.
(AQW 22148/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Derry City Council has advised that the Culture Company has had regular engagement with a range of political parties. These parties are represented on the Culture Company Board and have the opportunity to consider and comment upon the events in the City of Culture Programme.

There is also ongoing dialogue with MPs and MLAs and relevant Ministers within the Executive who regularly attend and participate in meetings, briefings, events and launches. The Culture Company actively encourages these stakeholders to be engaged with the events in the Programme.

Furthermore, the Culture Company Chair, Martin Bradley, attends the Unity of Purpose group, chaired by Jim Roddy. This group involves local MPs and MLAs and focuses on shared issues in the city. City of Culture is a standing item on the agenda.

Participation in Outdoor Bowls

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps her Department is taking to increase participation in outdoor bowls.

(AQW 22179/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for increasing participation in outdoor bowls rests, in the first instance, with the governing bodies for the sport, the Irish Bowling Association and the Irish Women's Bowling Association. 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 outdoor bowls. To help achieve these targets Sport NI has provided £80,760 in exchequer and lottery funding over the last three years to assist with the development of the sport and increase participation rates.

Financial Assistance to Bowls

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the financial assistance provided to the sport of bowls in each of the last three years.

(AQW 22180/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department with primary responsibility for funding to sport in the north of Ireland, provided total funding of £80,760 to the sport of bowls over the last three years, up to 31 March 2013.

| Financial Year | Amount | Fund |
|----------------|---------|-----------|
| 2010/11 | £25,760 | Exchequer |
| 2011/12 | £55,000 | Lottery |

Contribution to NI Screen

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what contributions her Department has made to NI Screen to help attract inward investment.

(AQW 22181/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL is the sponsor department for NI Screen and funds NI Screen's educational and cultural activity which includes funding the Creative Learning Centres, film festivals, After School Film Clubs and skills development training.

NI Screen's skills development activity invests in creative talent through a number of initiatives which build the industry in the north of Ireland and ensure that indigenous talent acquires the necessary skills and expertise to not only create their own projects but also service the large scale productions which ultimately provide the inward investment opportunities.

DETI provides support for the film industry and inward investment through funding from Invest NI.

Safety at Sports Grounds

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) to detail all designated (a) grounds; and (b) spectator stands; and (ii) whether temporary spectator seating requires designation under safety at sports grounds legislation.

(AQW 22189/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Details of all sports grounds designated by my Department under the Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006 are already publicly available and set out in The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (No.2) Order (NI) 2009. This can be viewed at the following website address:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2009/295/contents/made>.

Neither spectator stands, nor temporary spectator seating, are subject to the direct designation process specified under the 2006 Order.

Projects in Upper Bann

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the (i) arts; and (ii) sports projects and organisations that have been supported by her Department in the Upper Bann constituency, in the last two years.

(AQW 22194/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In the last 2 years, from 1 April 2011, my Department has awarded to the Upper Bann constituency:

- (i) A total of £441,165 to 27 arts projects and organisations through the Arts Council NI; and
- (ii) A total of £742,929 to 10 sports projects and organisations through Sport NI.

Details of these awards are attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

(I) ART PROJECTS AND ORGANISATIONS

| Organisation | Project Title | Award |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| All Set Cross Cultural Project | Annual Funding | £25,000.00 |
| Armagh Rhymers Educational & Cultural Organisation | Annual Funding | £67,000.00 |
| Millennium Court Arts Centre (Portadown 2000) | Annual Funding | £40,000.00 |
| Ulster Youth Choir | Annual Funding | £20,100.00 |
| Mobilizd | Formula Fun Game Design & Digital Asset Library | £6,200.00 |
| Performa Sports Ltd | Performa Sports Desktop Application | £10,000.00 |
| Donaghcloney Rural Needs Development Group | Continuation of arts programme | £28,570.00 |
| Ann Donnelly | The Long Engagement | £4,981.00 |
| Jimmy McAleavey | Attendance at Sibiu International Theatre Festival | £250.00 |
| LISA CASTAGNER | A 6-8 part photographic project | £1,500.00 |
| Miss Aoife Magee | Commission of a new viola f | £1,500.00 |
| Mr Michael Hanna | Mistakes in Real Life on Purpose | £1,232.00 |
| Ms Lisa Byrne | In Their Homes | £2,340.00 |
| Carleton Over 50's Association | Arts for Everyone | £4,000.00 |
| North Armagh Artists Collective | NAAC - SStart UP | £5,000.00 |
| Millennium Court Arts Centre (Portadown 2000) | Annual Funding | £40,000.00 |

| Organisation | Project Title | Award |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| The Armagh Rhymers Educational & Cultural Organisation | Annual Funding | £60,000.00 |
| Ulster Youth Choir | Annual Funding | £46,012.00 |
| Loughshore Care Partnership (LCP) | Lets Get Crafty | £12,015.00 |
| Mobilizd | Formula Fun v1.0 for iPhone | £5,695.00 |
| Donaghcloney Rural Needs Development Group | Ccontinuation of Arts Programme | £36,000.00 |
| Downshire Guiding Star Flute Band | Musical Instruments for Bands 2012/13 | £5,000.00 |
| Paul McEaney | The Genii Magic Gathering 2012 | £300.00 |
| Rachel O'Neill | Travel to New York | £300.00 |
| All Set Cross Cultural Project | Maggie Pickens Connection | £8,670.00 |
| Banbridge Musical Society | The purchase of a set of microphone headsets | £8,000.00 |
| Drumgor Detached Youth Project | Building Bridges | £1,500.00 |

(II) SPORTS PROJECTS AND ORGANISATIONS

| Organisation | Project Title | Award |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Annagh United Football Club | Club Development through Community Cohesion Programme | £6,982 |
| Banbridge Amateur Boxing Club | Equipment to host the Boxing Pre Games Training Camp | £10,000 |
| Craigavon Borough Council | Active Communities (Year 3) | £292,963 |
| Craigavon Borough Council | Active Communities (Year 4) | £308,174 |
| Craigavon Intercultural Programme | Pathways to Sport – equipment, venue, hire and coaching | £7,560 |
| Disability Sports NI | Disability Sports Development Officer Revenue Tail based in Craigavon | £30,000 |
| Disability Sports NI | Disability Sports Development Officer Revenue Tail based in Craigavon | £30,000 |
| GAA Handball Ireland | Charles Shanks | £8,000 |
| Motorcycling Racing Association | Natalie Kane | £9,000 |
| NI Archery Society | Mark Nesbitt | £9,000 |

| Organisation | Project Title | Award |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Segway NI | Adventure Activities Accreditation | £750 |
| Southern Sports Partnership | Skills Festival – Southern Sports Partnership | £12,500 |
| Southern Sports Partnership | Talent Development Programme 2012-2013 | £18,000 |

Cricket: Funding

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding has been awarded to cricket in each of the last five years.

(AQW 22248/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Over the last five years Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, has provided a total of £2,342,726 exchequer and lottery funding to assist with the development of Cricket in the north of Ireland. This is broken down as follows:

| Year | Exchequer | Lottery | Grand Total |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2008 | £436,518 | £24,000 | £460,518 |
| 2009 | £629,197 | £61,000 | £690,197 |
| 2010 | £377,703 | £83,983 | £461,686 |
| 2011 | £262,007 | £99,543 | £361,550 |
| 2012 | £226,082 | £142,693 | £368,775 |
| Total | £1,931,507 | £411,219 | £2,342,726 |

Cricket Support

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps her Department is taking to afford greater support to the sport of cricket.

(AQW 22249/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department, through Sport NI, continues to support the governing body of cricket, Cricket Ireland, in its development of cricket throughout the north of Ireland. Within the last five years Sport NI has provided just over £2.3m exchequer and lottery funding in this regard. Further support from Sport NI to Cricket Ireland, will continue over the next 4 years, with over £700k lottery funding allocated to the sport through the PerformanceFocus programme. This will help cricket to continue improving systems of governance, coaching, club development, talent identification and development and the governing body's academy structure.

Ulster Scots Agency: Ulster Scots Folk Orchestra

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why the Ulster Scots Agency has not answered correspondence from public representatives on the subject of the Ulster Scots Folk Orchestra.

(AQW 22289/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I understand that the Ulster-Scots Agency has now responded to you as the public representative and the representative of the Ulster-Scots Folk Orchestra. The response which was issued on 1 May 2013 includes an apology and explanation for not replying to this issue in a timely manner.

Loans and Grants Awarded to Organisations in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a breakdown of (i) loans; and (ii) grants her Department, and its agencies, have awarded to organisations in North Down, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 22291/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have assumed that as well as the Department and its agencies, you are also interested in the loans and grants awarded by my Arms Length Bodies.

It should be noted that the Department, its Agencies and its Arms Length Bodies do not provide loans to other organisations.

The total amount of grants awarded to organisations in the North Down constituency in the last five years is summarised in the tables below, divided between resource and capital:

| | 2008/09 £000 | 2009/10 £000 | 2010/11 £000 | 2011/12 £000 | 2012/13 £000 |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Resource | 216 | 355 | 243 | 183 | 84 |
| Capital | 381 | 968 | 2,000 | 5,017 | 6,217 |
| Total | 597 | 1,323 | 2,243 | 5,200 | 6,309 |

Detailed breakdowns by project are provided in **Annex A**

I should point out that if there was any doubt as to whether the North Down constituency benefited from the grant, then that grant was excluded from the answer. For example, if an organisation situated in the North Down constituency spent the funding further afield, it was excluded from the answer.

ANNEX A

RESOURCE - NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY

| ALB/Branch | Organisation | 2008/09 £000 | 2009/10 £000 | 2010/11 £000 | 2011/12 £000 | 2012/13 £000 |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Languages | Digitisation of Raven Maps | | | 11 | | |
| MAGUS/ Languages | Ulster Scots Audio Tour (North Down & Ards Borough Councils) | | | | 14 | |
| MAGUS/ Languages | Mobile Application of the North Down & Ards audio driving trail (North Down & Ards Borough Councils) | | | | | 21 |
| NIMC | North Down Museum | 1 | | | 1 | 3 |
| Foras na Gaeilge | Féile Nasca/ Nasca Community Festival | | | | 1 | |
| Sport NI | Bangor Swimming Club | | 1 | | 3 | |

| ALB/Branch | Organisation | 2008/09 £000 | 2009/10 £000 | 2010/11 £000 | 2011/12 £000 | 2012/13 £000 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sport NI | Crawfordsburn Scout Centre | | | | 1 | |
| Sport NI | Lorne Training and Activity Centre | | | | 1 | |
| Sport NI | NI Blind Golf | 8 | | | | |
| Sport NI | Sport South East | 8 | | | | |
| NI Events | ASPECTS IRISH LITERATURE FESTIVAL | 5 | | | | |
| NI Events | North Down Borough Council | 40 | | | | |
| NI Events | Feile an Earragh Spring Festival 2010 | | | 15 | | |
| Community Festivals | Councils | 19 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| Creative Industries | Creativity Month activities at National Museums NI | | | 7 | | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Ballygrainey Rural Development Association (456/14) | | | 4 | 2 | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Ballylone Concert Flute Band | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Ballyrobert Drumming Club | | | 4 | 2 | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Bangor District Educational & Historical Society | | 6 | | | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Cleland Memorial Pipe Band | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Conlig Rural Partnership for Cultural Development | | | | | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Corbet Accordion Band | | | 3 | | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Flutes & Drums Donaghadee Musical Tuition Project | | | 1 | | |

| ALB/Branch | Organisation | 2008/09 £000 | 2009/10 £000 | 2010/11 £000 | 2011/12 £000 | 2012/13 £000 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ulster Scots Agency | Hollywood Family Trust | | 2 | | | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Hollywood True Blues Flute Band | | | | 2 | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Kilcooley Community Action Group | | 1 | 3 | | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Newtownards Melody Flute Band | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Ulster Scots Agency | North Down Defenders Musical Development | | | | 1 | |
| Ulster Scots Agency | Redburn Youth Group Robert Graham Memorial Flute Band | | 5 | 4 | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Seacourt Print Workshop Limited | 51 | 75 | 51 | 51 | 17 |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Soundlines | 4 | | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | The Intra-Community Cohesion Project | 48 | | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Individuals | 10 | 6 | 5 | 2 | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Camerata Ireland | 22 | 1 | 92 | 83 | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | David Dudgeon Studios | | 67 | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Dumb Productions Ltd | | 49 | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Eddie Doherty Goldsmiths | | 10 | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Sonic Music Services Ltd | | 72 | | | |

| ALB/Branch | Organisation | 2008/09 £000 | 2009/10 £000 | 2010/11 £000 | 2011/12 £000 | 2012/13 £000 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Straandlooper Ltd | | 47 | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Ballykeel Conservative Flute Band | | 5 | | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Straandlooper Ltd | | | 26 | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Millisle Youth Club | | | 5 | | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Straandlooper Ltd | | | | 10 | |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Belfast Free Tours | | | | | 9 |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Lost Number | | | | | 10 |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Refound | | | | | 9 |
| | | 216 | 355 | 243 | 183 | 84 |

CAPITAL - NORTH DOWN CONSTITUENCY

| ALB/Branch | Organisation | 2008/09 £000 | 2009/10 £000 | 2010/11 £000 | 2011/12 £000 | 2012/13 £000 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sport NI | Ballyholme Yacht Club | | 12 | | | |
| Sport NI | Bangor Lawn Tennis Club | | 10 | | | |
| Sport NI | Bangor Swimming Club | | 8 | | | |
| Sport NI | Donaghadee Golf Club | | 109 | | | |
| Sport NI | NDBC (50m Pool) | 381 | 829 | 2000 | 5017 | 6212 |
| Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Somme Memorial Flute Band | | | | | 5 |
| | | 381 | 968 | 2000 | 5017 | 6217 |

Unlicensed or Illegal Angling and Contravening Fisheries Regulations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many people have been reported by her Department for matters connected to unlicensed and/or illegal angling and contravening Fisheries Regulations, broken down by area of detection, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 22318/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín:

| YEAR | South Eastern Area | Lough Neagh | South Western | Northern |
|------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| 2008 | 37 | 55 | 1 | 15 |
| 2009 | 98 | 54 | nil | 28 |
| 2010 | 37 | 54 | 26 | 13 |
| 2011 | 36 | 61 | 14 | 17 |
| 2012 | 39 | 19 | 8 | 15 |

The areas referred to are DCAL Fisheries operational areas and the figures are the number of individuals taken to court for fisheries related offences.

UK City of Culture 2013: Funding

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding her Department has allocated to the UK City of Culture 2013.

(AQW 22371/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department has allocated a total of £12.6m to the 2013 City of Culture (£6.5m for 2012/13 and £6.1m for 2013/14).

Ulster Scots Agency Staff

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the formal qualifications of the staff in the Ulster Scots Agency who handle funding requests and applications.

(AQW 22403/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Staff in the Ulster-Scots Agency are recruited against agreed job descriptions and personnel specifications.

Personnel specifications establish appropriate levels of formal qualifications as well as appropriate levels of relevant experience required to undertake individual posts.

All post holders have gone through a transparent recruitment process which has required them to demonstrate that they have the necessary qualifications and experience for the roles that they undertake.

Theatre in Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the discussions she has had with the Minister for Social Development in relation to the establishment of a theatre in Bangor, as part of the town centre regeneration plans.

(AQW 22458/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have had no specific discussions with the Minister for Social Development in relation to the establishment of a theatre in Bangor.

Derry~Londonderry City of Culture 2013

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans his Department has to create an employment and training opportunities legacy following the Derry~Londonderry City of Culture 2013. **(AQO 4010/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín: The cultural programme for 2013, supported by my Department, includes a range of projects, events and interventions which will provide employment and training opportunities for the people of Derry and the surrounding area. The programme includes community based events like the Music Promise, which will deliver music lessons to every child in the City. The Spotlight on Communities project is providing grants to community groups in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas to develop their own cultural strategies and host events to tell their own stories, develop skills and showcase talent.

Digital hubs have been set up in the most deprived areas in the City - bringing the project right into the heart of the people and providing skills. 900 young people are accessing film-making skills and digital storytelling through the Digital Book of Kells project. The focus of some of these community based projects is to provide new opportunities to build skills which are in line with legacy objectives to develop the City into a world class digital hub.

I am committed to ensuring that my Department's investment in arts and culture promotes equality and tackles poverty and social exclusion – founded on the twin aims of excellence in achievement underpinned by equality in outcomes. As the City of Culture year progresses, DCAL officials are working closely with Derry City Council officials to ensure that it has in place a legacy plan which will deliver against these objectives. The creation of training and employment opportunities in the longer-term will be a key component of the plan.

The Department of Employment and Learning has advised that it is also playing an active role in supporting the One Plan's emphasis on skills and employment through its wide range of programmes and services in the city.

The aim remains to tackle deprivation and poverty in the City in part by attracting major businesses and investment in the City, but all within the vision and framework of a sustainable economic model.

Sports for People with Disabilities: Financial Support

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the level of financial support provided by her Department to sports for people with disabilities, in each of the last three years. **(AQW 24078/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín: Over the last three financial years, my Department, through Sport NI, has provided £783,219 to sports organisations that specifically work with people with a disability including Disability Sports NI, RNIB, Special Olympics Ireland, Paralympics Ireland, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Headway Belfast.

In addition, during this time, almost £7.8m has been provided to mainstream sporting bodies, elements of which will have assisted in improving opportunities and access for people with disabilities.

Regional Stadium Funding Package: Ravenhill Stadium

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much of the £110m provided through the Regional Stadium funding package is for Ravenhill Stadium. **(AQW 24159/11-15)**

Ms Ní Chuilín: Within the £110m stadium programme budget £14.6m has been approved for the redevelopment of Ravenhill Stadium.

In addition, DCAL is holding £0.867m of Optimism Bias for the redevelopment of Ravenhill.

The total funding package available for the redevelopment of Ravenhill is £15.5.

European Funding Query

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the query over European funding relates only to improvements at Windsor Park or will the other two venues in the wider project be affected.

(AQW 24200/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: As this matter is the subject of current legal proceedings, it is not appropriate to comment at this stage.

Improvements at Windsor Park, Ravenhill and Casement Park

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when she will be in a position to comment on the legality of the funding for improvements at (a) Windsor Park, (b) Ravenhill and (c) Casement Park; and whether she will allow contracts to be entered into should the funding be deemed legal.

(AQW 24201/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: As this matter is the subject of current legal proceedings, it is not appropriate to comment at this stage.

Improvements at Windsor Park, Ravenhill and Casement Park

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her departmental investigations in relation to the funding of improvements at (a) Windsor Park, (b) Ravenhill and (c) Casement Park; and will these investigations provide a preliminary or definitive view.

(AQW 24202/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: As this matter is the subject of current legal proceedings, it is not appropriate to comment at this stage.

Improvements at Windsor Park, Ravenhill and Casement Park

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the potential for the funding of the improvements at (a) Windsor (b) Ravenhill (c) Casement being classed as illegal state aid, for her assessment of whether departmental officials could have foreseen this and taken appropriate action at an earlier stage.

(AQW 24203/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: As this matter is the subject of current legal proceedings, it is not appropriate to comment at this stage.

Lough Neagh Partnership

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her plans to provide further support to the Lough Neagh Partnership.

(AQO 4342/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department provided grant totalling £50k to the Lough Neagh Partnership over a two year period which ends on 31 March 2014 to undertake a number of projects that would contribute to the development of the Lough and the communities around it.

The Partnership was tasked to identify options and make recommendations for a management structure for the Lough which integrate operational and strategic activities and provide adequate representation for all stakeholders.

A report is due for completion by the end of June and will be considered by the Department in determining any future funding/ support for the management of the Lough.

A feasibility study into the dredging of the mouths of the River Blackwater and the Upper Bann to improve the safety of boats and encourage increased boating traffic on these rivers has been completed. This is being assessed by my officials.

The Department agreed to the Partnership using £10k from the grant it received to bid for the EU Rural Development Programme's Lough Neagh Cooperation Project which has a total value of £119,500.

Further financial support will be dependent on the satisfactory evaluation of the current pilot and on the submission of new proposals for a work programme that aligns with, and meets DCAL's Corporate objectives.

Future programmes will need to demonstrate strong strategic partnerships which aim to improve community participation and involvement along with targeting social need through addressing poverty and social exclusion.

Ballymartin GAA Club, County Down

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline what developments, if any, have occurred regarding Ballymartin GAA Club since she visited it.

(AQO 4339/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I visited Ballymartin GAA club on 23 January 2013 when I saw, at first hand, the poor condition of the club's facilities. Since May 2012, and as a result of redevelopment work at their home ground, the Club has been using temporary playing facilities in Kilkeel which have been provided by Newry & Mourne District Council. This is proving a difficult arrangement with officials and players, some as young as 5-6 years of age, being subjected to sectarian abuse.

Ballymartin GAC is one of a number of organisations with an application pending under Sport NI's 'Sport Matters: Community Capital Programme'. The application is to upgrade one of their home pitches and install new floodlighting.

My Department has made a bid, under the June Monitoring Round, for additional funding for this programme that will allow Sport NI to progress a number of projects, including Ballymartin GAC. Sport NI is currently taking these projects forward in anticipation of securing the necessary funding.

World Police and Fire Games

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the preparations for the World Police and Fire Games 2013, to date.

(AQO 4341/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: There has been significant progress in the preparation for the 2013 World Police and Fire Games and this is set to continue as we move towards the Games in August.

Following the outcome of the bracketing process the Company have confirmed that there will be 56 sports offered during the Games and it is estimated that over 7,000 athletes will compete. As of 11 June 2013, the total number of athletes who have registered for the Games is 5,815.

The Volunteer Programme is ongoing and 3,600 volunteers have now been matched to roles. Furthermore, the Company has exceeded the target of £1.4m for sponsorship, with a total amount of £1.6m secured.

All of the sporting and ceremony venues for the Games have been confirmed and the World Police and Fire Games Schools Pack was launched in October 2012 which provides teachers with a comprehensive set of education resources to inform children and young people about the Games and get them involved in the event throughout 2013.

The Company has developed a Social Benefit Strategy and Legacy Plan to ensure the social inclusivity of the Games and appointed three charity partners as part of this Plan.

I am looking forward to the World Police and Fire Games which represent a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate that we are capable of hosting international events here while showcasing the island of Ireland as a fantastic place to visit.

Kilkeel Library

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the construction of a new library for Kilkeel, County Down.

(AQO 4343/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The project to build a replacement library in Kilkeel commenced in March 2013. The initial construction phase is due to last for 9 months, ending in November 2013.

This project is currently on target. The necessary demolition and site clearance has been completed and the process of erecting the steel superstructure is underway.

The library's furniture, stock and other equipment is to be installed during December and January with the new library being opened to the public in February 2014.

The local community will benefit from this £935k project. They will have a larger modern building which will offer a greater range of library services.

These services include a wider range of stock and other resources, dedicated adult and children's facilities, a community meeting space and increased learning opportunities.

Windsor Park Football Stadium

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the development of Windsor Park Football Stadium.

(AQO 4344/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Windsor Park Football Stadium project is currently on programme.

Key achievements to date include:

- Planning Approved received in February 2013.
- Invitation to Tender for the construction contract has been released (completed tenders due to be returned 24 June 2013).

Key planned activities for the coming months include:

- Appointment of the contractor in August 2013.
- Commencement of construction work in September 2013.

It is anticipated that construction work will be completed by June 2015 subject to satisfactory site conditions and avoidance of any significant procurement or legal challenges.

City of Culture 2013

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the Derry-Londonderry City of Culture 2013.

(AQO 4345/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: We are now half way through the City of Culture year, with the cultural programme under way and delivering very successful events. Some highlights so far are the Sons and Daughters Opening Concert, RTE's Other Voices, the Highland Dance Festival and the Radio One Big Weekend. We also recently enjoyed the spectacular Return of Colmcille celebration which attracted thousands of people to the City during the two day event.

A wide range of community projects and programmes are also being delivered successfully including: What's the Big Idea, Spotlight on Communities, the Music Promise and Teaching Divided Histories.

The programme continues to receive positive media coverage with feedback from local people demonstrating that the City is enjoying a more positive outlook and renewed confidence.

We remain focused on ensuring that the benefits of City of Culture are delivered through the development of strategic, detailed and sustainable legacy plans. My department is supporting Derry City Council to develop a legacy plan to build on the momentum of 2013 and ensure that the targets to 2020 are achieved.

iPads Pilot Scheme

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the ipads pilot scheme in the Lower Falls, Belfast.

(AQO 4346/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: With investment from my Department, the West Belfast Partnership Board will develop a mobile iPad platform and community learning resource which will be used by schools and other groups.

In its initial stage the pilot project will focus on primary schools and other organisations in the Lower Falls area to introduce digital and mobile technologies to formal and informal education and learning.

The project will support numeracy and literacy initiatives in these schools as well as other possible initiatives in health, after school revision classes, life-long learning and cross-community work. Overall, it will help young people in the Lower Falls area to realise their potential and provide a possible template for innovative approaches to tackling social exclusion.

Department of Education

Nursery, Primary and Post-Primary School Inspections

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, in each of the last five years, how many inspections have been carried out in (i) nursery; (ii) primary; and (iii) post-primary schools in each education sector, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 23847/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The tables below outline the number of inspections which have been carried out in (i) nursery; (ii) primary; and (iii) post-primary schools in each education sector broken down by Education and Library Board for the period 2007/08 to 2011/12. Please note that the figures are based on academic years.

| Phase | Management Type | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2007/2008 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Nursery | Controlled | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type | Academic Year | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2007/2008 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 6 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 17 |
| Primary | Controlled | 2 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | Voluntary Preps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 4 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 12 |
| | Other Maintained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Post-Primary | Controlled | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | Voluntary Grammar | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2007/2008 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Special | Controlled | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2008/2009 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Nursery | Controlled | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 5 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 12 |
| Primary | Controlled | 2 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 8 |
| | Voluntary Preps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type | Academic Year | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2008/2009 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Catholic Maintained | 4 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| | Other Maintained | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Post-Primary | Controlled | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | Voluntary Grammar | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special | Controlled | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type | Academic Year | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2008/2009 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2009/2010 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Nursery | Controlled | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| Primary | Controlled | 3 | 7 | 20 | 5 | 13 |
| | Voluntary Preps | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 21 |
| | Other Maintained | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2009/2010 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Post-Primary | Controlled | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Voluntary Grammar | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special | Controlled | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2010/2011 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Nursery | Controlled | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2010/2011 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Catholic Maintained | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 3 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 11 |
| Primary | Controlled | 8 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 6 |
| | Voluntary Preps | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 4 | 16 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| | Other Maintained | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Post-Primary | Controlled | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| | Voluntary Grammar | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2010/2011 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special | Controlled | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2011/2012 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| Nursery | Controlled | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2011/2012 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 3 | 7 | 20 | 6 | 13 |
| Primary | Controlled | 3 | 9 | 16 | 18 | 22 |
| | Voluntary Preps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 2 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 22 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Post-Primary | Controlled | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| | Voluntary Grammar | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special | Controlled | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | Voluntary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Catholic Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other Maintained | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Phase | Management Type. | Academic Year | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2011/2012 | | | | |
| | | BELB | WELB | NEELB | SEELB | SELB |
| | Controlled Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Grant Maintained Integrated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary Pre-School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Controlled Junior High Schools in Craigavon

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education whether the four Controlled Junior High Schools in Craigavon will be included within the departmental Delivering Social Change project; and to outline the educational basis for this project being directed at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 pupils, given the difficulties associated with teaching pupils to read beyond Key Stage 3.

(AQW 23873/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In October 2012 the First Minister and deputy First Minister announced the Delivering Social Change Signature Project on improving literacy and numeracy. An additional 230 recent graduate teachers who are not currently in work will be employed to deliver tuition, where appropriate, for children in primary and post primary schools who are currently struggling to achieve even basic educational standards. The objectives as stated are the

- Employment of 150 teachers not currently in employment, on a two-year fixed-term contract to deliver tuition, where appropriate, in English and Mathematics to Year 11 and 12 post-primary school pupils who are not likely without intervention to achieve a grade C in English and/or Mathematics.
- Employment of 80 teachers, not currently in employment, on a two-year fixed-term contract to deliver tuition, where appropriate, to primary school pupils who are not likely to be at the expected level in English and/or Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2.

Consequently, the criteria for participation in the project were developed to achieve these stated objectives. The schools invited to participate in the Delivering Social Change Signature Project on improving literacy and numeracy (the Project) have been selected using criteria based on a combination of academic performance and Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME).

In the post-primary sector the methodology used was:

- 1 Schools where the percentage of pupils achieving GCSE English (Grades A*-C) and/or GCSE Maths (Grades A*-C) was an average of seventy percent or below, over a three-year period 2008/09 to 2010/11 inclusive and/or where the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs (including English and Maths) Grades A*-C was an average of seventy percent or below, over a three-year period 2009/10 to 2011/12 inclusive.
- 2 Using the above methodology, teachers will be allocated to eligible schools based on the school's enrolment and performance in GCSE English and/or GCSE Maths and 5+ GCSEs (including GCSE English and GCSE Maths).

Accordingly, the Junior High Schools do not meet any of the criteria for inclusion in this particular project; however, the Delivering Social Change Project is just one of the many projects that are being

delivered by my Department over the next few years. The Area Learning Community (ALC) Strategic Development Fund project is being funded for three years and as these Junior High Schools are members of the Craigavon Area Learning Community they will be able to avail of extra tuition for the literacy and numeracy needs of Key Stage 3 pupils through this project.

Pre-School Provision

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education whether his Department is aware of any research that indicates that pre-school provision of a poor quality is more detrimental to children than no pre-school provision.

(AQW 23908/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There is a range of evidence which demonstrates the positive impact of high quality pre-school provision on children's learning and development. The Effective Pre-School Provision NI (EPPNI) research (2006 and 2010) demonstrated the positive effects of high quality pre-school experiences on children's intellectual and social behavioural development and attainment levels in English and Mathematics during primary school. The 2010 research also highlighted the importance of children receiving high quality pre-school provision as low quality pre-school provision is not associated with the same positive effects of high quality provision.

As well as the research available, the Education and Training Inspectorate inspect all pre-school settings participating in the Pre-School Education Programme. The Chief Inspector's report 2010-12 reported that most children attending pre-school settings experience a good or better pre-school education which is crucial to their future education and well-being.

Grades Awarded by Inspectors to Schools

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education to detail the grades awarded by inspectors to schools in each Education and Library Board, in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) sector; and (ii) type.

(AQW 23929/11-15)

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

Belmont House School, Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education, given the plans to merge Belmont and Foyle View Special Schools, for an update of the status of £7.4 million that he pledged to Belmont House School, Derry.

(AQW 23932/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Western Education and Library Board is currently undertaking a consultation on the Development Proposal for a new Controlled Special School which will provide for the special educational needs of pupils as currently provided by Belmont House School and Foyle View School.

The Development Proposal was published on 7 May 2013 and the consultation will be open for 2 months. Following this a submission will be made to me to allow a decision to be made on the scope and size of the new build project to be taken forward.

When there is clarity on the future provision, work can commence on the economic appraisal and design.

Irish Medium Play Group Unit in Foley Primary School, Armagh

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, in light of the recent Pre-School Education Advisory Group determination that there was no unmet need for nursery places in the Armagh area, and in the context of refusing an additional nursery unit in a controlled school, to detail how an Irish Medium Unit has been approved in association with Foley Primary School.

(AQW 23946/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Irish medium voluntary playgroup, Naíscóil Shliabh Fuait, is not currently funded for pre-school places under the Department's Pre-School Education Programme. Any request from the

group to participate in the Programme would be considered by the Southern Education and Library Board's (SELB) Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) taking into account the level of funded Irish medium pre-school provision in the Armagh area at the time. It was agreed by the SELB to enter into a Licence Agreement to facilitate the establishment of an Irish medium playgroup at Foyle Primary School.

The playgroup is not part of the Pre-school Education Programme so no consideration was given by the SELB PEAG to its impact on existing provision within the Programme. The registration and regulation of voluntary playgroups are a matter for the Health and Social Care Trusts. There is no requirement for the management committee of such a group to undertake consultation prior to establishment.

The request from Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to rent a surplus classroom and office in Foley Primary School was agreed by the school's Board of Governors in the first instance. The school and playgroup will operate under their own separate management arrangements.

The SELB has advised that the Board of Governors of Foley PS sought approval from the SELB on 18 December 2012. The Board advised the school on 28 January 2013 that, subject to the approval of the Department, it was possible to facilitate the Naíscoil's request by means of a Licence Agreement. The Department advised the SELB on 30 April that it had no objections to the Board's proposal to establish a Licence Agreement with the Governing Body of Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to facilitate the use of a vacant classroom and office at Foley Primary School by the playgroup.

Irish Medium Play Group Unit in Foley Primary School, Armagh

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education how it is compatible with the ethos and status of Foley Primary School, Armagh to approve an Irish Medium Play Group within this controlled school.

(AQW 23947/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Irish medium voluntary playgroup, Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait, is not currently funded for pre-school places under the Department's Pre-School Education Programme. Any request from the group to participate in the Programme would be considered by the Southern Education and Library Board's (SELB) Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) taking into account the level of funded Irish medium pre-school provision in the Armagh area at the time. It was agreed by the SELB to enter into a Licence Agreement to facilitate the establishment of an Irish medium playgroup at Foyle Primary School.

The playgroup is not part of the Pre-school Education Programme so no consideration was given by the SELB PEAG to its impact on existing provision within the Programme. The registration and regulation of voluntary playgroups are a matter for the Health and Social Care Trusts. There is no requirement for the management committee of such a group to undertake consultation prior to establishment.

The request from Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to rent a surplus classroom and office in Foley Primary School was agreed by the school's Board of Governors in the first instance. The school and playgroup will operate under their own separate management arrangements.

The SELB has advised that the Board of Governors of Foley PS sought approval from the SELB on 18 December 2012. The Board advised the school on 28 January 2013 that, subject to the approval of the Department, it was possible to facilitate the Naíscoil's request by means of a Licence Agreement. The Department advised the SELB on 30 April that it had no objections to the Board's proposal to establish a Licence Agreement with the Governing Body of Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to facilitate the use of a vacant classroom and office at Foley Primary School by the playgroup.

Irish Medium Play Group Unit in Foley Primary School, Armagh

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education what consultation was conducted on the impact of nursery and play group provision elsewhere in Armagh before the decision to approve an Irish Medium Play Group in Foley Primary School was taken.

(AQW 23948/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Irish medium voluntary playgroup, Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait, is not currently funded for pre-school places under the Department's Pre-School Education Programme. Any request from the

group to participate in the Programme would be considered by the Southern Education and Library Board's (SELB) Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) taking into account the level of funded Irish medium pre-school provision in the Armagh area at the time. It was agreed by the SELB to enter into a Licence Agreement to facilitate the establishment of an Irish medium playgroup at Foyle Primary School.

The playgroup is not part of the Pre-school Education Programme so no consideration was given by the SELB PEAG to its impact on existing provision within the Programme. The registration and regulation of voluntary playgroups are a matter for the Health and Social Care Trusts. There is no requirement for the management committee of such a group to undertake consultation prior to establishment.

The request from Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to rent a surplus classroom and office in Foley Primary School was agreed by the school's Board of Governors in the first instance. The school and playgroup will operate under their own separate management arrangements.

The SELB has advised that the Board of Governors of Foley PS sought approval from the SELB on 18 December 2012. The Board advised the school on 28 January 2013 that, subject to the approval of the Department, it was possible to facilitate the Naíscoil's request by means of a Licence Agreement. The Department advised the SELB on 30 April that it had no objections to the Board's proposal to establish a Licence Agreement with the Governing Body of Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to facilitate the use of a vacant classroom and office at Foley Primary School by the playgroup.

People Employed in Schools and Departmental Arm's-Length Bodies

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of people employed in (i) schools; and (ii) his Department's arm's-length bodies in each year since 2007, broken down by grade.
(AQW 23996/11-15)

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

Irish Medium Play Group Unit in Foley Primary School, Armagh

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education on what date (i) was approval sought from the Education and Library Board for an Irish Medium Play Group unit in Foley Primary School, Armagh; (ii) was approval granted by the Board; and (iii) was it approved by his Department.
(AQW 23997/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Irish medium voluntary playgroup, Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait, is not currently funded for pre-school places under the Department's Pre-School Education Programme. Any request from the group to participate in the Programme would be considered by the Southern Education and Library Board's (SELB) Pre-School Education Advisory Group (PEAG) taking into account the level of funded Irish medium pre-school provision in the Armagh area at the time. It was agreed by the SELB to enter into a Licence Agreement to facilitate the establishment of an Irish medium playgroup at Foyle Primary School.

The playgroup is not part of the Pre-school Education Programme so no consideration was given by the SELB PEAG to its impact on existing provision within the Programme. The registration and regulation of voluntary playgroups are a matter for the Health and Social Care Trusts. There is no requirement for the management committee of such a group to undertake consultation prior to establishment.

The request from Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to rent a surplus classroom and office in Foley Primary School was agreed by the school's Board of Governors in the first instance. The school and playgroup will operate under their own separate management arrangements.

The SELB has advised that the Board of Governors of Foley PS sought approval from the SELB on 18 December 2012. The Board advised the school on 28 January 2013 that, subject to the approval of the Department, it was possible to facilitate the Naíscoil's request by means of a Licence Agreement. The Department advised the SELB on 30 April that it had no objections to the Board's proposal to establish a Licence Agreement with the Governing Body of Naíscoil Shliabh Fuait to facilitate the use of a vacant classroom and office at Foley Primary School by the playgroup.

Compensation Payment

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education to detail the purpose of the £93,000 compensation payment recorded in the Annual Accounts of Bleary Primary School Annual Accounts for 2009/10. **(AQW 24099/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: There is no specific reference to a compensation payment included in the 2009/10 Outturn Statement which the Southern Education and Library Board published in respect of Bleary Primary School. The Southern Education and Library Board has however confirmed that a £93,000 compensation payment is included in the Outturn Statement under the heading of "Other Non Staff Costs" as part of the analysis on non-delegated expenditure. I am unable to provide any further detail as, under the terms of the compensation settlement, there is a legally binding confidentiality clause that the employer, the Board and the employee shall not disclose, or cause, or permit to be disclosed, the terms of the agreement which are confidential.

Teacher Demand Model

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education whether the Teacher Demand Model for the forthcoming year will take into account the teachers who are registered with the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland but are not registered with employment. **(AQW 24125/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The Teacher Demand Model provides a statistical estimate of overall initial teacher education intake requirements utilises a range of statistical assumptions based on data obtained from a number of sources, including data provided by the General Teaching Council here (GTCNI).

The GTCNI provides data on the employment position of recent graduates and this is used to provide an assumption on the potential number of recent graduates who may be successful in filling future vacancies.

However, it is important to note that not all teachers registered with the GTCNI are seeking permanent employment and that the GTCNI does not hold information on the number of teachers who are specifically seeking permanent employment.

The Teacher Demand Model together with a range of other statistical information is used to inform the annual process of determining intakes to initial teacher education. However, in reaching a final decision I also take into account wider policy considerations.

General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland: Registered Teachers

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education whether his Department can ascertain the religious and gender breakdowns of teachers who are registered with the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland but who are not registered with employment. **(AQW 24126/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: Information on the religious background of teachers is exempt from monitoring under Article 71 of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998. This information is not therefore held.

At 11 June 2013 there were 27,186 teachers registered with the General Teaching Council (GTCNI), of which 19,417 were employed in a permanent or significant temporary capacity¹ at the time of the last GTCNI data capture exercise, which fell between September and December 2012. However it should not be assumed that all those not in employment at that time were actively seeking work as a teacher. Furthermore, some may be employed in schools in a short-term temporary capacity or have secured employment since then.

Of the 7,769 registered teachers not in employment at that time, 6,009 were female and 1,760 were male.

¹ Significant temporary capacity relates to a period of employment of one term or more.

The GTCNI publishes a Digest of Statistics on an annual basis and further detail on the gender make up of the teaching profession can be accessed at www.gtcni.org.uk//publications/uploads/document/Digest_of_Statistics_2012.pdf At March 2012 almost 76% of teachers registered with the GTCNI were female.

Initial Teacher Training Colleges

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the value for money in the provision of teacher training and the needs of schools when 1408 graduates from Initial Teacher Training Colleges in Northern Ireland since 2005 have not registered with the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland; and to outline the reasons for this wastage level.

(AQW 24128/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Whilst I recognise that many graduates from initial teacher education find difficulty getting employment in the current climate, the same applies across many professions.

It is important to note that the figure for the number of graduates cited by the Member represents a snapshot of those graduates not registered at 31 March 2013. It does not reflect the fact that many of those 1408 unregistered graduates will have been registered at some point prior to when the General Teaching Council's survey was being conducted on 31 March 2013.

There will be many reasons why individuals do not register. They may, for example, choose to use their skills to find employment in other professions and therefore benefit the economy in the North. Others may move to register and work as teachers in other jurisdictions and some may move to work in other professions overseas.

It is, nonetheless, encouraging that since 2006, 4 out of every 5 graduates have registered with the General Teaching Council and of the teachers who graduated in that year, around 9 out of 10 are registered and in employment in either a permanent or significant temporary capacity (one term or more).

Teacher training in the North has been assessed by the Education and Training Inspectorate as being of a very high standard. I therefore consider that it represents good value in terms of the quality of its graduates. The issue of value for money in terms of the cost of initial teacher education is a matter for the Minister for Employment and Learning who has commissioned a review of initial teacher education provision.

The member will be aware that the Department has cut intakes to initial teacher education courses by nearly one third in recent years to address the perceived oversupply of teachers. However, if I was to cut intakes further, as some have suggested, there will be a point at which the Higher Education Institutions could become unviable and student teachers will travel elsewhere which could impact on our ability to train teachers locally.

Review of Public Administration: Costs of Consultants

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how much his Department has spent on consultants in relation to the Review of Public Administration, in each financial year since 2007/8.

(AQW 24154/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Expenditure on external consultancy in relation to the Review of Public Administration in each financial year since 2007-08 as recorded in the Department's audited accounts is set out in the table below.

| Year | £'000 |
|---------|-------|
| 2007/08 | 143 |
| 2008/09 | 162 |
| 2009/10 | 218 |

| Year | £'000 |
|---------|-------|
| 2010/11 | 15 |
| 2011/12 | - |

Cost of Implementing Computer Based Assessments

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent to date on implementing the new computer based assessment arrangements for schools.

(AQW 24155/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) are contract holders with two suppliers for Computer-Based Assessment. NILA is provided by Tribal and NINA is supplied by Rising Stars.

CCEA has provided the following costs for implementing the two CBA assessments to date.

Contracts were let with the suppliers in November 2011. From this date to the end of March 2013 a total of £2,851.3k was spent on implementing the new computer-based assessment arrangements. This figure includes payments to suppliers and teacher release provided to schools to engage in training. It also includes CCEA staffing costs in terms of the proportion of time of existing baseline staff and project staff which was specifically allocated to this project.

The breakdown of costs is as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Supplier Costs | 1,295.3k | | |
| Teacher Release Costs | 830.5k | | |
| Implementation Costs | | | |
| Venues, Print Resources | 34.6k | | |
| Baseline Staff / CBA team | 451.5k | Note 1 | |
| Other Support Baseline Staff | 239.4k | Note 2 | |
| | 725.5k | | |
| Overall Implementation Total | 2,851.3k | (period Nov 2011 - Mar 2013) | Note 3 |

Note 1 Staff costs for CCEA project management, support for pre-trial, March 2012 trial with 200 schools/10,000 pupils, May QA, IM trial and QA, development of online & printed resources, principals' seminars, helpdesk provision

Note 2 Staff costs for CCEA in-house development & production of Moodle online training for more than 3,200 teachers, design of printed resources, implementation of evaluation strategy including online and hard copy questionnaires

Note 3 Actual expenditure relating to that period (Nov 2011 - Mar 2013)

Non-Teaching Staff Payments

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education for an update on the payment of £250 to all non-teaching staff earning less than £21,000 per annum.

(AQW 24156/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: All eligible non teaching staff, with the exception of those staff in the Voluntary Grammar and Grant Maintained Integrated sectors, have received payment of £250 for both the 2010/11 and 2011/12 pay years.

In respect of VGS and GMI schools I took the decision to make funding available to enable payment of the £250 for eligible non teaching staff in these sectors.

There are 51 VGS and 38 GMI Schools. Under the Executive's Pay Policy, a pay remit is required for each staff group on differing terms and conditions in each school, with supporting business cases, including legal advice on contractual obligations. The schools were asked to provide this information to the Department by 31 May 2013 and officials are following up outstanding returns.

It will only be once this information is received and analysed that the Department will be clear as to the extent of pay remits required and the possible timeframe for completion of this exercise.

Once the necessary approvals are in place, funding will be made available to enable the schools to make the payment to qualifying staff.

Spirit of Enniskillen Trust

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how he plans to continue with the work of the Spirit of Enniskillen Trust.

(AQW 24157/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Spirit of Enniskillen Trust was a charitable organisation and has not been in receipt of any direct support from my Department since the previous community relations schemes were closed in 2010.

When the problems which resulted in closure first materialised, Department of Education officials engaged with the Trustees in an effort to identify possible solutions and to explore any alternatives to ensuring their work could continue. Unfortunately this was not possible.

However, the legacy of the Spirit of Enniskillen Trust will remain through the many young people whose lives were impacted by their involvement. I know that these young people will continue to influence their peers and to be active citizens in seeking to deliver the kind of shared future we wish to see.

The reconciliation work amongst young people which Spirit of Enniskillen engaged in will continue via other delivery approaches through my Department's Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education policy.

Central Procurement Directorate

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 22414/11-15, to detail the dates of the formal meetings with procurement staff since April 2012 to discuss the details of the report.

(AQW 24158/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There have been no formal meetings with procurement staff since April 2012 to discuss the report.

Attendance in South Antrim

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Education how many children in South Antrim have been identified as not attending school, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 24237/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is detailed in the tables below and refers to 3 categories:

- 1 Children with low attendance levels i.e. <85% attendance
- 2 Children receiving their education other than at school
- 3 Children who are home schooled

1 PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY PUPILS LIVING IN THE SOUTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY WHO HAD LESS THAN 85% ATTENDANCE IN 2011/12

| School type | NEELB | SEELB |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| Primary | 378 | 18 |
| Post primary | 674 | 25 |

2 PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY PUPILS LIVING IN THE SOUTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY WHO ARE RECORDED AS BEING EDUCATED OFF SITE BUT NOT IN A SCHOOL – 2011/12

| School type | NEELB | SEELB |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| Primary | * | 0 |
| Post primary | 15 | 0 |

Notes:

The figures are obtained from the annual school census and refer to pupils undertaking Key Stages 1-4 only.

The information is based on pupils living in the South Antrim area.

*Refers to figures less than 5.

- 3 I have also been informed by the North Eastern Education and Library Board that they are aware of 16 children in the South Antrim area who are being home educated. South Eastern Education and Library Board are not aware of any children being home educated in the South Antrim area. It is important to note that parents can choose to home educate, however, there is no legal requirement for parents to advise their Education and Library Board or the Department of their decision.

Welfare Reform

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of how Welfare Reform will impact on the aims and objectives of his Department.

(AQW 24264/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Subject to the progress of the Welfare Reform Bill through the Assembly, it is intended that Universal Credit (UC) will be introduced here, as part of the Welfare Reform Agenda, on a phased basis from April 2014. The introduction of UC, as currently planned, will impact on the delivery of two key passported benefits for which the Department of Education (DE) has responsibility: the provision of free school meals (FSM) and school uniform grants.

FSM and school uniform grants are key passported benefits which provide targeted support to families on low incomes. The provision of FSM and school uniform grants to children from lower income households are key measures through which DE seeks to improve access to and participation in education. They contribute to wider Departmental objectives to improve educational outcomes and lifetime opportunities for children and young people from the most deprived communities.

It is intended that UC will replace a number of existing social welfare benefits including five of the benefits currently used to determine eligibility for FSM and school uniform grants. These five benefits are the qualifying criteria for the majority of all claims for FSM so an amendment to the Department's eligibility criteria will be required to facilitate the proposed introduction of UC in April 2014.

Work is underway at present to identify options to determine future eligibility for FSM under UC and to assess the potential impacts of these options. I will be giving careful consideration to this analysis.

I have made clear that my priority in determining new eligibility criteria for FSM and school uniform grants is to ensure that these key passported benefits continue to provide the necessary support to those most in need.

Mental Health Awareness

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Education whether there are any school based initiatives that promote awareness of mental ill health and signpost young people to support services.

(AQW 24269/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: A school must address in its School Development Plan how it will promote the health and wellbeing, child protection, attendance, good behaviour and discipline of pupils'.

Schools are also required under The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) Order (NI) 2007 to teach our young people about the importance of good mental health. At primary school this is delivered through Personal Development and Mutual Understanding and at post-primary school it is taught through Learning for Life and Work where all pupils should be provided with opportunities to understand the importance of recognising and managing factors that may influence emotional/mental health throughout life.

My Department's "i-Matter" programme is addressing how the entire school community should be engaged in promoting resilient emotional health for all pupils, what support systems are available for vulnerable pupils, and what support is available to schools in the event of a crisis. The programme is a vehicle to integrate individual policies and services in a consistent and coherent way. It benefits from the active involvement of other Departments, schools and of the voluntary sector through a series of working groups, each with a specific task.

The groups have developed a range of 'products' including a suite of homework diary inserts/posters on topics of concern to young people such as self esteem, substance abuse, relationships and outline sources of help for pupils.

An independent school based professional counselling service is accessible to young people of post-primary age in mainstream and special schools during difficult and vulnerable periods in their lives. As part of the current arrangements for support following a critical incident, pupils in primary schools have access to counselling support.

Education and Library Boards promote positive emotional health and well-being using a range of resources. Some schools are involved with issue-based class or group work around resilience, coping with stress, the transition from primary to post-primary school using evidenced-based programmes such as 'Bounce' and 'Mind Out'. Peer support, peer mentoring and school councils also assist with building positive emotional health and well-being of pupils.

Pupils Admitted to Grammar School on Appeal

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education how many pupils were admitted on appeal to each Grammar School in (i) 2010/11; (ii) 2011/12; and (iii) 2012/13.

(AQW 24318/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of pupils admitted on appeal to each Grammar School in 2010/11; 2011/12; and 2012/13 are as detailed in the table below.

BELFAST EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

| SCHOOL | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Wellington College | 1 | 1 | |
| Royal Belfast Academical Institution | 2 | | |
| Victoria College | 1 | | |
| Acquinas Grammar School | 1 | | 1 |
| Belfast Royal Academy | | 1 | |

| SCHOOL | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| St Dominics High School | | 1 | 1 |
| Strathearn College | | 1 | |
| Hunterhouse College | | | 1 |

WESTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Mount Lourdes Grammar School | 6 | | |
| St Michaels Grammar School | 1 | 1 | |
| Christian Brothers Grammar School | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Foyle & Londonderry College | 1 | | |
| Lumen Christi College | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Loreto College | | | 1 |

NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Ballyclare High School | 3 | | |
| Coleraine High School | 1 | | 1 |
| Carrickfergus Grammar School | 1 | | |
| Ballymena Academy | 1 | | 1 |
| Dalriada | 1 | | |
| Larne Grammar School | 1 | 1 | |
| Dominican College | | | |
| St Mary's Grammar School | | 4 | 2 |
| Cambridge House Grammar School | | | 1 |
| St Louis Grammar School | | | 3 |
| Rainey Endowed Grammar School | | | 2 |
| Belfast High School | | | |

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Glenlola Collegiate | 1 | | |
| Bangor Grammar School | 1 | 3 | |
| Sullivan Upper | 1 | | |
| Wallace High School | 2 | | |
| Assumption Grammar School | 1 | 2 | |
| St Patrick's Grammar School | 2 | 2 | |
| Our Lady & St Patrick's College | 1 | | 1 |
| Down High School | | 1 | |

SOUTHERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| St Louis Grammar School | | | 1 |
| St Colman's College | 2 | | 5 |
| St Joseph's Grammar School | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Royal School, Armagh | 2 | | 1 |
| St Patrick's Grammar School | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| St Patrick's Academy | 1 | | |
| Banbridge Academy | | 1 | 5 |
| Christian Brothers Abbey Grammar School | | 4 | 1 |
| Sacred Heart Grammar School | | | 3 |
| Total | 42 | 31 | 36 |

Post-Primary Schools: St Colum's, Portstewart and Mill Strand Primary Schools

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education to list the choice of post-primary schools available to pupils transferring from (i) St Colum's; (ii) Portstewart; (iii) Mill Strand Primary Schools; and to explain any variations in choice of post-primary options.

(AQW 24351/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The North Eastern Education & Library Board has advised me as follows:-

The most common preferences for children transferring from (i) St Colum's Primary School and (ii) Portstewart are Dominican College, Loreto College, St Joseph's College (Coleraine), Coleraine Academical Institution, Coleraine High School and Dalriada School and from (iii) Mill Strand Integrated Primary School are Dominican College, Loreto College, St Joseph's College (Coleraine), Coleraine High School, Dunluce School, North Coast Integrated College and Dalriada School.

As parents of children transferring from primary schools are entitled to list preferences for any post primary school in any sector which they feel would be appropriate for the education of their child, it is not possible to explain the variations in choice of post-primary options without knowing the reasons behind each parent's decision to select each school in a particular order.

Rural Primary Schools

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Education if pupils who attend a rural primary school move to a new home, which is closer to a different school, whether they are entitled to school transport to their original school to ensure that their education is not disrupted by having to change schools.

(AQW 24376/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When a pupil moves to a new home, irrespective of whether they live in a rural or urban setting, Education and Library Boards will reassess their eligibility for assistance with transport from the location of their new home to the school they attend.

Where there is a suitable school, or schools, within statutory walking distance of the pupil's new home, but the parents wish to continue their child's education in the more distant school that they currently attend, then the pupil will only be eligible for assistance with transport if the parents have tried and been unable to secure a place for their child in all of those nearer suitable schools.

Boards will, however, make an exception for primary-age pupils in Years 6 or 7, or for post-primary-age pupils in Years 11 or 12. The purpose of the primary-age exception is to ensure that pupils should not have to change schools twice in two years, that is, primary-to-primary, followed by primary-to-post-primary. The purpose of the post-primary exception is to ensure that pupils do not have to change

school in their important GCSE years. In these circumstances, a seat on a bus will only be provided only if there is a suitable service from the vicinity of the pupil's new home to the school. Otherwise, assistance may be provided in the form of a monetary allowance in lieu of transport.

Education and Welfare Officers

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) number of Education and Welfare Officers; (ii) manager/supervisor ratio to Education and Welfare Officers; (iii) current caseload; and (iv) waiting list, in each Education and Library Board.

(AQW 24390/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not routinely collect this information however the following information has been provided by each Education and Library Board.

| ELB | No. Of Education Welfare Officers | Senior EWO to EWO Ratio | Current Caseload | Waiting List |
|------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| BELB | 28 | Mainstream Teams – 1:7 Project Team – 1:6 Looked After Children (LAC) Team(2) -1:3 | 1180 | NIL (1) |
| SEELB | 23 | 4 Mainstream Teams 1:6 1:6 1:5 1:5 LAC Team(2) -1:3 | 728 | 159 |
| SELB | 28 | 3 Mainstream Teams 1:10 1:10 1:8 | 879 | 30 |
| WELB | 27 | 4 Mainstream Teams 1:9 1:7 1:6 1:5 | 772 | 66 |
| NEELB | 28 (25 FTE) | 3 Mainstream Teams 1:7 1:6 1:9 LAC Team -1:6 | Mainstream Team 35-40 per EWO LAC Team 13-25 per EWO | 155 |

- (1) BELB does not operate a waiting list. All referrals are responded to with some form of intervention.
 (2) Joint BELB and SEELB Team.

Department for Employment and Learning

Programme Led Apprenticeship Guidelines

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans are in place to change the guidelines for Programme Led Apprenticeships to ensure there is no discrimination against people who are sick whilst facilitating people who are serving a custodial sentence or are pregnant.

(AQW 24024/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): My Department has no plans to change the guidelines for Programme Led Apprenticeships.

Policies in regard to young people who have been withdrawn from training due to sick absence, or who are serving a custodial sentence, or are pregnant, are in place to protect the balance of training time and ensure that participants can re-enter Programme-Led Apprenticeships following an enforced interruption or a period of prolonged sickness (even if they are over 18 years old).

Furthermore, any sickness absence related to a participant's disability and evidenced by the participant's GP is disregarded when aggregating a participant's sick record.

The Guidelines also state that suspected abuse of self-certification arrangements must be investigated and, if necessary, the disciplinary procedures as outlined in the Operational Guidelines may be invoked.

I am satisfied that my Department aims to ensure fair and inclusive delivery of all its programmes including Programme Led Apprenticeships.

Educational Maintenance Allowance in North Antrim

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many pupils in North Antrim receive Education Maintenance Allowance.

(AQW 24161/11-15)

Dr Farry: I can advise the member the total number of Northern Ireland domiciled learners attending schools, colleges and FE Colleges in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance in North Antrim for the academic year 2011/2012, the latest year for which complete data is available, was 1,272.

Collaboration and Innovation Fund

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to the Collaboration and Innovation Fund, to detail the councils that (i) did not apply; and (ii) applied but were unsuccessful.

(AQW 24176/11-15)

Dr Farry: Derry City Council in partnership with Ilex URC Ltd was the only Council in Northern Ireland that applied for and was successful in receiving funding under the Collaboration and Innovation Fund.

Youth Unemployment Scheme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of 16-24 year olds in the Foyle constituency availing of the new Youth Unemployment Scheme.

(AQW 24215/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Youth Employment Scheme commenced in September 2012 and includes a range of measures to help unemployed young people aged 18 to 24 to gain experience, acquire new skills and find employment.

Since the introduction of the scheme a total 252 young people (aged 18-24) in the Foyle constituency area, serviced by Foyle and Lisnagelvin Jobs & Benefits offices, have availed of a placement under the Youth Employment Scheme. To date, 70 of those have obtained full time employment.

The focus of the Youth Employment Scheme is on early intervention for young people with the specific aim of helping this group gain work experience, develop additional skills and achieve recognised relevant qualifications needed by those sectors that have the potential for future growth. This scheme is specifically designed to help those young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance and who are almost job ready move into employment.

My Department is also actively working with employers to source as many opportunities as possible across Northern Ireland. I have been encouraged by the response of employers so far (more than 1,100 have signed up to the scheme, offering 2500 opportunities) and I expect many more to come forward to offer opportunities for young people in the coming months

I appreciate your interest in the Youth Employment Scheme and would ask you to encourage young people and employers to become involved.

Mel Davison Construction

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the discussions he has had with employees from Mel Davison Construction and their trade union representatives on the loss of 150 jobs; and whether they will be treated in accordance with the law.

(AQW 24435/11-15)

Dr Farry: Officials from my Department contacted Mel Davison Construction on 18 June 2013 to offer our Redundancy Advice Service. This service includes help and advice on employment, education, training, re-skilling, job-search, and arranging for benefits advice from the Social Security Agency.

Whilst I cannot comment on the legal aspects of any individual employment disputes, I can assure you that any and all subsequent applications to the Department's NI Redundancy Payments Service will be processed as expeditiously as possible, and in compliance with the prevailing legislation, policy, and procedures.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Future Investment Opportunities in South Down

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 22706/11-15, to detail (i) what are the challenges facing the South Down area in attracting investment; and (ii) how she is helping local stakeholders across South Down to overcome each challenge.

(AQW 23703/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): To attract inward investment an area must be able to clearly demonstrate it can meet the investor's needs. A company will be attracted to where they see clusters of talent to be and/or where cost-competitiveness can be leveraged. Potential inward investors will typically look at an area in terms of existing investors in the same business sector (Invest NI's key inward investment target sectors being ICT, business services and financial services) and/or universities and colleges that offer courses relating to that particular sector. ICT skill sets, and the infrastructure to support business in that sector, are in high demand.

When engaging with a company on a potential investment project, Invest NI first demonstrates how Northern Ireland can meet the needs of that particular project. The requirements will vary depending on the nature of the project. Invest NI will then propose a visit plan based on requirements detailed by the investor.

Areas in which these desired features do not exist, or are not clearly presented, are unlikely to attract the attention of potential investors to visit or locate in the area. In addition, potential investors are often drawn to population centres that they consider will provide the appropriate number of suitably skilled potential employees. Therefore a clear understanding and evidence of skill demographics for any region would greatly assist a potential investor in considering a particular area.

This understanding and appreciation of each local area's key demographics and area attributes, including that of the South Down area, is achieved through direct engagement with interested parties. To that end Invest NI is working closely with both Down and Newry & Mourne Councils, and other stakeholders to develop a sales proposition to show the strengths and opportunities in their respective areas that will ultimately attract potential inward investors to visit, locate there and grow in the surrounding South Down area.

Invest NI has developed an 'FDI app' which will help present a snapshot of the benefits of setting up in Northern Ireland to potential investors. Both Down and Newry & Mourne Area Councils have indicated that they wish to be involved and Invest NI is working with them on this. As the South Down offering develops, both councils should reflect this by updating the 'FDI app' and continuing engagement with Invest NI's Southern Regional Office - located in Newry.

In addition, Invest NI continues to work with both councils and the South East Economic Development (SEED) group of councils on a range of initiatives for local businesses under the Local Economic Development Measure (LED). EU/Invest NI support in the South Down area under LED totals over £1.35million and contributes to developing the local business base in the area.

Continued engagement to develop South Down as a competitive destination, development of relevant skills and increased availability of sites ready for business investment all have the potential to improve South Down's visible proposition and place it in further contention to attract inward investment.

Ultimately however, the investor will make the decision as to where they locate based on their specific business needs and having considered the options available to them.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board: Bilingual Signage

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline what the Northern Ireland Tourist Board finds confusing about bilingual signage as stated in the Board Minutes from January 2011. **(AQW 23713/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: The Board of NITB did not state that they found anything confusing about bilingual signage.

Impact of the Jobs Fund on Job Creation in the South Down Constituency

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the impact of the Jobs Fund on job creation in the South Down constituency. **(AQW 23910/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: Since the launch of the Jobs Fund in April 2011, a total of 12 businesses in South Down have received offers of support through the Jobs Fund for employment based investment projects which collectively have the potential to create a total of 70 new jobs, 43 of which have already been created.

The Jobs Fund has also provided support to 13 individuals resident in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA) to set up their own business through the NRA Business Start Grant, and to 11 young people (aged 16-24) Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to set up their own business through the NEET Business Start grant.

The Jobs Fund work is ongoing and Invest NI will continue to actively promote its entire range of business solutions including the Jobs Fund through its ongoing engagement with businesses and stakeholders in South Down and right across Northern Ireland.

2 Megabit Per Second Broadband Service

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 22746/11-15, when she will launch a new consultation. **(AQW 23943/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: Updated market information has become available which requires further consideration in line with the State Aid rules governing the process. Once we are satisfied that it complies with these rules as set down by the EU and is as accurate as possible it is my intention to arrange a further consultation and provide an opportunity for comment on the proposed intervention. This would be in accordance with State Aid rules.

2 Megabit Per Second Broadband Service

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 22681/11-15, when she will publish the responses.

(AQW 23944/11-15)

Mrs Foster: It is my intention to publish a document in the near future that will include detail of the responses received and to provide a final opportunity to help determine the area of intervention, in accordance with State Aid rules.

Health and Safety Regulations: Location of Existing or Previous Wind Turbines

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the location of existing or previous wind turbines have broken health and safety regulations.

(AQW 24035/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is not aware of any instance where the location of existing or previously built wind turbines has broken health and safety regulations.

Health and Safety Issues: Erecting Wind Turbines

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what health and safety issues are considered when identifying sites for erecting wind turbines.

(AQW 24037/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All health and safety issues should be considered in the identification of sites for erecting wind turbines. If the proposed site is in the vicinity of a "major hazard" site, the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is consulted by Planning Service. HSENI would consider the risks (arising from the dangerous substances present on such sites) during the construction, operation and possible failure of the turbine, and provide advice on separation distances.

Power NI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) for her assessment of the extent to which Power NI's first year effect billing system, when dealing with tariff changes creates inequities for consumers; (ii) what engagement she has had with the Utility Regulator, Power NI and the Consumer Council on this issue; and (iii) for her assessment of the need for a change in regulation to bring Power NI in line with other electricity providers.

(AQW 24064/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) This is a matter for the Regulator, not my Department. However, I understand that the Utility Regulator considers that its approach to the first-year billing effect of Power NI's billing system delivers an equitable approach for all consumers, who always have the same billed tariff rate for the same number of quarters. In-year tariff changes do not compromise this principle.
- (ii) I have had no engagement with the Regulator, Power NI or Consumer Council on this issue.
- (iii) This is a matter for the Regulator, not my Department.

Unanswered Questions: AQW 21913/11-15, AQW 21912/11-15, AQW 21911/11-15 and AQW 21910/11-15

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the AQWs 21913/11-15, 21912/11-15, 21911/11-15 and 21910/11-15 remain unanswered.

(AQW 24068/11-15)

Mrs Foster: These AQWs have remained unanswered because of the verification work required to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information.

This exercise has now been completed and the information requested is being prepared.

Changes to AQW 21913/11-15, AQW 21912/11-15, AQW 21911/11-15 and AQW 21910/11-15

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the Executive Leadership Team have requested that changes be made to the figures in AQWs 21913/11-15, 21912/11-15, 21911/11-15 and 21910/11-15.

(AQW 24090/11-15)

Mrs Foster: These AQWs have not been answered as yet and therefore no changes have been made to the figures.

Museum Free Derry

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the funding application for the Museum of Free Derry.

(AQW 24112/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The funding application for this project is under consideration.

Energy Pricing

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the increase in domestic electricity prices, what measures, including extra regulatory price controls, are being considered by her Department in relation to energy pricing.

(AQW 24129/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department has no role in the regulation or setting of electricity prices. Tariff reviews and regulatory price controls are matters for the Regulator. I am of course concerned about recent announcements of price increases and the impact on all consumers, domestic and business. The Regulator reports that there are currently five active domestic electricity suppliers in the Northern Ireland market and consumers can switch supplier to avail of the best available tariffs.

I have also noted, with concern, the findings in the Regulator's Information Paper on prices paid by Industrial and Commercial consumers in Northern Ireland. On publication of the Paper I wrote to the Regulator to ask for additional analysis to examine regulatory and policy measures in other jurisdictions and the creation of a working group. While it is important for that work to be given priority by the Regulator, it is equally important to allow time for it to be completed to understand the drivers of pricing and the implications that changes to policy decisions or regulatory actions might have across consumer groups.

International Investors

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 23577/11-15, to detail how many meetings existing international investors have had with potential investors as part of a visit programme, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24217/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Whilst Invest NI records the general Parliamentary Constituency/District Council Areas visited during inward investment visit programmes it does not maintain central records of the number and nature of specific meetings which potential inward investors choose to hold with existing international investors or individuals.

Mobile Infrastructure Project Scheme: Glenariffe Mobile Phone Mast

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, should the Glenariffe mobile phone mast not be selected as one of the 55 sites under the incoming Mobile Infrastructure Project scheme, will she guarantee that the present service will continue.

(AQW 24219/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The provision of a mobile telephone service in Glenariffe, as in any other area of Northern Ireland, is a commercial matter for the Mobile Network Operators. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for delivering the Mobile Infrastructure Project and it has not yet made decisions about the number and locations of sites that may be selected for consideration under that project.

Promotion of Derry as a Super-Connected City

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what her Department is doing to promote Derry's status as a super-connected city to potential investors.

(AQW 24302/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI is aware of the potential benefits that Londonderry's advanced telecommunications infrastructure provides to investors. The agency brought its international sales teams to the city for its annual International Conference at the start of May in order to learn more about the local proposition and to meet with existing investors.

Since the Conference there have been three investor visits to Londonderry by companies that could potentially benefit from the strength of the city's telecommunications infrastructure. While these potential investments are at an early stage, and the names of the companies involved are subsequently not disclosable, Invest NI will continue to pursue a number of opportunities to bring investment to Londonderry.

Londonderry's "super-connectivity" is just one feature of the proposition and there are many other factors that investors consider important. While Invest NI is unable to direct investment to any specific part of Northern Ireland, the agency will continue to engage with local stakeholders, including the Digital Derry project, in order to maximise the offering and sell Londonderry as a great place in which to invest.

Department of the Environment

Buildings Erected Without Planning Permission

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment how many buildings, which were erected without planning approval, were demolished by departmental staff, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 22333/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): Under Article 74 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 (as amended) the Department (or a person authorised in writing by the Department) can enter the land and take any steps required by the Enforcement Notice that are not taken within the period allowed for compliance. Under this Article the Department can also recover any expenses reasonably incurred by carrying out the required works.

This Article would permit Departmental staff to secure demolition of unauthorised buildings if the landowner did not comply with any Enforcement Notices served within the period allowed for compliance.

To date this Article has never been used and the Department relies upon compliance with enforcement proceedings to ensure that unauthorised buildings are demolished. If works are not carried out willingly and an enforcement notice is upheld, then a prosecution is brought forward where the person may be convicted and fined for failure to comply with an enforcement notice. Continued failure to comply may result in a further prosecution for a continuing offence.

This has been the situation, for example, in one case where fines to date have totalled £15k, £7k and £10k respectively, a total of £35k.

The Member will know that in a different matter, where a legal power was not previously deployed in NI, I did so. Similarly, in this matter. Officials have been directed by me, to take an article 74 application forward in relation to a particular case and, further, officials are preparing paper reviewing such cases across NI to be forwarded to me for clearance.

Planning Applications

Mr Frew asked the Minister of the Environment how many current planning applications have remained in the planning system for three or more years in the (i) Ballymena Borough Council; (ii) Ballymoney Borough Council; and (iii) Moyle District Council areas; and to detail the nature of each application.

(AQW 22479/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As of 31 March 2013 a total of 15 applications have remained in the system for three or more years in the Ballymena Borough Council, Ballymoney Borough Council and Moyle District Council Areas; 2 of which has since been withdrawn.

The breakdown of the remaining 13 applications is as follows:

- Ballymena Borough Council – 3 applications;
- Ballymoney Borough Council – 7 applications; and
- Moyle District Council – 3 applications.

Table 1 below sets out the details of these 13 planning applications.

TABLE 1

| File Reference | Proposal | Current Position |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ballymoney Borough Council | | |
| D/2009/0126/F | Infilling with construction waste to accommodate a park and share / ride | Information received under consideration |
| D/2008/0534/F | Extension to development proposal (Ref D/2007/0317/RM) incorporating redesign of existing layout to relocate proposed access and provide 13 additional dwellings. Scheme now totalling 34no. dwellings. | Approval decision to issue |
| D/2008/0460/F | Proposed housing development consisting of 24 semi-detached dwellings, amenity space and associated roads in accordance with 'Creating Places' | Department negotiating layout in line with outline approval. |

| File Reference | Proposal | Current Position |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| D/2008/0093/F | Residential development of 50 No. townhouses, 6 No. semi-detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping and amenity space. | Department in negotiations to agree acceptable layout. |
| D/2007/0382/F | Residential development of 24 dwellings (4 detached dwellings, 4 semi-detached dwellings, 7 townhouses and 9 apartments) including improvements to roadway in Oakfield Park. | Department in negotiations to agree acceptable layout |
| D/2007/0317/RM | Proposed brown field development to provide 31 residential units with associated access roads and car parking | Approval decision to issue |
| D/2006/0066/F | Redevelopment of former Tesco site to provide residential development consisting of 4 no. apartments, 16 no. townhouses and 24 no. semi-detached dwellings with associated roads, landscaping and amenity. | Finalising roads issues. |
| Moyle District Council | | |
| E/2009/0316/F | Amendment to previous approved application Ref: E/2004/0433/F. Proposed reconfiguration of hotel building only, to provide 45 bedrooms, 29 suites, restaurant/bar and ancillary accommodation all contained within previously approved footprint and retention of 24 holiday chalets, associated access roads, parking and landscaping as previously approved. | Finalising Article 40 Agreement |
| E/2007/0037/F | Housing development, 7 dwellings (amended scheme) | Refusal Decision to issue |
| E/2006/0016/F | Retention of dwelling (No. 96) and refurbishment of traditional outbuildings to residential use with new sewerage treatment plant. | Approval Decision to issue |

| File Reference | Proposal | Current Position |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ballymena Borough Council | | |
| G/2010/0191/F | Proposed demolition of existing dwelling house and re-development of site to provide 3 No. 1 Bed and 13 No. 2 bed apartments in 3 blocks and associated siteworks. | Application deferred by Council at meeting of 06/06/13. Part of the site in Flood Plain |
| G/2010/0082/F | Part demolition and extension of existing shopping centre (amended design). | Awaiting information in relation to roads issues |
| G/2009/0361/F | Construction of 13 townhouses and 13 apartments along with new road through the site and associated car parking (Amended Plans Received) | Awaiting contamination report from agent. |

I have instructed officials to expedite the processing of these applications so that decisions on them, to approve or refuse, are issued as quickly as possible. I have also asked for an update at the end of July 2013.

In summary, of the 13 applications, 3 approvals to issue, one refusal to issue, one deferral of Council, 3 in regulations on layout, one article 40 agreement, one awaiting further information, two with road issues and one information being assessed.

Dereliction Scheme: List of Councils

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment to list the councils which have bid for his Department's Dereliction Scheme; and to detail the projects and the amounts requested.
(AQW 23766/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The councils which made a bid for my Department's Dereliction Scheme, the amounts requested and details of the projects are set out in the attached table.

| Council | Amount Requested £'000 | Landscaping and Removal of Debris at Derelict Sites | Painting and Repair of Buildings | Installation/ or Repair of Fencing/ Railings | Installation of Hoarding and Graphics (e.g. maps) at Derelict Property | Demolition of Derelict Buildings and Structures | Decorative Intervention on Derelict Buildings (e.g. Installation of Printed Building Wraps) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Antrim | 110 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Armagh | 46 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Ballymena | 403 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Ballymoney | 100 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Banbridge | 82 | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Belfast | 500 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Carrickfergus | 164 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Castlereagh | 48 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Coleraine * | 1,549 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cookstown | 131 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Derry | 503 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Down | 31 | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dungannon & South Tyrone | 17 | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Fermanagh | 377 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Larne | 301 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| Council | Amount Requested | Landscaping and Removal of Debris at Derelict Sites | Painting and Repair of Buildings | Installation/ or Repair of Fencing/ Railings | Installation of Hoarding and Graphics (e.g. maps) at Derelict Property | Demolition of Derelict Buildings and Structures | Decorative Intervention on Derelict Buildings (e.g. Installation of Printed Building Wraps) |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | £'000 | | | | | | |
| Limavady | 18 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Lisburn | 159 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Moyle | 104 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Newry & Mourne | 114 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Newtownabbey | 416 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Omagh | 200 | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Strabane | 426 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |

* Separate bids submitted in 2011/2012 (£379k) & 2012/2013 (£1,170)

Wind Turbines and Wind Farms

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment if he plans to introduce measures to codify law in respect of wind turbines and wind farms, given that the existing guidelines on the assessment and rating of noise from wind farms, ETSU-R-97, may have been rendered out of date by technological development.

(AQW 23823/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department's Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' requires applications for wind energy development to demonstrate that they will not cause significant harm to the safety or amenity of any sensitive receptors (including future occupants of committed developments) arising from, inter alia, noise.

In common with the approach adopted in England, Wales and Scotland my Department recommends the use of the 'Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms' (ETSU-R-97) standard in the assessment and rating of noise from wind energy developments. This standard describes a methodology for the assessment and rating of noise from wind energy development.

At the direction of the Department of Energy and Climate Change in England, the ETSU-R-97 standard was recently the subject of a review by the Institute of Acoustics (IoA). Following the review the IoA published a Good Practice Guide aimed at ensuring the consistent application of the methodology.

I am unaware of any plans to amend or further review the ETSU-R-97 standard which I am satisfied provides a reasonable degree of protection to wind farm neighbours, without placing unreasonable restrictions on wind farm development.

Noise Monitoring of Wind Farms and Wind Turbines

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment if he will codify regulations in respect of noise monitoring of wind farms and wind turbines to ensure that noise monitoring is carried out by an accredited acoustician who is independent of the wind industry and approved by those affected by the noise impacts of wind turbines; and to detail if he will establish procedures to ensure that deliberate manipulation of turbine operation during resting to reduce wind turbine noise, cannot occur.

(AQW 23824/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department's Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' requires that applications for wind energy development demonstrate that they will not cause significant harm to the safety or amenity of any sensitive receptors (including future occupants of committed developments) arising from, inter alia, noise.

In common with the approach adopted in England, Wales and Scotland my Department recommends the use of the 'Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms' (ETSU-R-97) standard in the assessment and rating of noise from wind energy developments.

In assessing the likely noise impacts from a wind energy proposal my Department will be guided by advice from the appropriate Council EHO as it is they who have the relevant expertise and experience in this area. They will also advise whether noise monitoring data and/or noise impact assessments, submitted to the Department by developers, have been carried out in accordance with the ETSU standard and relevant industry good practice and can therefore be relied upon for the purposes of determining a planning application.

Cross-Border School Transport

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment whether the issue of cross-border school transport has been resolved since his announcement of 14 June 2012.

(AQW 23845/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The issue of cross-border operators delivering school transport in NI remains active work by my Department. My Department continues to engage with the Department for Transport and the

European Commission to bring clarity to the rules which apply to operators from Ireland who provide services such as Education and Library Board home to school transport wholly within Northern Ireland.

EC Regulation 1073/2009 sets out the rules which apply to the carriage of passengers between, through and within Member States (MS), with cabotage being the carriage of passengers within a MS by a carrier who is established in a different MS. Regulation 1073/2009 further stipulates that cabotage operations should be carried out on a temporary basis. In bringing forward this legislation the Commission provided no definitive guidance on what constitutes "temporary". This has made interpretation and policy development in this area complex.

Given the lack of clear advice, from the Commission, around the temporary nature of cabotage operations, I and DOE have been engaging with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Commission to bring certainty to the appropriate interpretation of EU Regulation 1073/2009.

Since June 2011, when I first became aware of the difficulties faced by NI operators particularly in the North West, my Department has been actively seeking to bring certainty to what has proven to be a complex legal issue. In June 2012, having received comprehensive solicitor's and Senior Counsel advice, it was concluded that Department of Education home to school contracts, because of their regularity and duration, were not temporary and could, therefore, only be delivered by NI licensed operators. As a result the Irish operators who held such contracts were required to obtain NI operator licences. Currently the home to school transport contracts are being delivered by NI licensed operators.

In parallel with this decision, I sought Commission advice on whether home to school transport contracts could be delivered in compliance with cabotage rules. Subsequent Commission advice indicated that contracts generally, and home to school transports particularly, could be delivered as cabotage services. My Department has adapted its policy to take account of this advice. However, in recognition of the impact of this on NI operators my officials have continued to engage with the Commission and DfT with a view to finalising a cabotage policy which takes account of Commission advice whilst having regard to the needs of the NI bus industry. Departmental officials, accompanied by members of the NI bus industry, met Commission officials in Brussels at the end of April and had an extensive and valuable exchange on the cabotage issue, and this is an important input into our cabotage policy.

It is my intention, subject to DfT consideration of what would be a UK wide policy, to bring the matter to a conclusion by publishing further final policy advice and guidance within the next few weeks. This issue does not appear to have been addressed and tackled – that's why I intervened and continue to intervene to secure the full and final outcome which is needed, not least given the interests of North West operators.

Planning Service: Departmental Economists

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 18791 11-15, how many times in 2012 the Planning Service made use of the services of departmental economists.

(AQW 23866/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In processing applications for planning permission, DOE Planning regularly consults with other authorities or bodies likely to have an interest in, and observations to make in respect of proposed development. The expert advice of consultees plays a key part of the development management process.

Departmental economists may be consulted on a range of applications such as investment and regeneration projects that are dependent on grant aid or on economically significant planning applications.

The Department consulted with Departmental economists on 5 separate planning applications during 2012.

Tyres: Source of Fuel for Bonfires

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment what steps he will take to end the practice of using tyres as a source of fuel for bonfires; and what advice he has given to local councils to ensure the end of this practice.

(AQW 23872/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Beyond advice and enforcement action there is a need for those who construct or plan bonfires to show responsibility, respect the environment and avoid harmful emissions.

Increasing people's awareness of the harm that burning tyres cause can help in stopping this practice. I will seek opportunities to emphasise that by burning tyres, bonfire builders are forcing bystanders, local residents and indeed themselves to breathe in potentially cancer-causing chemicals. I will also encourage community groups to work with their local Councils and use alternative forms of celebration where they are available, such as the beacons that are being used in a number of locations. To press home the point I am writing to councils, political parties, the Orange Order and MLA's to urge that all use the influence they have around this issue.

Obtaining a prosecution against tyre dumpers depends on there being sufficient evidence (photographs, video footage or details of vehicle registrations) and witness statements that can be presented in court. My Department will continue to seek and use evidence of this nature to take legal action against businesses who use this route to get rid of waste at the expense of the community. I have stressed to Council and the NIEA the need to seek to escalate this enforcement action.

Dereliction Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail his plans, including timescales, for future tranches of funding through the Dereliction Scheme.

(AQW 23878/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Dereliction Intervention Programme is a rolling programme which I will be bidding to maintain in the current financial year and beyond. As part of the June monitoring round I have bid for £1.5 million for the 2013/2014 programme of funding and until the outcome of the monitoring round is known timescales for this year's scheme cannot be agreed.

On 12 March 2013 I wrote to all councils who were unsuccessful and partially unsuccessful in the 2012/2013 Scheme advising that it is open to those councils to revise or adjust their bids should further funding become available.

I will also shortly be writing out to all 26 councils asking them to revise, adjust their bids or enter a new bid in preparation for further funding should it become available.

Live Applications for Wind Turbines

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many live applications for wind turbines are in the planning system, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 23879/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department welcomes the contribution that renewable projects make to the reduction of carbon emissions and acknowledges the importance of processing these applications in a consistent and timely manner.

As of 30 April 2013 there were 736 planning applications for single and multiple wind turbines under consideration by the Department.

Table 1 below details the number of live applications for single and multiple wind turbines by parliamentary constituency area.

TABLE 1

| Constituency | No. Of apps |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Belfast East | 3 |
| Belfast West | 2 |
| East Antrim | 26 |
| East Londonderry | 59 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 83 |
| Foyle | 8 |
| Lagan Valley | 22 |
| Mid Ulster | 86 |
| Newry and Armagh | 57 |
| North Antrim | 82 |
| South Antrim | 37 |
| South Down | 50 |
| Strangford | 23 |
| Upper Bann | 6 |
| West Tyrone | 192 |
| Total | 736 |

Due to the significant interest in renewable energy applications a renewable energy report is now available on the planning website at <http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/tools/about-statistics/renewable-energy.html> where you can view this detail of information.

Successful Planning Applications for Wind Turbines

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of successful planning applications for wind turbines in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 23880/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department welcomes the contribution that renewable projects make to the reduction of carbon emissions and acknowledges the importance of processing these applications in a consistent and timely manner.

In the last 5 years a total of 1273 applications have been granted planning permission, 514 of these in the last business year alone.

Table 1 below details the number of applications for single and multiple wind turbines decided in each of the last 5 years, indicating how many were approved and the approval rate.

TABLE 1 - APPLICATIONS DECIDED¹ FOR SINGLE AND MULTIPLE WIND TURBINES FROM 2008/09 TO 2012/13, BY CONSTITUENCY

| | 2008/2009 | | | 2009/2010 | | | 2010/2011 | | | 2011/2012 | | | 2012/2013 | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved |
| Belfast East | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 1 | 1 | 100.0% | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| Belfast North | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| Belfast South | 0 | 0 | - | 1 | 1 | 100.0% | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | - |
| Belfast West | 0 | 0 | - | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 0 | 0 | - | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| East Antrim | 12 | 11 | 91.7% | 4 | 4 | 100.0% | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 12 | 9 | 75.0% | 24 | 22 | 91.7% |
| East Londonderry | 19 | 19 | 100.0% | 11 | 10 | 90.9% | 5 | 4 | 80.0% | 32 | 20 | 62.5% | 64 | 51 | 79.7% |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 16 | 14 | 87.5% | 13 | 9 | 69.2% | 17 | 13 | 76.5% | 43 | 32 | 74.4% | 115 | 112 | 97.4% |
| Foyle | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 0 | 0 | - | 2 | 1 | 50.0% | 7 | 5 | 71.4% |
| Lagan Valley | 17 | 17 | 100.0% | 8 | 7 | 87.5% | 8 | 8 | 100.0% | 2 | 1 | 50.0% | 18 | 14 | 77.8% |
| Mid Ulster | 9 | 5 | 55.6% | 14 | 11 | 78.6% | 16 | 13 | 81.3% | 35 | 35 | 100.0% | 79 | 71 | 89.9% |
| Newry and Armagh | 33 | 33 | 100.0% | 9 | 7 | 77.8% | 8 | 4 | 50.0% | 13 | 13 | 100.0% | 48 | 42 | 87.5% |

| | 2008/2009 | | | 2009/2010 | | | 2010/2011 | | | 2011/2012 | | | 2012/2013 | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved | Total Decided | Approved | % Approved |
| North Antrim | 24 | 21 | 87.5% | 14 | 13 | 92.9% | 17 | 17 | 100.0% | 47 | 41 | 87.2% | 55 | 52 | 94.5% |
| North Down | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 3 | 3 | 100.0% | 1 | 1 | 100.0% | 3 | 2 | 66.7% | 2 | 1 | 50.0% |
| South Antrim | 13 | 13 | 100.0% | 13 | 12 | 92.3% | 8 | 7 | 87.5% | 23 | 21 | 91.3% | 11 | 6 | 54.5% |
| South Down | 54 | 49 | 90.7% | 14 | 10 | 71.4% | 15 | 12 | 80.0% | 19 | 15 | 78.9% | 41 | 29 | 70.7% |
| Strangford | 21 | 21 | 100.0% | 7 | 6 | 85.7% | 4 | 2 | 50.0% | 8 | 8 | 100.0% | 16 | 14 | 87.5% |
| Upper Bann | 7 | 6 | 85.7% | 3 | 3 | 100.0% | 3 | 2 | 66.7% | 8 | 7 | 87.5% | 4 | 3 | 75.0% |
| West Tyrone | 21 | 21 | 100.0% | 20 | 16 | 80.0% | 54 | 45 | 83.3% | 92 | 71 | 77.2% | 106 | 89 | 84.0% |
| Total | 250 | 234 | 93.6% | 138 | 116 | 84.1% | 158 | 130 | 82.3% | 342 | 279 | 81.6% | 594 | 514 | 86.5% |

Notes:

- 1 Decided applications may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures cannot be made. Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications.

The increased number of decisions issued and approval rate of 86.5% in 2012/13 compared with the previous three years demonstrates the Departments commitment to supporting the economy and a sustainable environment through renewable energy sources.

Public Consultation on Draft Area Plans

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment whether he plans to raise any concerns with the Minister of Education on the proposals to close some rural primary schools, following the public consultation on draft area plans for primary provision which ended on 1 June 2013.

(AQW 23954/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Clearly, I will have a personal view on the consultation. My role as Minister is to fulfil my statutory functions, where the DENI consultation does not appear to have a particular impact. In the future, with devolution of planning powers to Councils – particularly Development Plans and community planning – Councils may have a particular view on educational provision.

Roe Valley Country Park: Hydro-Electric Scheme

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the current status of the proposed hydro-electric scheme at Roe Valley Country Park.

(AQW 23968/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Roe Valley Hydroelectric scheme to restore industrial heritage and generate renewable power was proposed with two construction phases. The first phase largely consisted of civil engineering works to prevent flooding. This phase is complete.

The second phase for the purchase, installation and commissioning of the turbine is subject to a bid for additional capital funding. The tenders for this final phase were higher than the projected market price which is why an additional capital funding bid is required. However, a review of the Economic Appraisal has clearly shown that the scheme remains viable and will pay-back the investment in full over the next 20 years against an expected lifetime of 50 years.

My Department supports the projected environmental and economic benefits associated with the proposed Hydroelectric scheme and I remain keen that this scheme is completed to off-set 50% of NIEA's electricity needs and as a practical demonstration of the low impact of well designed and managed schemes.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment whether he intends to amend Environmental Impact Assessment regulations to comply with the Court of Justice of the European Union decision in Case c-50/09 – (Commission v Ireland); and when he will order this amendment.

(AQW 23971/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The decision in Case c-50/09 – (Commission v Ireland) and a related UK Court of Appeal judgment in SAVE Britain's Heritage v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Lancaster City Council, which concluded that demolition works come within the scope of the EIA Directive, were implemented in September 2012 by an amendment to the Department's Direction on Demolition and Development and to the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993 ("the GDO").

The changes to the Department's Direction brought the demolition of all buildings with some minor exceptions under planning control. To ensure that the planning system was not overburdened with unnecessary planning applications for the demolition of relatively insignificant buildings the Department also introduced permitted development rights for the demolition of buildings. However, by virtue of an earlier amendment to the GDO made by the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 1999 these were only granted up to the point where demolition reached the EIA threshold so that permitted development rights would not be granted where the proposal required environmental scrutiny under the EIA Regulations.

Major Planning Applications: Derry City Council Area

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on major planning applications in the Derry City Council area.

(AQO 4229/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Decisions have been made on four of the major retailing applications in Derry. One application, for an Asda food store, has been approved at the Crescent Link Retail Park. Three applications were refused. Two applications on the Buncrana Road/Templemore Road for Tesco (A/2004/0976/F and A/2009/0212/F) are now to be the subjects of a conjoined Public Inquiry to be held in November 2013. The other application at Drumahoe, A/2009/0689/O, is also now the subject of a Public Inquiry and the PAC will hold the hearing at the end of August 2013.

There are 5 major retailing applications which are currently being processed by the Department, one of which (the Niche Drinks Factory site) is being dealt with by the Area Planning Office in Orchard House. Consultation responses remain outstanding for this application.

The other four applications are being dealt with by the Strategic Planning Division in Belfast. The applicants have submitted additional information under their own volition and have consequently extended the processing of these applications.

I previously clarified my views on the two applications at Crescent Link when I announced that I would consider a large retail store at this location to be unacceptable. However the Notice of Opinion for the food store has not yet been issued, to allow the applicant time to consider a revised mixed-use proposal for the sites.

Re-advertisement, re-neighbour notification and consultation procedures are currently ongoing for the McCormick site on the Buncrana Road, due to the recent receipt of further environmental information. The final proposal at the Caw roundabout has still outstanding issues to resolve in relation to the Roads Service requirements but the applicants are also considering an amendment to the proposed development.

I would wish to bring all the applications within my control, to a conclusion quickly. I believe it would be helpful to create certainty. However, with applicants submitting further information – as they are entitled to do – this extends the time for decisions. As I have attempted to demonstrate with Article 31 decisions, I am keen to bring applications to the point of decision. Applicants should work with DOE on doing so.

The Northern Area Planning Office is also dealing with approximately 120 applications that are classed as major proposals. The majority of the applications relate to residential developments including social housing proposals. Other significant applications include the redevelopment of Fort George and mixed use proposals throughout the City.

Planning Applications for Wind Turbines and Farms

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the total number of planning applications for wind turbines and farms, including the number of turbines proposed in each case, in the (i) Magherafelt; (ii) Cookstown; and (iii) Dungannon district council areas, in each of the last five years; and the number that were (a) approved; and (b) rejected.

(AQW 24034/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department welcomes the contribution that renewable projects make to the reduction of carbon emissions and acknowledges the importance of processing these applications in a consistent and timely manner.

In the last 5 years, 351 applications for wind turbines and wind farms were received across the Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon Council areas. For the same period and areas, a total of 186 such applications were approved with 26 refused.

Table 1 below details the number of applications for wind turbines and wind farms received, decided and approved in the last 5 years.

The increased number of decisions issued and approval rate of 91.8% in 2012/13 compared with the previous five years demonstrates the Departments commitment to supporting the economy and a sustainable environment through renewable energy sources.

Table 1: The number of single wind turbine and wind farm applications received¹ and decided² between 2008/09 and 2012/13, in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt

| | | 2008/2009 | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Received ¹ | Total Decided ² | Approved | Refused | % Approved |
| Single wind turbine | Cookstown | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 33.3% |
| | Dungannon | 9 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 50.0% |
| | Total | 16 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 66.7% |
| Wind farm | Cookstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Dungannon | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Total | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.0% |
| Total | Cookstown | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 33.3% |
| | Dungannon | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 83.3% |
| | Magherafelt | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 50.0% |
| | Total | 21 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 61.5% |

| | | 2009/2010 | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Received ¹ | Total Decided ² | Approved | Refused | % Approved |
| Single wind turbine | Cookstown | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Dungannon | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 75.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 13 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 88.9% |
| | Total | 22 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 87.5% |
| Wind farm | Cookstown | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Dungannon | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Total | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 50.0% |
| Total | Cookstown | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 75.0% |
| | Dungannon | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 80.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 14 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 88.9% |
| | Total | 25 | 18 | 15 | 3 | 83.3% |

| | | 2010/2011 | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | | Received ¹ | Total Decided ² | Approved | Refused | % Approved |
| Single wind turbine | Cookstown | 37 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Dungannon | 33 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 90.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 25 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 62.5% |
| | Total | 95 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 80.0% |
| Wind farm | Cookstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Dungannon | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Total | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 100.0% |
| Total | Cookstown | 38 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Dungannon | 33 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 90.9% |
| | Magherafelt | 26 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 66.7% |
| | Total | 97 | 22 | 18 | 4 | 81.8% |

| | | 2011/2012 | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | | Received ¹ | Total Decided ² | Approved | Refused | % Approved |
| Single wind turbine | Cookstown | 31 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Dungannon | 36 | 20 | 15 | 5 | 75.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 30 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Total | 97 | 46 | 41 | 5 | 89.1% |
| Wind farm | Cookstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| | Dungannon | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Total | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 100.0% |
| Total | Cookstown | 32 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Dungannon | 36 | 22 | 17 | 5 | 77.3% |
| | Magherafelt | 30 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Total | 98 | 49 | 44 | 5 | 89.8% |

| | | 2012/2013 | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| | | Received ¹ | Total Decided ² | Approved | Refused | % Approved |
| Single wind turbine | Cookstown | 36 | 40 | 37 | 3 | 92.5% |
| | Dungannon | 45 | 42 | 41 | 1 | 97.6% |
| | Magherafelt | 29 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 83.3% |
| | Total | 110 | 106 | 98 | 8 | 92.5% |
| Wind farm | Cookstown | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Dungannon | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Magherafelt | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% |
| | Total | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 75.0% |
| Total | Cookstown | 36 | 42 | 39 | 3 | 92.9% |
| | Dungannon | 45 | 43 | 41 | 2 | 95.3% |
| | Magherafelt | 29 | 25 | 21 | 4 | 84.0% |
| | Total | 110 | 110 | 101 | 9 | 91.8% |

Notes:

- 1 All applications received in the period may not have had a decision issued within the same time period. Applications received may also include some applications that are subsequently withdrawn.
- 2 Decided applications may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications.

Planning Permission for Wind Turbines

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of the Environment when the requirements for granting planning permission for the erection of wind turbines were last updated in his Department's planning policy; and whether they are being reviewed in advance of the creation of a Single Planning Policy Statement. **(AQW 24036/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: Planning policy in relation to wind energy is contained in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 'Renewable Energy', which was published in final form in August 2009.

The Department is committed to preparation of a single Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) in time for the transfer of Planning powers to local councils. The purpose of the SPPS is to provide a comprehensive consolidation of policy, including a review of some elements where necessary. The intention is that a draft SPPS will be published for public consultation by the end of the year.

Research and information is published on an ongoing basis on issues related to wind farms and wind turbines. I however, am and remain satisfied with the content of the planning policy PPS18.

Gaelectric Applications for Wind Turbines

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many applications for wind turbines have been submitted by Gaelectric in each of the last five years; and (ii) how many of these applications (a) were approved; and (b) are pending a decision. **(AQW 24038/11-15)**

Mr Attwood: The Department welcomes the contribution that renewable projects make to the reduction of carbon emissions and acknowledges the importance of processing these applications in a consistent and timely manner.

In the last 5 years three applications have been received by the Department from Gaelectric for wind turbines. Two were received in the 2008/09 business year and one was received in 2011/12.

All three applications have been approved and there are no current applications for wind turbines that have been submitted by Gaelectric that are pending a decision.

Driver and Vehicle Agency: Driving Licence Forms

Mr Ross asked the Minister of the Environment how many forms for (i) new driving licences; (ii) replacement driving licences; and (iii) duplicate driving licences have been returned to the Driver and Vehicle Agency, in each of the last ten years; and on how many occasions did applicants indicate on their form that they wished to be an organ donor.

(AQW 24061/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Whilst the Driver & Vehicle Agency facilitates those applying for driving licences registering their willingness to donate organs, since this data is not required for the processing of driving licence applications, under data processing rules, no record of this data is retained by the Agency. The details relating to applicants making a declaration in favour of organ donation is transmitted directly to the NHS Organ Donation and Transplantation Directorate.

The Organ Donation and Transplantation Directorate of NHS Blood and Transplant publish annual figures for the number of people on the Organ Donor Register for NI, but the figures do not include the source of registration. The figures show an increase in registration from 440,123 in 2008/09 to 550,629 in 2012/13, an increase of around 25%.

Table 1 below details the driver licensing transaction volumes in the categories requested for each of the last 10 years.

TABLE 1 DRIVING LICENCE TRANSACTION VOLUMES 2003/04 TO 2012/13

| Year | Ordinary Licence Transactions ¹ | | | Vocational Transaction Licences ¹ | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| | Provisional Driving Licences | Full Driving Licences | Replacement/Duplicate Driving Licences | Provisional Driving Licences | Full Driving Licences | Replacement/Duplicate Driving Licences |
| 2012/13 | 24,692 | 92,614 | 53,080 | 1,749 | 8,592 | 3,569 |
| 2011/12 | 24,981 | 89,872 | 49,763 | 2,056 | 9,040 | 3,454 |
| 2010/11 | 27,228 | 87,516 | 49,672 | 2,240 | 6,461 | 3,553 |
| 2009/10 | 28,216 | 87,448 | 48,364 | 2,219 | 5,920 | 3,578 |
| 2008/09 | 29,550 | 107,618 | 45,667 | 2,212 | 6,571 | 3,895 |
| 2007/08 | 32,004 | 169,5823 | 41,999 | 2,806 | 6,496 | 4,247 |
| 2006/072 | 29,620 | 173,4793 | 42,671 | 1,380 | 6,004 | 4,229 |
| 2005/062 | 29,014 | 178,9603 | 41,439 | 2,791 | 4,517 | 3,645 |
| 2004/052 | 25,561 | 77,144 | 38,748 | 2,363 | 4,853 | 2,145 |
| 2003/042 | 30,905 | 62,132 | 44,729 | 2,007 | 7,589 | 3,087 |

1 Figures for 2007/08 to 2012/13 are DOE Official Statistics from the DVA Compendium of Key Statistics for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

2 Figures sourced from DVA management systems and are not validated DOE/DVA Official Statistics.

3The period of validity of a driving licence changed from three to ten years in 1985, which lead to a three year peak renewal period each mid decade, which explains the increase in full licence figures during the three years from 2005/06 to 2007/08.

Wind Farm Developments: Health Issues

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of (i) the health issues raised in the Hanning/Evans article in the British Medical Journal on 10 March 2012; and (ii) the concerns raised at Westminster on behalf of GPs from Aberdeenshire who noted an increase in health issues which coincided with significant wind farm development in the area.

(AQW 24104/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Where matters of public health are raised in relation to a proposal for wind energy development; or where an assessment of scientific research in this area is sought, it is my Departments practice to consult with the Public Health Agency (PHA) which possesses the relevant expertise in this area.

The advice of the PHA is that, in general, provided established guidance and best practice in relation to placement of wind turbines and mitigation measures is undertaken, there is minimal to no risk to the health of the population associated with such facilities.

The PHA has previously advised by Department that the British Medical Journal article by Hanning/Evans which you cite is an opinion piece, and although it does consider earlier research, it does not necessarily do so in a systematic manner. In light of this the PHA advise that it should not be regarded as evidence of new scientific research in this area.

In relation to the concerns presented to Westminster by Aberdeenshire GPs, I have asked officials to access this information, consider it and seek further advice from the PHA.

Pleasure Grounds: North Down

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of the Environment when her Department received, and will comment on, the new draft Pleasure Ground By-law proposals for the North Down Borough Council area.

(AQO 4337/11-15)

Mr Attwood: On 19 March 2010, the Department received an application from North Down Borough Council ("the Council") to revoke its 1995 bye-laws for Pleasure Grounds and to replace them with bye-laws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces ("the proposed bye-laws").

A final version of the proposed bye-laws was received from the Council on 16 January 2013.

The Department considers that, subject to 3 minor amendments, the proposed bye-laws are suitable for confirmation.

Bye-laws do not take effect until confirmed by the Departments concerned. In this case, DCAL, having responsibility for one of the enabling powers under which the bye-laws are being made, will also be required to agree to confirm the bye-laws in addition to DOE.

The draft bye-laws were forwarded to DCAL and the Department awaits its formal response before it engages further with the Council on the proposed bye-laws.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Surplus Posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) location; and (ii) number of surplus posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service at (a) Administrative Assistant; (b) Administrative

Officer; (c) Executive Officer II; (d) Executive Officer I; (e) Staff Officer; and (f) Deputy Principal grades, in each Government Department.

(AQW 23325/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The location and number of surplus posts in the Civil Service at (a) Administrative Assistant (AA); (b) Administrative Officer (AO); (c) Executive Officer II (EOII); (d) Executive Officer I (EOI); (e) Staff Officer (SO); and (f) Deputy Principal (DP) grades, in each Department at 21 May 2013 are set out in the table overleaf.

AQW 23325/11 - LOCATION & NUMBER OF SURPLUS POSTS IN THE NICS AT AO, E02, E01, SO & DP AS AT 21/05/13

| | AA | Location | AO | Location | E01I | Location | E01 | Location | SO | Location | DP | Location |
|--------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| DARD | 1 | Enniskillen | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DCAL | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | Belfast |
| DE | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DEL | 0 | | 0 | Belfast | 1 | Belfast | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DETI | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DFF | 0 | | 1 | Belfast | 1 | Belfast | 1 | Belfast | 1 | Belfast | 1 | Belfast |
| DHSSPS | 1 | Stormont | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DOE | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DOJ | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DRD | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| DSD | 2 | 1 Ballynahinch 1 Belfast | 2 | Londonderry | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| OFMDFM | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| PPS | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Total | 4 | | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |

Vacant Posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) location; and (ii) number of vacant posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service at (a) Administrative Assistant; (b) Administrative Officer; (c) Executive Officer II; (d) Executive Officer I; (e) Staff Officer; and (f) Deputy Principal grades, in each Government Department.

(AQW 23327/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested is set out in the table attached.

AQW 23327/11 - LOCATION & NUMBER OF VACANT POSTS IN THE NICS AT AA, AO, E02, E01, SO & DP - 21/5/13

| | AA | Location | AO | Location | E01I | Location | E01 | Location | SO | Location | DP | Location |
|------|----|---------------|----|---------------|------|-------------------|------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| DARD | 2 | 1 Enniskillen | 5 | 1 Cookstown | 3 | 1 Dungannon | 8.5 | 1 Londonderry | 11 | 1 Hydebank | 16 | Stormont |
| | | 1 Londonderry | | 1 Hydebank | | 10 Stormont | | | | | | |
| | | | | 3 Stormont | | | | | | | | |
| DCAL | 0 | | 1 | Belfast | 1 | Belfast | 0.5 | Belfast | 1 | 3 | Belfast | |
| DE | 0 | | 0 | | 4 | 1 Bangor | 1 | Londonderry | 12 | Bangor | 10.5 | 9.5 Bangor |
| | | | | | | Londonderry | | | | 1 Londonderry | | |
| *DEL | 2 | Belfast | 18 | 1 Antrim | 16.6 | 1 Ballymena | 17.8 | 1 Antrim | 7 | Belfast | 12 | Belfast |
| | | | | 1 Armagh | | 8 Belfast | | 1 Armagh | | | | |
| | | | | 9 Belfast | | 0.6 Carrickfergus | | 1 Banbridge | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Cookstown | | 1 Cookstown | | 10.8 Belfast | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Dungannon | | 1 Dungannon | | 1 Lisburn | | | | |
| | | | | 2 Enniskillen | | 1 Newcastle | | 1 Lisnagelvin | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Lisburn | | 1 Newtownabbey | | 1 Londonderry | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Newry | | 2 Omagh | | 1 Newry | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Strabane | | 1 Portadown | | | | | | |
| | | | | Stormont | | | | Belfast | | | | |
| DETI | 0 | | 1 | Stormont | 0 | | 1 | 5 | 1 Belfast 4 Stormont | 2 | Stormont | |

| | AA | Location | AO | Location | EOII | Location | E01 | Location | SO | Location | DP | Location | |
|--------|----|-------------|-----|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----|---------------|----|------------|----|---------------|--|
| DFP | 2 | Belfast | 28 | 1 Bangor | 7 | 5 Belfast | 14 | 13 Belfast | 17 | 2 Bangor | 7 | 1 Bangor | |
| | | | | 27 Belfast | | 1 Londonderry | | 1 Londonderry | | 12 Belfast | | 3 Belfast | |
| | | | | 1 Omagh | | | | 3 Londonderry | | | | 3 Londonderry | |
| DHSSPS | 0 | | 1.5 | Stormont | 4 | Stormont | 2 | Stormont | 2 | Stormont | 13 | Stormont | |
| DOE | 6 | 1 Belfast | 29 | 1 Armagh | 31.5 | 9 Belfast | 3 | Belfast | 10 | Belfast | 5 | Belfast | |
| | | 4 Coleraine | | 7 Belfast | | 9 Coleraine | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 Lisburn | | 8 Coleraine | | 1 Downpatrick | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Downpatrick | | 1 Londonderry | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1.5 Enniskillen | | 10.5 Location To be Confirmed | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 10.5 Location To be Confirmed | | 1 Mobile** | | | | | | | |

| | AA | Location | AO | Location | EOII | Location | E01 | Location | SO | Location | DP | Location |
|-----|----|-----------------|------|--------------------|------|------------------|------|------------------|----|------------------|----|---------------|
| DOJ | 3 | 2 Maghaberry | 0.28 | 0.53 Ballymena | 8.14 | 14.14 Belfast | 9.57 | 4.57 Belfast | 8 | 4 Belfast | 8 | 4 Belfast |
| | | 1 Stormont | | 1 Banbridge | | 1 Hydebank | | 1 Londonderry | | 1 Newtownards | | 4 Stormont |
| | | | | 12.75 Belfast | | 3 Stormont | | 1 Omagh | | 3 Stormont | | |
| | | | | 1 Carrickfergus | | | | 3 Stormont | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Hydebank | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2 Maghaberry | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2 Stormont | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Belfast | | Downpatrick | | 1 Belfast | | 3 Belfast | | 5 Belfast |
| | | | | 2 Enniskillen | | | | 1 Coleraine | | 1 Coleraine | | 1 Omagh |
| | | | | 1 Lisburn | | | | | | | | |
| DRD | 1 | Ballymena | 6 | 1 Lisburn | 1 | | 2 | | 4 | | 6 | |
| | | | | 1 Newtownards | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 Omagh | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | AA | Location | AO | Location | EOII | Location | EO1 | Location | SO | Location | DP | Location |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| DSD | 28 | 22 Belfast | 111 | 95 Belfast | 41 | 26 Belfast | 31 | 23 Belfast | 36 | Belfast | 16 | 1 Banbridge |
| | | 1 Cookstown | | 12 Enniskillen | | 1 Enniskillen | | 8 Coleraine | | | | 14 Belfast |
| | | 5 Londonderry | | 4 Newry | | 13 Londonderry | | | | | | 1 Omagh |
| | | | | | | 1 Newtownards | | | | | | |
| OFMDFM | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | | 2 | Stormont | 2 | Stormont | |
| PPS | 0 | | 0 | | 3 | Belfast | 0 | | 3 | Belfast | 3 | Belfast |
| Total | 44 | | 220.78 | | 130.24 | | 90.37 | | 118 | | 103.5 | |
| Total Vacancies | | | | | | 706.89 | | | | | | |

Notes

*DEL 13.8 of the vacancies listed (3 AO, 2 EO2, 3.8 EO1, 3 SO, and 2 DP) are currently on hold awaiting the outcome of staffing reviews

**DOE Mobile – Based at home. Required to visit Scheduled Monuments across Northern Ireland.

Departments with Video Conferencing Facilities

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) which Departments have Video Conferencing facilities; (ii) whether these facilities are room based systems for group conferencing or personal laptop systems; and (iii) how frequently these systems are used.

(AQW 23572/11-15)

Mr Wilson: All NICS departments have Video Conferencing facilities. There are both room based group conferencing facilities and desktop/laptop based Video Conferencing facilities.

Usage varies from Video Conferencing endpoint. Some are used daily, such as, the endpoints used by NI Direct in Orchard House and Causeway Exchange to others that are used on an ad hoc basis.

Video Conferencing

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what assessment has been conducted into Video Conferencing requirements within the Civil Service and arm's-length bodies.

(AQW 23575/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Each video conferencing unit purchased is subjected to the normal Departmental capital purchasing procedures which include writing a Business Case to gain approval for the purchase of a capital asset and subject to the normal Post Project Review/Evaluation processes and procedures in place within the Departments purchasing the unit.

Enterprise Design Authority, now part of Enterprise Shared Services, DFP completed a Video Conferencing Strategy for the NICS and a resulting business case for the provision of a centralised Video Conferencing Infrastructure that supports both internal Video Conferences across Network NI and external breakout to external video conferencing units. This is now an offered IT Assist service and is therefore also available to any arm's-length body that chooses to take IT Assist's services.

Electricity Bills: Exemption from the Carbon Price Floor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the calculation used to predict that electricity bills would be 10-15 per cent lower following the exemption from the carbon price floor.

(AQW 23608/11-15)

Mr Wilson: This assessment is based on analysis contained in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) report, Estimated Impacts of Energy and Climate Change Policies on Energy Prices and Bills 2011.

DECC's most recent report in this regard was published in March 2013 and this suggests that the carbon price floor could increase the average electricity prices paid by large energy intensive users by up 26 per cent by 2030. Clearly such a large increase would have a devastating impact on such business users in Northern Ireland, affecting their competitiveness and future long term prospects.

Complete and Accurate Statements of Revenue

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the procedures which would be required to provide a set of complete and accurate statements of revenue.

(AQW 23627/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In line with its statutory responsibilities under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 (sections 9(2) and 11(2)), the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) issues annual accounts directions which direct the form and content of department and agency accounts.

For the current financial year, these directions can be found in the Dear Accounting Officer letter issued to Accounting Officers as DAO (DFP) 03/13.

The directions should be read along with other guidance issued by DFP in the form of Finance Director letters:

- FD (DFP) 01/13, which provides guidance on the latest version of the Treasury Government Financial Reporting Manual to be used;
- FD (DFP) 04/13, which provides guidance on the timetable for producing accounts and the procedures for accounts being audited; and
- FD (DFP) 07/13, FD (DFP) 08/13 and FD (DFP) 09/13, which provide guidance on the laying of accounts before the Assembly for departments, agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) respectively.

These, along with other more detailed guidance, can be found at http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/finance/afmd/afmd-finance/afmd-financial_reporting.htm

Agri-Food Strategy Board's Going For Growth Initiative

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what requests or bids he has received from the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for the £400 million required for the Agri-Food Strategy Board's Going For Growth initiative.

(AQW 23687/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have not received any bids or requests from the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for the £400 million required for the Agri-Food Strategy Board's Report "Going For Growth – Investing in Success".

Civil Law Reform of Family Law

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether responsibility for civil law reform of family law will be transferred to the Department of Justice.

(AQW 23999/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I refer the Member to my reply to Pat Ramsey on 8 July 2011(AQW 1300/11-15). It remains the position that I have no plans to propose transfer of my Department's civil law reform responsibility to the Department of Justice.

Newry Canal Project

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the current status of the business case for the Newry Canal Project.

(AQW 24005/11-15)

Mr Wilson: My Department has not received a Business Case in relation to the Newry Canal Project. May I suggest that if further information is required on this proposal the Member contacts the Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure as she has policy responsibility for this particular project.

10 Percent Top-Up Compensation for Landowners

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline his position on a 10 percent top-up compensation for landowners who are required to release land for road construction projects similar to the policy in Great Britain; and for his assessment of the implementation of such a policy in the case of the A31 Magherafelt bypass scheme.

(AQW 24043/11-15)

Mr Wilson: This issue has been considered before by my Department in relation to other major road schemes. The findings were that the differences between GB and Northern Ireland provisions are much less clear cut than the question would imply.

In Northern Ireland qualifying owner occupiers of dwellings vested by an acquiring authority are already entitled to an additional 10% in the form of a Home Loss Payment, subject to a minimum of £4,500 and maximum £45,000. Similarly, qualifying owner occupiers of agricultural property are entitled to an unlimited Farm Loss Payment based on loss of net profits where the entire farm is taken. These supplemental amounts are over and above market value based compensation and any loss based disturbance compensation which is due to claimants.

In view of these existing provisions I have no plans to introduce legislation in Northern Ireland to replicate the GB provisions for basic and occupier loss payments. In GB the basic and occupier loss payments together amount to 10% of the market value, if both elements are payable to the same qualifying claimant, and are subject to ceilings.

In any event it would not necessarily be a matter for my Department to bring forward any such primary legislative change, but would more appropriately fall to one of the main vesting Departments.

My colleague, the Minister for Regional Development, informs me the design of the Magherafelt Bypass is at an advanced stage. A Public Inquiry was held in 2009, and the Direction Order and Notice of Intention to Proceed were published during 2010. The Vesting Order, however, will only be made when funding is confirmed.

Birth Rate in Northern Ireland and North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the birth rate in (i) Northern Ireland; and (ii) North Down, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 24087/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Table 1 overleaf shows the annual birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 for Northern Ireland and North Down District Council area between 2007 and 2011.

Birth rates for 2012 will not be available until the release of 2012 population mid-year estimates at the end of June 2013.

Table 1: Birth rates¹ in Northern Ireland and North Down District Council area, 2007-2011

| Registration Year | Northern Ireland Birth Rate¹ | North Down Birth Rate¹ |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2007 | 64.3 | 61.1 |
| 2008 | 67.1 | 65.0 |
| 2009 | 65.3 | 62.0 |
| 2010 | 66.7 | 64.1 |
| 2011 | 67.0 | 66.9 |

1 Number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-44

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Dungannon

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many small and medium sized enterprises in Dungannon have applied for the rate relief scheme for empty shops or vacant premises since its introduction.

(AQW 24216/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Since introduction of Empty Premises Relief on 1st April 2012, six applications have been received by Land & Property Services for the Dungannon and South Tyrone District Council Area. LPS does not record applications by size or by town limits.

As of 14th June 2013, two applications have met the qualifying criteria of the scheme.

G8 Summit: Cost of Hosting

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of the cost of hosting the G8 Summit to the Northern Ireland public purse.

(AQW 24225/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The cost estimates for hosting the G8 summit are still evolving and negotiations continue on apportioning these costs.

At our recent meeting, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury confirmed that the vast majority of policing and security-related costs will be met by UK Government and not the Executive. As might be expected there will be some other costs associated with hosting the G8 event. I will update the Assembly on the G8 costs as part of my Statement on June Monitoring, once this has been endorsed by the Executive.

It is also important to recognise that this event will generate significant revenues for Northern Ireland and especially the Fermanagh region.

Eligibility of Special Advisers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQO 4257/11-15, whether the eligibility of Special Advisers is based on their gross scale salary.

(AQW 24241/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I can confirm that tax and National Insurance contributions are deducted from the gross pay of all Special Advisers.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Waiting List Initiative on Surgery or Medical Interventions

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the Waiting List Initiative on surgery or medical interventions which were performed outside Northern Ireland, whether it is departmental policy to award tenders on the basis of excluding travel and subsistence costs from the assessment process or is the entire cost to the tax payer is included.

(AQW 23492/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) have created a Northern Ireland Independent Sector Tariff. Tariffs relate to assessment and treatment costs and do not include travel and subsistence.

Waiting List Initiative on Surgery or Medical Interventions

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the Waiting List Initiative on surgery or medical interventions which were performed outside Northern Ireland, what weight is placed on the inconvenience and risk to the patient in the award of tenders.

(AQW 23493/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised that: the Northern Health and Social Care Trust has no providers outside of Northern Ireland under the waiting list initiative on surgery or medical interventions; the Belfast, South Eastern and Western Trusts take account of the provision of services that can be delivered locally; and, the Southern Trust gives consideration to qualitative requirements.

Medical Negligence Cases

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many medical negligence cases brought against his Department have been settled in the last three years; (ii) how

many have been settled through the courts; and (iii) how many were settled by a non-legal arbitration route.

(AQW 23833/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) It is assumed that this question refers to cases of clinical/social care negligence made against the Department which were settled in the last three years.

Information is detailed in Table 1 below on the number of settled cases during the last two years only, as information is not available for 2009/10. It should also be noted that it is not possible to disaggregate figures for (a) clinical and (b) social care negligence cases.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CLINICAL/SOCIAL CARE NEGLIGENCE CASES SETTLED

(2010/11 – 2011/12)

| Year | Total Number of Settled Cases |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 2010/11 | 259 |
| 2011/12 | 205 |

Source: DHSSPS CN1 Annual Information Return

- (ii) Information detailed in Table 2 below refers to the number of cases of clinical/social care negligence that have been settled after issue of proceedings.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF CLINICAL/SOCIAL CARE NEGLIGENCE CASES SETTLED AFTER ISSUE OF PROCEEDINGS (2010/11 – 2011/12)

| Year | Settled After Issue of Proceedings ¹ |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2010/11 | 121 |
| 2011/12 | 107 |

- 1 This refers to all cases settled after issue of proceedings and does not include any cases settled prior to the issue of proceedings or any cases where no damages were paid. Furthermore, figures do not distinguish between cases where a negotiated settlement has been reached and those which have been heard by a Judge and damages awarded.

- (iii) There were no cases settled by a non-legal arbitration route during the last two years, i.e. where the parties involved referred the dispute to one or more 'arbitrators' and whose decision they agreed to be bound.

Health and Social Care Trust Officials and Board Members

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to outline the contacts which routinely take place between the officials and board members of the Health and Social Care Trusts and his departmental officials; (ii) whether agendas and minutes exist for these meetings; and (iii) where these agendas and meetings are published.

(AQW 23837/11-15)

Mr Poots: As part of the governance arrangements between the Department and its Arms Length Bodies, my officials formally meet the Chairperson, Chief Executive and Executive Board Members of each Health and Social Care Trusts for mid and end year assurance and accountability meetings.

Agendas and minutes exist for each set of meetings and while these are not routinely published, they are subject to requests for release under the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to these formal meetings, my officials hold a variety of meetings with Board members of Health and Social Care Trusts in the conduct of their normal business. Requests for information about each, including the existence of agendas and minutes are again subject to requests under the Freedom of information Act.

Average Cost of an Operation

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average cost of an operation; and the average cost broken down by surgical speciality.

(AQW 23855/11-15)

Mr Poots: The cost of an operation differs significantly between patients and is subject to a range of variables, including the diagnosis, complexity of the care and the particular procedure performed. In that context, there is no single, meaningful average cost of an operation and therefore this information cannot be provided.

However, average unit costs broken down by speciality for a wide range of procedures are collected by my Department and can be provided upon request

Children in Care

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the number of children, broken down by age, who have been removed from the care of their parents following the recommendation of a social worker; (ii) the number of these children who were returned to parental care, broken down by the timescale in which they were returned; and (iii) the number of these children who were placed in foster care on a long-term basis.

(AQW 23870/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Table 1 below contains the number of children who have been removed from the care of their parents following the recommendation of a social worker in each of the last three years.

TABLE 1: CHILDREN REMOVED FROM THEIR PARENTS AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF A SOCIAL WORKER¹

| Year | Age Range | | | | Total |
|---------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|-------|
| | 0 - 4 | 5 - 11 | 12 - 15 | 16 & Over | |
| 2010/11 | 308 | 228 | 269 | 73 | 878 |
| 2011/12 | 276 | 262 | 229 | 70 | 837 |
| 2012/13 | 313 | 216 | 184 | 116 | 829 |

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts SOS CARE

1 These figures have not been validated by Community Information Branch

- (ii) Table 2 contains the number of these children who were returned to parental care broken down by the timescale they were in care.

TABLE 2: CHILDREN RETURNED TO PARENTAL CARE BY TIMESCALE^{1, 2}

| Year | Timescale | | | | Total | |
|---------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|
| | < 3 Months | 3 Months < 6 Months | 6 Months < 1 Year | 1 Year < 2 Years | | 2 Years < 3 Years |
| 2010/11 | 125 | 47 | 70 | 92 | 31 | 365 |
| 2011/12 | 133 | 56 | 58 | 65 | 27 | 339 |
| 2012/13 | 192 | 43 | 46 | 40 | 26 | 347 |

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts SOS CARE

- 1 These figures have not been validated by Community Information Branch
 - 2 The Northern Health and Social Care Trust was unable to provide figures for 2010/11 in the timeframe provided.
- (iii) Table 3 contains those children who were removed from parental care in each of the last three years and placed in long term foster care.

Table 3: The Number of Children Removed from Parental Care and Placed in Long Term Foster Care^{1, 2}

| Year | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Long Term Foster Care | 320 | 314 | 387 |

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts SOS CARE

- 1 These figures have not been validated by Community Information Branch
- 2 The Northern Health and Social Care Trust was unable to provide figures in the timeframe provided.

Patient Transport to Medical Appointments

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the process by which a person with significant health issues and mobility limitations, who is cared for in a private facility under a contract with a local Health and Social Care Trust, is made responsible for providing their own transport to outpatient appointments.

(AQW 23877/11-15)

Mr Poots: General Practitioners assess whether their patients are eligible, on the basis of clinical need, for Patient Care Service transport provided by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. Patients who are not eligible for this service are expected to make their own arrangements either by using transport available to them or schemes that exist to help people with transport difficulties, including those provided by community transport operators, to take them to their outpatient appointment.

The Hospital Travel Costs Scheme provides help with travel costs to hospital for health service treatment for people and their dependants with entitlement determined on the basis of qualifying income levels.

Individual Funding

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many Individual Funding Requests the Health and Social Care Board has received since the new process was implemented in December 2012; (ii) how many of these requests were (a) approved; and (b) rejected; (iii) how many of the requests were for cancer medicines; and (iv) how many of the (a) approved; and (b) rejected requests were for cancer medicines.

(AQW 23889/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has supplied the following information which demonstrates that the majority of individual funding requests (IFR) received by the HSCB are approved.

- (i) 113 IFRs received from 1 December 2012
- (ii) (a) approved: 107
(b) rejected: 1
(c) further info required: 2
(d) no longer required: 2
(e) not supported by Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust: 1
- (iii) 44 IFRs for Cancer medicines received from 1 December 2012
- (iv) (a) approved: 43
(b) rejected requests were for cancer medicines: 0
(c) not supported by HSC Trust: 1

Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Travel Expenses

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how staff in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, who are affected by the proposed changes to travel expenses, have been kept informed of the proposals.

(AQW 23970/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that the Trust issued an information sheet to Assistant Directors on 30 April 2013 to cascade down to managers and staff; information was also published on the Trust's internal website. Staff will again be advised of the changes and given the website address in their June payslips.

Health Service and Departmental Arm's-Length Bodies: Staff

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people employed in (i) the Health Service; and (ii) his Department's arm's-length bodies in each year since 2007, broken down by grade.

(AQW 23990/11-15)

Mr Poots: Staffing information on the bulk of Health & Social Care organisations can be found in summary in the quarterly Key Facts Workforce Bulletin and in more detail in the annual HSC Workforce Census. These publications can be found on the DHSSPS website at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/workforce-statistics/stats-hsc.htm/ . Please note that changes in organisation structures, occupational family categories (due to the introduction of Agenda for Change or re-grading) and methodology refinements, mean that yearly comparisons may not be strictly comparable.

Additionally, staffing information from the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) is shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: STAFF ON NIMDTA PAYROLL 2007-2013

| Staff Category | 2013 | | 2012 | | 2011 | | 2010 | | 2009 | | 2008 | | 2007 | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE | HC | WTE |
| Admin & Clerical Bands/ Grades 2-4 | 28 | 27.21 | 30 | 28.8 | 31 | 30.2 | 38 | 37.2 | 32 | 31.3 | 26 | 26.9 | 30 | 27.6 |
| A & C Bands/ Grades 5-7. QUB Grades 4-6 | 12 | 10.1 | 13 | 11.1 | 14 | 12.1 | 12 | 10.1 | 11 | 10.0 | 8 | 7.7 | 7 | 7.0 |
| A & C Bands 8A-8D/Senior Managers/QUB Band 9 | 5 | 4.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 3.0 | 3 | 3.0 |
| GP/ Director of GP | 79 | 14.6 | 81 | 14.2 | 84 | 15.8 | 92 | 16.9 | 92 | 18.8 | 79 | 17.7 | 69 | 15.2 |
| Consultants | 3 | 2.0 | 3 | 0.6 | 6 | 0.8 | 6 | 0.9 | 8 | 0.9 | 36 | 2.9 | 52 | 3.5 |
| Total | 127 | 58.3 | 131 | 58.2 | 138 | 61.8 | 151 | 68.0 | 146 | 64.0 | 152 | 58.1 | 161 | 56.3 |

Source: NIMDTA

In Table 2, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) have provided their staff figures by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) and have identified the roles included in each SOC. Figures for 2013 were not available.

TABLE 2: STAFF EMPLOYED AT NIFRS 2007-2012

| Year | Standard Occupational Classification Group (Headcount) | | | | | | | | Total |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|---|------|-----|----|---|----|----|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | |
| 2007 | 148 | 0 | 1735 | 156 | 23 | 1 | 29 | 48 | 2140 |
| 2008 | 143 | 1 | 1761 | 160 | 24 | 1 | 29 | 53 | 2172 |
| 2009 | 132 | 1 | 1793 | 170 | 24 | 1 | 31 | 51 | 2203 |
| 2010 | 147 | 2 | 1854 | 171 | 25 | 1 | 30 | 51 | 2281 |
| 2011 | 135 | 2 | 1818 | 165 | 23 | 1 | 30 | 50 | 2224 |
| 2012 | 122 | 2 | 1813 | 160 | 23 | 1 | 27 | 50 | 2198 |

Source: NIFRS

The SOC codes used in Table 2 refer to the following staff groups within the NIFRS:

- 1 Station Commander up to Chief Fire Officer; Assistant Group Commander Control, Group Commander Control & Principal Fire Control Officer; Senior Officer, Principal Officer & Director.
- 2 Principal Officer.
- 3 Wholetime Operational – Firefighter, Crew Commander & Watch Commander; Retained Operational – Firefighter, Crew Commander & Watch Commander Scale 5 & 6, Senior Officer & Principal Officer.
- 4 Firefighter Controls, Crew Commander Controls & Watch Commander Controls; Scale 1 up to 6, Senior Officer.
- 5 Senior Officer, Scale 4 up to 6.
- 6 Principal Officer.
- 8 Scale 1 up to 3.
- 9 Scale 5 and Caretakers.

Private Domiciliary Care Providers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail the total; and (ii) to provide a breakdown of, all contracts agreed with private domiciliary care providers in each of the last five years, identifying the location of any new provisions.

(AQW 23998/11-15)

Mr Poots: Individual contracts are the responsibility of Health and Social Care Trusts which commission domiciliary care across a wide range of programmes of care. The information you have requested is not held centrally and could only be collected at a disproportionate cost.

All contracts with private providers are subject to Public Contract Regulations which govern public procurement in Northern Ireland.

Supply Contract (SS16A)

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the most recent revision date of Supply Contract (SS16A); and whether all versions of Supply Contract (SS16A), predating the most recent change, have been withdrawn.

(AQW 24002/11-15)

Mr Poots: The most recent revision date of Supply Contract SS16A is 20th May 2013 and this version applies to all contracts awarded from 16th March 2013.

However, in line with the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 (as amended by the 2013 Regulations), those contracts signed before 16 March 2013 will retain the conditions agreed at the time the contract was signed.

Health and Social Care Regional Procurement Board: Contract (SS16A)

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 19675/11-15, (i) when did the Health and Social Care Regional Procurement Board first become aware that it would be necessary to change the payment terms of contract (SS16A), earlier than the originally agreed date of September 2013; and (ii) when the contract review into the change of payment date from September 2013 commenced and was completed.

(AQW 24004/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The minutes of the Regional Procurement Board show that it was formally advised of the need to change payment terms earlier than the originally agreed date of September 2013 at its meeting on 1 February 2013.
- (ii) The Coalition Government's response to its consultation on the proposed revision to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Act was published in February 2013. It concluded that it did not intend to avail of a potential opt-out available for Health in relation to the new payment terms. Following this, a review of the proposed regulations was completed and revised payment clauses for inclusion in the revised payment terms were agreed on 14 April. These clauses were transposed into terms and conditions on the Esourcing NI system on 20 May. The revised payment terms are applicable to all contracts awarded on or after 16 March 2013.

Deaths Associated with a Fall in Hospital

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many deaths have been associated with a fall in hospital, such as from a trolley, bed or wheelchair, broken down by hospital, for (i) 2010; (ii) 2011; and (iii) 2012.

(AQW 24011/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of deaths which have been associated with a fall in hospital in Northern and Western HSC Trusts is shown in the table below:

| Hospital | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Antrim | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Causeway | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Altnagelvin | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Source: Northern & Western HSC Trusts

Belfast, South Eastern and Southern HSC Trusts have advised it is not possible using electronic systems, to identify whether a fall in hospital has resulted in the death of the patient as this information could only be provided if a clinician carried out a full review of all patients who have sustained a fall to identify if the death could have resulted from the fall in each of the years requested. As such this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Band and Grade of Ambulance Service Workers

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the departmental time line for the completion of the exercise to band and grade Ambulance Service workers, as it has been nine years since the process commenced; for his assessment of (i) whether the delay

in completing this exercise has resulted in the demoralisation of staff; and (ii) whether there is a deficiency in skills sets compared to Ambulance Service workers in Scotland, England and Wales.

(AQW 24023/11-15)

Mr Poots: Agenda for Change is being implemented in partnership with Trade Unions at Trust level. I am advised that similar to other Agenda for Change posts where the partners in the process were unable to agree a job match, the Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics posts are being subjected to full Job Evaluation. Despite following due regional and national processes and significant effort by the key partners involved, the Trust has been unable to conclude the process and produce agreed outcomes. The partners in this process agreed in February 2013 that the posts should be referred to the Regional Quality Assurance Job Evaluation Panel but this panel has been unable to meet because of the unavailability of one of its members. Whether or not new salary bands apply will depend on the outcomes of the Job Evaluation Process. However Paramedics and Rapid Response Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians are being paid on a without prejudice basis on Agenda for Change pay bands. Paramedics and Rapid Response Paramedics are being paid a Band 5 salary and Emergency Medical Technicians are being paid a Band 4 salary.

- (i) Whilst NIAS as the Employing Authority is anxious to receive confirmation of the agreed outcomes from the regional panel for all 3 of its staff groups, and recognises that the relevant post-holders also wish to receive notification of the final agreed outcomes for their jobs, the Trust has no evidence to suggest the delay in completing this exercise has resulted in the demoralisation of its staff.
- (ii) All frontline ambulance staff employed by NIAS are required to undertake and successfully complete nationally accredited ambulance training prior to commencing operational duties. The Trust is confident that its frontline staff have, and continue to retain, the necessary skill sets required to deliver out-of-hospital patient care to the public of Northern Ireland.

Foylview Special School in Derry: Retention of a Nurse

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps his Department is taking to ensure the retention of a nurse at Foylview Special School in Derry.

(AQW 24073/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Western Health and Social Care Trust has confirmed that the current nurse at Foyle View School will be leaving. The Trust is actively trying to recruit a replacement and the school is being kept informed.

The Trust can assure the families of the pupils at the school that all individual pupil care plans are up-to-date. The Classroom Assistants are fully trained and deemed competent to carry out all the tasks associated with the care plans.

Mid-Ulster Hospital

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions his Department has held on future provision at the Mid-Ulster Hospital; and to provide details of these discussions.

(AQW 24086/11-15)

Mr Poots: I can advise that my Department has held no discussions on future provision at the Mid-Ulster Hospital. The commissioning of hospital services is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care Board.

Antrim Area Hospital Accident and Emergency Department: Patients

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of patients presenting at Antrim Area Hospital Accident and Emergency department in each of the last five years; and any projections for use in the next three years.

(AQW 24100/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on attendances (new, unplanned and/or planned reviews) at emergency care departments is published on an annual basis and is available to view or download from:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/emergency_care-3.htm

Information for 2012/13 is due to be published on the 27th June 2013.

The Department has not made any projections as to the number of patients expected to attend Antrim Area Hospital emergency department in each of the next three years.

A new £9 million state of the art emergency department is due to open on 26th June 2013 at Antrim Area Hospital. The new facility has the capacity to cater for up to 90,000 attendances a year. In developing the business case for the new unit, the Northern HSC Trust estimated that by 2018 there would be almost 84,000 attendances.

Southern Health and Social Care Trust: People with a Learning Disability

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the (i) 293 people with a learning disability taking part in day opportunities; and (ii) 246 people with a learning disability involved in voluntary training placements, in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area, were aged (a) 19-25; (b) 26-35; (c) 36-45; and (d) over 45 years old; and what percentage of the people participating in these schemes have a severe learning disability.

(AQW 24103/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not held centrally and was therefore requested from the Southern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust. The response is detailed below:

TABLE 1: DAY OPPORTUNITIES – LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICE USERS

| Age Band | 19-25 | 26-35 | 36-45 | Over 45 | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| Learning Disability Service Users | 67 | 77 | 61 | 88 | 293 |

Figures have not been validated by the DHSSPS

TABLE 2: VOLUNTARY TRAINING PLACEMENTS

| Community Access Team | Age Band | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | 19-25 | 26-35 | 36-45 | Over 45 | |
| Learning Disability - Armagh & Dungannon | 5 | 21 | 12 | 14 | 52 |
| Learning Disability - Craigavon & Banbridge | 18 | 26 | 2 | 8 | 54 |
| Learning Disability - Newry & Mourne | 9 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 51 |
| Physical Disability - Armagh & Dungannon | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 18 |
| Physical Disability - Craigavon & Banbridge | 1 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 19 |
| Physical Disability - Newry & Mourne | 2 | 2 | 11 | 29 | 44 |
| Access - Sensory Disability | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 37 | 68 | 51 | 86 | 242* |

*This question and AQW23105/11-15 indicated 246 placements. A check by the Trust has indicated that the actual number of users in voluntary training placements was 242.

Figures have not been validated by the DHSSPS

Severe Learning Disability

Day Opportunities and Voluntary Training Placements are designed to meet the needs of service users whose needs are best met in a community setting. All of these participants have person centred plans and have had comprehensive assessments undertaken by key workers and would be considered to have a severe Learning Disability within the terms of the Mental Health Order, while being judged to have low dependency needs. The Trust has supported these individuals to avail of community based activities which accommodate their specific needs.

Service users who present with challenging behaviours or whose needs are highly complex will continue to have their needs met in a day care setting.

Health and Social Care Board: Future of Statutory Care Homes

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 22703/11-15, what steps have been taken to establish a Health and Social Care Board led regional oversight process on the future of statutory care homes.

(AQW 24116/11-15)

Mr Poots: On 3rd May 2013, I called a halt to the Trusts' consultation processes. I have asked the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to lead on a new, regionalised process for consulting, engaging and implementing change. In doing so, I am keen to secure the best possible outcomes for older people, including those currently residing in statutory residential care homes.

The Health and Social Care Board has now convened the Regional Planning Group which has already had preliminary meetings. A Project Brief has been issued by my Department to inform the work of this Group.

My Department expects to receive a Project Initiation Document (PID), from the HSC Board, in the coming weeks. This document will set out the milestones for delivery of the project and the associated project structure.

Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and Prison: Healthcare

Mr Copeland asked inister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the cost of healthcare provided at Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and Prison in each of the last five years.

(AQW 24145/11-15)

Mr Poots: The cost of healthcare provided at Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and Prison in each of the last five years, broken down between (i) Goods and Services (G&S) and (ii) Salaries and Wages (S&W) is shown in the table below.

| Year | G&S (£) | S&W (£) | Total (£) |
|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 2008/09 | 257,872 | 977,184 | 1,235,056 |
| 2009/10 | 233,607 | 1,026,459 | 1,260,066 |
| 2010/11 | 309,530 | 923,123 | 1,232,653 |
| 2011/12 | 316,642 | 882,399 | 1,199,041 |
| 2012/13 | 316,107 | 802,571 | 1,118,678 |

Note G&S includes such items as Pharmacy Drugs, Pharmaceutical Services and Addiction Services for Prisons

Legislation on Standardised Packaging

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his position on standardised packaging of tobacco products, following the announcement by his counterpart in the Irish Government that he will be introducing legislation on this matter; and whether he will join with the Scottish and Welsh Governments in calling on the British Government to introduce legislation on standardised packaging.

(AQW 24153/11-15)

Mr Poots: I support measures that lead to a reduction in the uptake of smoking by children and young people which is why I agreed to the inclusion of Northern Ireland in a UK-wide consultation exercise on standardised packaging for tobacco products. This was led by the Department of Health in London. The consultation responses at UK-wide level and for each Devolved Administration are currently being considered.

Ideally, I would like to see a UK-wide approach taken on standardised packaging and I have recently written to the Secretary of State for Health to encourage him to come to an early decision on this issue.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Psychology and Psychological Therapy Services

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 20810/11-15, how Psychology and Psychological Therapy services within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have been strengthened in recent years.

(AQW 24178/11-15)

Mr Poots: In 2008 and 2010, the Trust secured significant additional funding to increase staffing levels in Adult Mental Health Services in response to the significant increase in demand for psychological therapies. In 2011, the Trust established a multi-disciplinary, cross programme Working Group to develop a structure for an integrated Clinical Psychology and Psychological Therapies Service. In April 2013 the remaining Cognitive Behaviour Therapy staff within Adult Mental Health Services joined the integrated service. This integrated structure optimises clinical efficiency and effectiveness and facilitates governance of psychological therapies delivered across the Trust.

Low Secure/Rehabilitation Centre: Downe Hospital Site in Downpatrick

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 20806/11-15, for an update on the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust's plans to locate a Low Secure/Rehabilitation centre at the Downe Hospital site in Downpatrick.

(AQW 24179/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that the South Eastern Trust plans to relocate its Acute Mental Health Inpatient provision to a single site at the Ulster Hospital. In doing so, the Trust also proposes to relocate its Inpatient Low Secure and Rehabilitation Service to the Downe Hospital. This is dependent on business case approval and funding availability.

Delay in Community Care Packages

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are awaiting community care packages in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area; and to outline the reasons for the delay in providing care packages in this area.

(AQW 24198/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information was requested from the Northern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust. The response is detailed below:

Care Managed Clients Waiting in the Community for Domiciliary / Nursing Care at 14th June 2013

| Care Type | Clients Waiting | Reason Waiting |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Domiciliary Full Package | 27 | No domiciliary package available |
| Permanent Nursing Care | 3 | No nursing beds available |

Figures have not been validated by DHSSPS

At 14th June 2013, no-one was waiting in the community for respite, temporary placement or residential care.

Health and Social Care Trusts: Mileage Allowance Paid to Nurses

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what are the projected savings from the changes to the mileage allowance paid to nurses by the Health and Social Care Trusts.

(AQW 24231/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on mileage allowance paid to nurses is not held centrally and could only be obtained from Trusts at a disproportionate cost. This new system is not being introduced as a cost cutting exercise; Trusts have assessed the impact across all staff who claim reimbursement of travel costs and this assessment indicates that over 70% of staff will gain under the changes being introduced from 1 July 2013.

Health and Social Care Trusts: Mileage Allowance Changes

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the correspondence his Department has received from trade unions on changes to the mileage allowance by Health and Social Care Trusts.

(AQW 24233/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has received two separate letters from the Joint Secretaries of the Health Service Trade Unions one requesting a meeting to discuss the changes and a subsequent letter detailing the main issues for discussion.

Number of People Diagnosed with Cancer: South Antrim

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of people in South Antrim diagnosed with cancer; (ii) the number of these people who are receiving treatment; and (iii) how many people in each electoral ward of South Antrim have died from cancer in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24236/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) and (ii) The number of patients in South Antrim diagnosed with cancer in each of the last three years (for which information is available) is set out in Table 1 below. Information has been disaggregated by those who had and had not received treatment within a year of diagnosis:

TABLE 1: THE NUMBER OF CANCER PATIENTS, EXCLUDING NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER (ICD-10 C00-97* EXCL C44), DIAGNOSED IN SOUTH ANTRIM PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY 2008-2010, BROKEN DOWN BY YEAR AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY RECEIVED TREATMENT**

| Year of diagnosis*** | Number of cancer patients | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | No record of treatment** | Record of treatment** | Total |
| 2008 | 130 | 236 | 366 |
| 2009 | 153 | 265 | 418 |
| 2010 | 152 | 283 | 435 |

Source: Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

* For a listing and explanation of ICD10 topology or site codes see: International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, World Health Organisation, Geneva. Or view online at <http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en#/II> ; non-melanoma skin cancer is a very common, but rarely fatal, cancer. Non-melanoma skin cancer's exclusion helps to reflect the true burden of cancer in the community.

** Treatment is defined as those patients for whom Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) has a record of either surgery, chemotherapy, or radiotherapy, within one year of their cancer diagnosis. NICR receives this information from the Trusts' Patient Administration System, and from audits of patient notes.

*** Treatment data is not available for 2011, the most recent incidence year available, because it is necessary to follow up all patients till the end of 2012 for treatment information to ensure 12 months follow up after diagnosis; this information comes in concurrently with 2012 incidence information which is currently being processed. There were 419 incidences of cancer (excluding NSMC) in South Antrim Parliamentary Constituency in 2011.

(iii) Due to the differing time lags associated with deaths, treatment and diagnoses information, cancer deaths in each electoral ward of South Antrim Parliamentary Constituency are set out for each of the last five years available in Table 2. This is to allow comparisons to be made with both the latest treatment and incidence data as well as provide the most recent three years deaths data available.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO CANCER¹ IN EACH ELECTORAL WARD OF SOUTH ANTRIM, 2008-2012^P

| WARD | 2012P | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Aldergrove | 3 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Balloo | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Ballycraigy | 6 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Clady | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Cranfield | 14 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Crumlin Antrim | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| Drumanaway | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Farranshane | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Fountain Hill | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Greystone Antrim | 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Massereene | 5 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 12 |
| Parkgate | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Randalstown | 9 | 3 | 12 | 6 | 5 |

| WARD | 2012P | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Shilvodan | 7 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| Springfarm | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Steeple | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Stiles | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Templepatrick | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| Toome | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Ballyclare North | 10 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 15 |
| Ballyclare South | 10 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 3 |
| Ballyduff | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| Ballyhenry | 8 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| Ballynure | 11 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Ballyrobert | 8 | 8 | 15 | 3 | 7 |
| Burnthill | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| Carmoney | 9 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 12 |
| Collinbridge | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| Doagh | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Glebe Nabbey | 3 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| Glengormley | 19 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 8 |
| Hawthorne | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Hightown | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 13 |
| Mallusk | 9 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 9 |
| Mossley | 9 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 4 |
| | 245 | 220 | 230 | 184 | 226 |

- 1 Cancer deaths are identified using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10) codes C00-C97, where cancer has been the underlying cause of death.
- P 2012 data is provisional until the publication of the Annual Report of the Registrar General 2012, due to be released in November 2013.

Current or Planned Legislation

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the current or planned legislation that his Department will bring to the Assembly before the end of the current term.
(AQW 24256/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have introduced the Tobacco Retailers Bill to the Assembly on 15th April 2013 and intend to introduce primary legislation in relation to Mental Capacity, Adoption, Food Hygiene Rating, and Processing of Service User Information. I also intend to introduce legislation which will make amendments to the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (NI) 2009 and the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (NI) 2008.

Other requirements for primary legislation relating to DHSSPS responsibilities may arise during this mandate and these will be reviewed on a regular basis.

There may also be a need to introduce subordinate legislation during the course of this Assembly mandate arising as a result of some of the primary legislation. However, at this point, it is not possible to be precise as to the nature or volume of such legislation.

Young People Diagnosed with Mental Health Issues: Foyle Constituency

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what support services are available for young people in the Foyle constituency who are diagnosed with mental health issues.

(AQW 24268/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) provides Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to young people in the Foyle constituency from its local community-based team, based in Woodlea House on the Gransha Hospital site.

CAMHS provide a service to Children & Young People from 5 to 18 years through multidisciplinary teams which are made up of Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Worker and Clinical Nurse Specialists. The service also works closely with statutory, voluntary and private agencies.

Inpatient care for young people, when required, is provided in Beechcroft, the Regional Child and Adolescent Inpatient Mental Health Unit in Belfast.

Regional Review of Maternity Services

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Regional Review of Maternity Services will commence.

(AQW 24299/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Regional Review of Maternity Services has already been completed; it was launched in 2010 and, following public engagement and a consultation process in September 2011, a Strategy for Maternity Care in Northern Ireland 2012-2018 was published in July 2012.

The Strategy gives women, health service commissioners and policy makers a clear pathway for maternity services in Northern Ireland from preconceptual care through to postnatal care and contains 22 objectives. The objectives were developed by a project board comprised of commissioners, clinicians and service users. They are based on current professional advice and best practice, and subject to available resources are achievable.

The Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency are leading on the implementation of the Strategy.

The Strategy can be accessed on the Department's website at –
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/maternity-strategy.htm>

Transforming Your Care

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to communicate better the individual components of Transforming Your Care.

(AQO 4289/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have informed Members on previous occasions that good communication and engagement with those likely to be impacted by service changes arising from Transforming Your Care, is essential.

I have made Statements to the House at key milestones in the development of TYC and briefed the Health Committee on a regular basis.

The Health and Social Care Board is undertaking the day to day work on the implementation of TYC. Their Communications and Engagement Plan focuses on:

- Engaging with residents of Statutory Residential Homes and their families in the decision making process for the future of statutory residential care
- Engaging with the Voluntary & Community sector seeking opportunities for collaborative working
- Engaging with the healthcare workforce and supporting through the transition period
- Ensuring that patients and users are at the heart of what we do.

There was extensive engagement and communication on the development of TYC and public consultation on the proposals emerging from it. It is important that where any significant, specific local changes are to take place, a further formal period of public consultation is held, with involvement of local stakeholders.

Health and Social Care Centres: Lisburn and Newry

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the business case from the Health Infrastructure Board on its decision to locate two Health and Social Care campuses in Lisburn and Newry will be published.

(AQO 4291/11-15)

Mr Poots: Copies of the business cases for Lisburn and Newry Health and Care Centres, approved by the relevant trust Boards, are available on request from my Department.

Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Surgery

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the paediatric congenital cardiac surgery issue.

(AQO 4296/11-15)

Mr Poots: I met with the Republic of Ireland's Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly TD, on 8th May 2013 to discuss whether there is any scope for flexibility in the location for the future delivery of this service. I asked Minister Reilly to give consideration to a two centre model potentially providing PCCS services in both Belfast and Dublin. Consideration of this proposal is continuing at official level to determine whether such a model would be feasible. I will inform the Assembly of the outcome when I announce my decision on the future commissioning of this service which I hope to do so in the weeks ahead.

Community Pharmacies

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress has been made on expanding the range of services provided by community pharmacies.

(AQO 4297/11-15)

Mr Poots: As I informed the Assembly in January 2013 negotiations have been continuing with community pharmacy representatives on a new contract. Good progress has been made with a number of new services developed and commissioned in 2012 and 2013. These include an extension of the minor ailments service and the introduction of a Medicines Use Review service targeted initially on all respiratory patients taking multiple medicines. Discussions are continuing to expand this service further to cover other areas.

On 6 June 2013 the HSC Board and Public Health Agency announced the launch of a joint initiative for the development of a Health Plus Pharmacy programme. The goal of the programme is to enhance the public health focus of community pharmacies providing settings that the public will recognise as places where they can access high quality advice and services promoting health and disease prevention, early intervention, self-care and reducing health inequalities.

Within the next few weeks I also hope to launch a consultation document on a new strategy for the provision of pharmacy services in the community. The strategy will align developments in community pharmacy with the wider transformational changes in the health service and provide the framework for the further expansion of the range of services provided by community pharmacies.

Cancer Patients: Individual Funding Requests

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of why local cancer patients are eight times less likely to be referred for an Individual Funding Request for specialist treatment than cancer patients in England.

(AQO 4298/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board has a clear process for the submission and review of Individual Funding (IFR) requests. From April 2012 to March 2013 the Board received 105 IFR requests for cancer drugs, of which 93 were approved. Two requests for funding were not supported. The remaining 10 did not progress. The total cancer drug expenditure in 2012/13 was £24.8m

Kinship Carers

Ms McCorley asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the support provided to Kinship carers under current Residents Orders.

(AQO 4299/11-15)

Mr Poots: Children who are subject to a Residence Order have the same entitlement to support services universally available to children and their families. Additional support may be accessed from Family Support Hubs in HSC Trust areas where they currently exist. Further investment is being made in Family Support Hubs under the Delivering Social Change Programme and, as a result, Hubs will be available across Northern Ireland by 2014.

More focused and specialist support may be provided by a HSC Trust to “children in need” as defined in Article 17 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. Such services will be determined following assessment and will be specific to the individual needs of the child. Finally, where a child in kinship care was previously a ‘looked after’ child, discretionary financial assistance may be paid to the kinship carer(s).

Adoption Legislation

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on his plans to amend adoption legislation.

(AQO 4300/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is still my intention to introduce new adoption legislation in the current mandate. The Adoption and Children Bill, which is currently being drafted, will introduce much needed reform of adoption in Northern Ireland and will ensure that the child is put firmly at the centre of the adoption process. I hope to publish the draft Bill for consultation in early 2014, with a view to introduction in the Assembly in late 2014.

Transforming Your Care: Pinewood Residential Home, Ballymena

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the new regional process for implementing Transforming Your Care, including how this will affect Pinewood Residential Home, Ballymena.

(AQO 4301/11-15)

Mr Poots: On 3 May I announced a halt to Trusts’ processes, or intended processes, around consulting on the future of statutory residential homes.

The Health and Social Care Board has now convened the Regional Planning Group which has already had preliminary meetings. A Project Brief was issued by my Department on 28 May 2013 to inform the work of this Group.

My Department expects to receive a Project Initiation Document, from the HSC Board, in the coming weeks. This document will set out the milestones for delivery of the project and the associated project structure.

The future of Pinewood Residential Care Home is part of this new regional process, with consultation occurring at local Trust level. I would urge all interested parties to engage with the process.

Department of Justice

Care and Supervision Unit

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 22957/11-15, given the nature and purpose of the Care and Supervision Unit, for his assessment of the recommendation that one member of staff is sufficient, even during prisoner lock and with radio contact, particularly given the circumstances and outcome of the case in question.

(AQW 23846/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): I am satisfied that the Northern Ireland Prison Service provide appropriate staffing levels in the Care and Supervision Unit.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Inaccurate Information

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail on how many occasions, during the current and previous Assembly mandate, inaccurate information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Prison Service in response to Questions for Written Answer.

(AQW 23884/11-15)

Mr Ford: Data on the information requested is not statistically recorded and therefore could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Children's Order: Final Contact Orders

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, for the first quarter of 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, (i) how many final contact orders were made under the Children Order; (ii) how many applicants in these cases were fathers; (iii) how many applicants in these orders were mothers; (iv) what was the Legal Aid cost for these orders; (v) how many contact orders were broken and how many people were held in contempt of court for breaking the judicial order; and (vi) for his assessment of (a) the amount of contact orders awarded; (b) if the court area is the correct setting for these cases; and (c) the rise in cases between 2011 and 2012.

(AQW 23886/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information on the number of contact orders made and the number of defendants found guilty of breaching a contact order is given in the table below.

CONTACT ORDERS MADE: JANUARY - MARCH 2010 TO JANUARY – MARCH 2013

| Quarter | Number of contact orders made | Number of defendants found guilty of breaching a contact order |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| January-March 2010 | 749 | 0 |
| January-March 2011 | 815 | 1 |
| January-March 2012 ^P | 970 | 2 |
| January-March 2013 ^P | 1,178 | 1 |

Source: ICOS

P Data is currently provisional

It is not possible to provide the information on the relationship between the applicant and the child as this information is not routinely collated. To identify the number of applications from fathers or mothers would require a manual review of each court order and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. The associated legal aid cost could only be identified by a similar review and would also incur a disproportionate cost.

Family proceedings involve some of the most difficult and sensitive issues that courts have to deal with. It is preferable that disputes over arrangements for children are resolved outside court whenever possible.

The use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services such as mediation can help to sustain better relationships and minimise the impact of separation on children. However, there will be cases which are not suitable for ADR and for which the court is the appropriate setting. While it is preferable that family matters should be resolved without recourse to legal action, it is sometimes necessary for the courts to become involved.

My officials are working with colleagues from the DHSSPS and other relevant Departments on the potential benefits of ADR in private law cases.

An increase in the overall number of contact orders usually corresponds with the general level of family business, although the number of cases with at least one order decreased between 2011 and 2012. Several contact orders may issue in respect of a child in any one case.

Senior Officers Suspended from Duty

Lord Morrow asked Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 22638/11-15, AQW 21450/11-15 and AQW 19382/11-15, whether the three senior officers disciplined as a result of the investigation into the death in custody of Colin Bell, as highlighted in the Ackah and Deane Report, were suspended from duty and if the charges preferred were under Gross Misconduct.

(AQW 23918/11-15)

Mr Ford: This information has been withheld as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

Threat to Kill Messages on Social Media

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice to outline the legislation that addresses threats to kill messages on social media and for his assessment of how successfully it is being enforced.

(AQW 23934/11-15)

Mr Ford: Threats to kill, whether made in social media or otherwise, are an offence under section 16 of Offences against the Person Act 1861. It is an offence if a person, without lawful excuse, makes a threat to kill another, intending that that other should fear it would be carried out. If found guilty, an offender is liable to imprisonment for up to ten years.

Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 also makes it an offence to send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. The maximum penalty is 6 months' imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £5000 on summary conviction.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does review social media postings and, where appropriate, refer potential offences to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). The PPS decides on the basis of the evidence and of the public interest whether to prosecute. As regards threats on social media, this includes considerations such as the credibility of the threat and the context in which it was made. Matters of charging and prosecution in individual cases are within the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Prisoners Granted Compassionate Bail

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23178/11-15, to detail the number of prisoners that have been granted compassionate bail; and of these how many (i) absconded; and (ii) remain unlawfully at large in 2013.

(AQW 23940/11-15)

Mr Ford: During the period 1 January to 24 May 2013, provisional data indicates that 58 prisoners were granted compassionate bail. Of these, five absconded during this period with one prisoner remaining unlawfully at large as at 24 May 2013.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23002/11-15, to detail (i) if the service delivery partner used by the Northern Ireland Police Fund provides the same programme of chronic pain relief to its clients, including the administration of pain relief injections; (ii) whether the service delivery partner provides domiciliary visits; and (iii) whether the Northern Ireland Police Fund sought professional medical advice prior to this change in service.

(AQW 23959/11-15)

Mr Ford: Further to my answer to AQW 23002/11-15, and for the avoidance of any misunderstanding, the Northern Ireland Police Fund provided a chronic pain management programme not a chronic pain relief programme to its clients.

I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund that the service delivery partner does not provide the same programme. It provides a range of pain management interventions based on the needs of clients within the scope of practice of its clinicians and on the best available clinical evidence. These include one-to-one physiotherapy and one-to-one psychological therapies. The provider has advised that for more complex needs it collaborates to provide individually tailored and group programmes based on a cognitive behavioural approach, combined with functional reactivation, education and relaxation. In addition, where a client's needs fall outside of the service delivery partner's remit, it would liaise with the client's general practitioner for onward referral as appropriate.

I am also advised that the service delivery partner provides home assessments where necessary, and that treatment is provided in approved physiotherapy practices and physiological therapies in a number of accessible locations including Omagh and Londonderry, as well as at the service delivery partner's own premises in Belfast.

As part of its recently completed review of chronic pain management provision, the Fund sought and received professional medical advice prior to this change in service.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23003/11-15, why the Northern Ireland Police Fund, in offering assistance to police officers and former officers who have been injured and disabled as a direct result of terrorism, requires that officers must be able to prove that they were the direct, intended target of a terrorist attack to receive assistance.

(AQW 23960/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund that such proof is required to ascertain if a police officer or former officer who has been injured and disabled meets the Fund's eligibility criteria to become a client of the Fund.

Such officers who wish to apply for eligibility are considered at one of the Fund's regular case conferences where their application is considered by a Quorum of Directors against the Fund's eligibility criteria.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23001/11-15, to detail (i) the funding provided by the Northern Ireland Police Fund to groups for 2013/14; (ii) the groups that received an interim grant and if all terms and conditions were the same for each group; (iii) the groups that received one hundred per cent of their grant from the Northern Ireland Police Fund; (iv) if all those receiving the grant were direct intended targets of terrorism; and (v) if all recipient groups are registered charities.

(AQW 23961/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Police Fund (NIPF) has not yet completed its allocation of funding for the year 2013/14 to the groups which applied for funding as detailed in AQW/23001/11-15. Details of funding for those groups which have received some funding at 10 June 2013, can be found in the table below:

| Group | 2013/14 £ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Carers' Association | 5,000 |
| Disabled Police Officers' Association Northern Ireland | 14,000 |
| Parents' Association | 40,310 |

I am advised by the NIPF that for the year 2013/14, the Carers' Association and the Disabled Police Officers Association Northern Ireland have received interim grants as the information presented to the NIPF required clarification or was insufficient to allow a final decision on their submitted bids.

I am also advised by the NIPF that the terms and conditions for each group differed slightly as each is tailored to reflect the information provided by the group which allowed for the interim grant to be made.

Not all those receiving grants were direct intended targets of terrorism as the NIPF also supports carers, parents and others in line with the Steele Report and its Management Statement and Financial Memorandum.

The NIPF advises that not all recipient groups are registered charities.

Children's Order: Final Contact Orders

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, to detail (i) how many final contact orders were made under the Children's Order; (ii) the number of orders sought by (a) mothers; and (b) fathers; (iii) how many orders were breached; and on how many occasions were those in breach held in contempt of court or otherwise made amenable; and (iv) if the resulting Legal Aid bill for proceedings under the Children's Order is known, in each year since 2010.

(AQW 23975/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information on the number of contact orders made and the number of defendants found guilty of breaching a contact order is given in the tables below.

CONTACT ORDERS MADE: 2010 TO 2012^P

| Year | Number of contact orders made | Number of defendants found guilty of breaching a contact order |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | 3,157 | 2 |
| 2011 | 3,866 | 1 |
| 2012P | 4,318 | 2 |

Source: ICOS

^P Data is currently provisional

It is not possible to provide the information on the relationship between the applicant and the child as this data is not routinely collated. To identify the number of applications from fathers or mothers would require a manual review of each court order and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

The following table details all legal aid payments made in respect of the Children Order, including contact orders, for each year since 2009/10. This reflects the year payment was made which may not be the year the case was dealt with.

TOTAL CHILDREN ORDER SPEND 2009/10 TO 2012/13

| Year | Total Children Order Spend |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2009/10 | £13m |
| 2010/11 | £18.9m |
| 2011/12 | £23m |
| 2012/13 | £22.4m |
| Total | £77.3m |

*Rounded to nearest half million.

Patten Scheme: Age Requirements

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the sense of unfairness felt by some police officers who had completed the required length of service but were unable to leave the PSNI under the Patten Scheme due to age requirements.

(AQW 24009/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Voluntary Severance Scheme arose from the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (Patten Commission) which was established as a result of the Good Friday Agreement. Consultation with members of Police Associations on this Scheme indicated that, while they felt the scheme should have been more generous, it offered the best overall deal for the majority of police officers.

The regulations governing the severance arrangements for members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland detail the criteria for admission to the Severance Scheme.

In line with similar schemes, there had to be a cut off point for eligibility. I recognise that in such circumstances there will often be individuals who feel a sense of grievance.

PSNI Authorisation: Inspections of Firearms Dealers' Stores

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to place a copy in the Assembly library of the authorisation for the PSNI to carry out inspections of firearms dealers stores on behalf of his Department.

(AQW 24025/11-15)

Mr Ford: Part III of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 sets out the role of the Chief Constable in granting a Firearms Dealer's Certificate. Article 26(2)(b) states that the Chief Constable must be satisfied that every place of business where it is proposed to carry on business as a firearms dealer is suitable for that purpose.

Prisoners: Self-Harmed or Committed an Act of Suicide or Attempted Suicide

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prisoners, who were not subject to the Prisoner at Risk or Supporting Prisoners at Risk processes, who have (i) self-harmed; or (ii) committed an act of suicide or attempted suicide, since January 2008.

(AQW 24026/11-15)

Mr Ford: Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) electronic records began in 2010. To collate the information prior to that time would be at a disproportionate cost.

Table A below shows those prisoners not subject to the Prisoner at Risk or Supporting Prisoners at Risk processes who self harmed since 2010.

| Year | No. of distinct inmates who self harmed who were not subject to the SPAR process |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | 142 |
| 2011 | 198 |
| 2012 | 201 |
| 2013 | 121 |

Table B below shows those prisoners not subject to the Prisoner at Risk or Supporting Prisoners at Risk processes who committed an act of suicide since 2010.

| Year | No. of distinct inmates who committed an act of suicide who were not subject to the SPAR process |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | 2 |
| 2011 | 4 |
| 2012 | 3 |
| 2013 | 1 |

Information available does not differentiate between the act of self harm and an attempt, or act of suicide.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Safer Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given that The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 specifies that all those detained in lawful custody are vulnerable, and that the related Standards and Guidance for Good Practice published in 2010 recommends that such persons should be supported by robust procedures and guidelines to keep them safe from harm, how safer custody is managed within the Northern Ireland Prison Service on a daily basis by operational staff.

(AQW 24027/11-15)

Mr Ford: On a daily basis safer custody issues are managed by all staff who work within Establishments and include management of procedures and processes intended to manage prisoners, particularly those specifically identified as vulnerable. In addition, prisoners identified as immediately at risk of suicide and/or self harm are managed in accordance with the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Policy 2011 and the accompanying Standing Operating Procedure.

Near Death of a Prisoner at Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 22663/11-15 and the consequences of a lack of proper training in the case of Prisoner Mr 'C'; (i) whether the training measures referred to in his answer have been implemented at Maghaberry; (ii) if not, why they have yet to be implemented; (iii) if the measures have been implemented, by whom are they being managed; and (iv) what external and internal monitoring is taking place.

(AQW 24028/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Governor of Maghaberry instructed that all operational managers should receive full training in SPAR. This training, which is scheduled each Monday and delivered by the Prison Service training team, commenced on 23 April 2013. These sessions will continue until all managers have been fully trained. Training is managed on behalf of the Governor of Maghaberry by the Head of Personnel and the Head of Prisoner Safety & Support. Monitoring of this training is recorded by the Maghaberry Training Department.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Supporting Prisoners at Risk

Lord Morrow asked Minister of Justice, given that the Prisoner Ombudsman has repeatedly highlighted the importance of quality rather than just the quantity of human contact in caring for vulnerable prisoners, whether the Northern Ireland Prison Service, in conjunction with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has designed and implemented a process to manage this contact and to assess the quality of care afforded to prisoners who are subject to Supporting Prisoners at Risk.

(AQW 24029/11-15)

Mr Ford: Managing suicide and self-harm within prisons is a very difficult and complex problem as the prison population comprises a high proportion of vulnerable individuals.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust are committed to providing effective services to vulnerable prisoners and will continue to work in partnership to support those prisoners being managed under the Supporting Prisoners At Risk procedures.

Any lessons learned from Prisoner Ombudsman's reports will continue to be taken forward by the Prison Service in collaboration with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, through the existing governance structures.

In addition, Safer Custody managers in each prison establishment monitor the quality of care to prisoners by completing regular audits of Supporting Prisoner at Risk documentation, reporting any issues to managers.

Improvements in performance and cultural change are being taken forward as part of the wider Prison Reform programme.

Community Service

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many hours of community service have been carried out in the North Down area in each of the last five years; and how this is monitored.

(AQW 24045/11-15)

Mr Ford: The number of hours of community service carried out in the North Down¹ area in each of the last five years is detailed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

| Year | Total Community Service Hours Sentenced ² |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008/09 | 6,800 |
| 2009/10 | 5,300 |
| 2010/11 | 7,500 |
| 2011/12 | 10,000 |
| 2012/13 | 6,400 |

- 1 Based on the address recorded at the time of the order starting.
- 2 The data presented is drawn from the PBNI's case management system (PIMS). Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the data is subject to inaccuracies inherent in an administrative data recording system. While the figures have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables.

The Community Service Scheme for North Down is managed by a Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) Specialist Team with team members based in Greater Belfast and Newtownards. All staff work to the PBNI Best Practice Framework, agreed with Department of Justice (DOJ) and Sentencers, which sets standards and procedures through which each order is managed and monitored.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff: Environmental Allowance

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prison staff that are in receipt of the Environmental Allowance.

(AQW 24081/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are no prison grades (uniform grades or governor grades) in receipt of an Environmental Allowance.

There are 615 prison grades who formerly received a Northern Ireland Prison Service Payment to reflect the special circumstances in which they worked. This was consolidated into salaries in 1994 (officers) and 2006 (governors) as part of a wider pay deal.

A Prison Environmental Allowance is paid to 279 non prison grades (general service and industrial grades) working in prison establishments, the allowance is for working in an adverse environment not normally associated with their profession or work and, where necessary, associating with prisoners.

Environmental Allowance

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prison staff that are not in receipt of the Environmental Allowance.

(AQW 24082/11-15)

Mr Ford: At 31 May 2013, staff in uniform grades and governor grades in the Northern Ireland Prison Service totalled 1604. There are no prison grades currently in receipt of an Environmental Allowance. 615 staff formerly received a Northern Ireland Prison Service Payment to reflect the special circumstances in which they worked. This was consolidated into salaries in 1994 (officers) and 2006 (governors) as part of a wider pay deal.

At 31 May 2013, staff in non prison grades in the Northern Ireland Prison Service totalled 499. Of these staff, 220 are not in receipt of the Prison Environmental Allowance. 279 are in receipt of the Prison Environmental Allowance for working in prison establishments. The allowance is for working in an adverse environment not normally associated with their profession or work and, where necessary, associating with prisoners.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice, considering the nature of the work completed by the Central Investigation Service (CIS) and the diversity of its clients, for his assessment of whether the CIS is best placed within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

(AQW 24114/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am content that the Central Investigation Service is best placed within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Pay Progression

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23443/11-15, given that up to five years from 2009 may elapse before staff in the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission could receive payment of pay progression and any increase, whether he would consider a request from the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission to process a payment to staff to address the financial hardship they are experiencing, as an interim measure.

(AQW 24133/11-15)

Mr Ford: In accordance with Department of Finance and Personnel's (DFP) guidance, Departments must ensure that pay commitments are not entered into prior to appropriate approval by the Finance Minister having been secured.

My officials will continue to work with the NILSC to address the outstanding issues and to ensure that, when completed, any agreed Pay Strategy is passed to DFP for financial approval.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23404/11-15, to outline why the legal advice obtained by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission from the Departmental Solicitors Office in January 2013 is available to Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission staff, but that legal advice received since then has been withheld from staff, given that the rules of legal privilege have not altered.

(AQW 24135/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am advised that the legal advice received by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission in January 2013 was not made available to all Commission staff.

The release of this information, covered by legal profession privilege, was restricted to the small group of Commission staff directly involved in the preparation of the pay strategy business case.

In order to update staff on progress with the Pay Strategy Business Case, a general overview of key issues impacting on progress was provided to staff. This update referred to the impact of legal advice received but did not provide detailed information contained therein.

The Commission continues to update staff on progress on the pertinent issues relating to the Pay Strategy Business Case.

Security Industry Authority Door Supervisor Licences: Tar Anall

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been awarded Security Industry Authority Door Supervisor Licences on applications supported by Tar Anall.

(AQW 24184/11-15)

Mr Ford: Applications to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) are made by individuals. While it is possible that an applicant received assistance in submitting an application, the SIA would not be aware of this.

Security Industry Authority Door Supervisor Licences

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the procedures whereby someone convicted of offences for which a life sentence has been imposed can subsequently be granted a Security Industry Authority Door Supervisor Licence; and (ii) the consultative involvement of law enforcement agencies.

(AQW 24185/11-15)

Mr Ford: All applications for licences from the Security Industry Authority (SIA) are subject to the licensing criteria which are set out in its "Get Licensed" document which is approved by the Home Secretary, in consultation with the devolved administrations. The current version of "Get Licensed" is available at http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Documents/licensing/sia_get_licensed.pdf

Licence applications are subject to a criminality check, which involves the SIA receiving a standard disclosure from the relevant authority. With regards to applicants from Northern Ireland, the SIA requests disclosure from AccessNI.

When considering the criminal records for all licence applications, the SIA reviews the relevance, seriousness, recency and the disposal of each offence.

The consultative involvement of law enforcement agencies is a matter for the regulator. You may therefore wish to direct this part of your question to the Chief Executive of the SIA.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission Staff

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 22734/11-15 to detail (i) whether the employment of 6 staff in Human Resources by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission is proportionate to the staff complement of 148; (ii) the 12/13 salary costs for the staff complement; (iii) the salary cost for the 6 Human Resources staff; and (iv) the percentage of the total salaries accounted for by the 6 Human Resources staff.

(AQW 24186/11-15)

Mr Ford: As a Non Departmental Public Body, the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission determines its own staffing requirements to meet its operational need, ensuring that staffing complement across the Commission falls within its operating budget.

Total unaudited salary costs for NILSC Staff Complement for 2012/13 were £4,112,493.

Unaudited salary costs for NILSC Human Resources Department for 2012/13 were £211,052.

The percentage Human Resources salary costs in relation to overall total staff complement costs were 5.13%.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Staff on Fixed Term Contracts

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of staff that are employed by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission on fixed-term contracts, indicating employment start dates and grade; and (ii) if it is intended to continue employment of these staff members beyond the four year anniversary thereby making them permanent employees.

(AQW 24188/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission employs staff on a fixed term contract. Details have been withheld as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

Breach of Security in Postal Correspondence: Lay Magistrates

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice whether he is aware of a breach of security in the postal correspondence sent out identifying Lay Magistrates; and what action will be taken to address this issue.

(AQW 24304/11-15)

Mr Ford: I was advised of this breach on 12 June as soon as it was discovered. The breach occurred as a result of an administrative error within the Youth Justice Agency. The Chief Executive of the Agency has written to all Lay Magistrates apologising for any unease this may have caused them. Advice on security has been given to the Lay Magistrates and the PSNI has been advised of the incident.

As soon as officials were notified of this breach, an investigation was launched. The matter was reported to my Departmental Security Branch and Departmental Information Management Branch who are responsible for security and data protection compliance issues. It has also been referred to the Information Commissioner's Office. Officials in Security Branch are now carrying out an investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident.

The Youth Justice Agency is taking all necessary steps to ensure this will not happen again. Officials in the Agency have been reminded of the Department's procedures regarding data handling and appropriate action will be taken where necessary once the outcome of the investigation is known.

Department for Regional Development

A26 Dualling of the Drones Road

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the earliest date that work could begin on the A26 dualling of the Drones Road; and how much is this projected work to cost.

(AQW 23365/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): Subject to the outcome of the Public Inquiry, the availability of funding and successful procurement, it could be possible to commence construction of the A26 in autumn 2014.

The current projected cost of dualling the A26 between Glarryford and the A44 Drones Road is in the range of £50 - £70 million.

Following the recent Court ruling on the A5 scheme, I wrote to the Finance Minister on 9 May 2013, to declare a reduced budget requirement in relation to the 2013/14 year. I have also provided options to the Finance Minister for other major road schemes that could be started in that financial year. The dualling of the A26 from Glarryford to Drones Road is one of these schemes.

I await Executive consideration of these issues.

Translink Trains: Wi-Fi Service

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Regional Development if has he any plans to improve the Wi-Fi service which is available on Translink trains.

(AQW 23853/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Since October last year, all of the trains operating on the railways network have been equipped with Wi-Fi.

Translink estimate that 15-20% of passengers use free Wi-Fi on board local NIR trains, and 25-30% of passengers on Enterprise services are using this monthly.

I can advise that Translink will continue to review the success of Wi-Fi on both trains and buses.

A5 Road Scheme: Habitats Directive

Mr Ó h0isín asked the Minister for Regional Development, given that the Habitats Directive was crucial to the A5 road scheme, what consideration has been given to other roads projects, such as the A6, which may be similarly impacted by the Directive.

(AQW 23919/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Habitats Directive decision in relation to the A5 was made during the ministerial tenure of my predecessor. I can, however, confirm my Department embraces the EU Habitats Directive when designing highway schemes.

All schemes within the Roads Programme, including the two proposed A6 schemes, Randalstown to Castledawson and the Londonderry to Dungiven scheme, are subject to an Assessment of Implications on European Sites (otherwise known as Habitats Regulations Assessment). This is required by law to inform the decision-making process when the proposed scheme may have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

In addition to the normal consultation with the relevant statutory bodies, specialist advice will be taken as to the implications of the recent court ruling on the A5 dual carriageway project, for other schemes in the Roads Programme.

Reserves Held by Ulsterbus, Metro and Northern Ireland Railways

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the reserves held by (i) Ulsterbus; (ii) Metro; and (iii) Northern Ireland Railways, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 23920/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The reserves held by (i) Ulsterbus; (ii) Metro; and (iii) Northern Ireland Railways, in each of the last three years are set out in the table below:

| | As at 25/03/12 £000s | As at 27/03/11 £000s | As at 28/03/10 £000s |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ulsterbus | 8,641 | 732 | 22,773 |
| Metro | 4,009 | 1,177 | 8,317 |
| NIR | -8,185 | -12,347 | 1,471 |

The above figures represent the sum of all the assets and liabilities of each respective company, taken directly from the audited subsidiary accounts for 2011/2012 produced in line with International Accounting Standards. It should be noted that the total of the 3 figures will differ from the position in the Group's Annual Report and Accounts which includes the holding company.

The level of reserves is an accounting concept, it is not the same as cash held and they are not available for general spending. They represent the net worth of a company in line with agreed accounting policies used. These figures take account of long term liabilities such as pensions and capital grants made to the companies by government.

Closure of Rural Primary Schools

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to raise any concerns with the Minister of Education on the proposals to close some rural primary schools, following the public consultation on draft area plans for primary provision which ended on 1 June 2013.

(AQW 23964/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: School transport services provided by Translink are mostly used by secondary school pupils. Translink has advised me that should there be changes in the use of school transport, it will adjust service levels accordingly.

Enterprise Train: Average Number of Carriages and Seating Capacity

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average number of carriages and the seating capacity on each Enterprise train between 2001/2002 and 2011/2012.

(AQW 23977/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise you that Translink have confirmed that the Enterprise standard train formation comprises:

- 4 x Standard Class carriages
- 1 x Catering Car
- 2 x First Plus carriages

This provides a total passenger capacity of 361 seats.

This standard formation would have been in operation for the majority of the period covered. However to note there were occasions within the period 2001/02 to 2011/2012 that some Enterprise trains operated with 5 x standard class coaches instead of 4 providing a total passenger capacity of 432 seats. In addition, there are some occasions (estimated to be less than 1%) when Translink will, if

necessary, substitute with Class 3000 trains or Iarnród Éireann will substitute with Class 2900 trains. These have not been included in the average figures above.

Passenger Numbers

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the number of customers who use the train service from (i) Portadown and Lisburn to Belfast; and (ii) Belfast to Lisburn and Portadown are included in the total number of passengers for (i) the Enterprise rail service or (ii) Translink's Portadown service.

(AQW 23979/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise that Translink has confirmed that in 2012/13, 3,450,000 passengers used NI Railways' services between Newry-Portadown-Lisburn and Belfast. This number is based on ticket sales data analysis and excludes passengers making cross-border journeys. Individuals booking tickets between Newry-Portadown-Lisburn to Belfast count as part of local service journeys.

Purchase Enterprise Standard Tickets Online

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development if Translink plans to introduce a facility to enable customers who purchase Enterprise standard tickets online the opportunity to reserve a seat free of charge.

(AQW 23980/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise that Translink has confirmed that at present the Enterprise service is a 'walk up, walk on' service and demand for a reservation facility has not been strongly expressed. Therefore there are currently no plans to introduce a facility to enable customers who have purchased Enterprise standard tickets online to reserve a seat free of charge.

Seat reservations are available in First Plus and for groups.

Translink: Purchase Tickets Online

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development if Translink plans to introduce a facility to book online and print tickets at home rather than receiving them through the post.

(AQW 23981/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise that Translink has confirmed that currently passengers booking tickets online have the option to have the ticket posted or to collect at station. Print at home options are also currently being explored.

Enterprise Rail Service Tickets

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Translink plans to introduce a facility to enable customers to purchase Enterprise rail service tickets using an i link card.

(AQW 23985/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise you that Translink have confirmed that at present the iLink ticket is for use in Northern Ireland only. There are currently no plans to introduce this facility for customers wishing to purchase an Enterprise rail service ticket.

G8 Summit: On-Street Parking Restrictions in Fermanagh and Belfast

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the restrictions to on-street parking in (i) Fermanagh; and (ii) Belfast that will be in place during the G8 Summit and the effects this will have on local businesses.

(AQW 24007/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not intend to introduce additional on-street parking restrictions in either Belfast or Fermanagh during the G8 Summit.

However, during the Summit period, it is possible that the PSNI will impose temporary additional parking/waiting restrictions at some locations. These will be managed by the PSNI and marked by the placing of 'Police – No Waiting' traffic cones.

Pedestrian Crossings in Poleglass

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the number of pedestrian crossings in Poleglass; and whether he has any plans to develop new crossings for pedestrians in this area.

(AQW 24019/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department currently has three stand-alone controlled pedestrian crossings in Poleglass. At present, there are no plans to install further crossings in this area but this will be kept under review.

Street Lighting in Poleglass

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the street lighting in Poleglass; whether (i) the present provision of street lighting is deemed adequate for the safety of pedestrians at night; and (ii) he has any plans to increase the provision of street lighting in the area.

(AQW 24020/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The street lighting units in Poleglass are inspected on a routine basis and any defects noted are processed for repair. All new street lighting schemes are designed in accordance with the relevant British Standards and are therefore deemed to fully satisfy the needs of all road users.

It is recognised that some of the lighting has been there for many years and may not meet today's standards for modern lighting schemes. As such, officials have identified areas within Poleglass, such as Glenwell and Laurelbank, where some minor upgrades are required. I can confirm my Department proposes to include these particular areas within a works programme for replacement within the 2014/15 financial year.

Belfast Harbour Commissioners

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development why the £20 million investment from the Belfast Harbour Commissioners cannot be credited to his Department's budget, necessitating a bid in the June monitoring round; and why this was not understood after the initial meeting with the Commissioners in October 2012.

(AQW 24050/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department's budget was set on the basis that £20m would be secured from Belfast Harbour Commissioners (BHC) in both 2013-14 and 2014-15. The Budget Review Group agreed that the Department should work collaboratively with BHC on release of value projects. Following detailed engagement between representatives of the Budget Review Group and BHC, in October 2012 it was agreed that BHC would take forward, from within its resources, proposals for investment in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) accommodation. The first phase worth £10m is in progress with a second £10m phase to follow. Other potential projects to the value of £23m have also been identified.

BHC has started to progress the first phase, however there is no means of crediting this investment to the Department's budget – i.e. the investment will be made directly by BHC, benefiting the economy as a whole, but does not translate into income for the Department. As indicated above, as the Department's budget was established on the basis that the amounts would be credited to our budget, this has created a pressure which needs to be addressed by the Executive. This position was fully understood by the Budget Review Group when it took its decision in October 2012. When endorsing this approach, in January 2013, the Executive also agreed that the appropriate mechanism to address the financial pressure would be the in-year monitoring round – hence the bid in June Monitoring.

Interrupted Train Services: Contingency Arrangements to Transport Passengers

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the (i) contingency arrangements put in place to transport passengers when train services are interrupted; (ii) maximum wait time for arrangements to be put in place to ensure that passengers arrive at their destination station within a reasonable time; and (iii) compensation available for passengers who miss appointments due to interrupted train services.

(AQW 24054/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise you that:

(i) NI Railways operate a range of contingencies in the event of interrupted train services.

The first priority in every event is to protect the safety of passengers, staff and the public. Recovery plans and onward passenger travel arrangements will depend on the individual incident and circumstances, i.e. location, appropriate alternatives available by bus/train transfer.

(ii) Maximum waiting time will be dependent on the circumstances of the event, as will the level of compensation.

As a minimum, NI Railways operate a "Delay Repay" compensation scheme which is set out in detail in the Passenger's Charter. This scheme is similar to that operated by many train companies in Great Britain and offers different levels of compensation based on the length of the delay:

(iii) -

- 30 – 59 minutes – half the cost of a single ticket or half of either part of a return ticket;
- 60 – 119 minutes – full cost of a single ticket or full cost of either part (the outward or the return part) of a return ticket; and
- delays of over 119 minutes – the cost of a return ticket for the journey even if only a single ticket was purchased.

You can see the full terms and conditions at:

www.translink.co.uk/delayrepay.

Cross-border services have their own compensation arrangements which can be found in the Enterprise Charter, also available on Translink's website.

Road Repairs on the Culcavy and Halftown Roads

Mrs Hale asked the Minister for Regional Development how many times contractors carried out road repairs on the (i) Culcavy; and (ii) Halftown roads in (a) 2011/12; and (b) 2012/13.

(AQW 24057/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The numbers of road repairs completed on the Culcavy Road and Halftown Road in 2011/12 and 2012/13 are detailed in the table below:

| Road | Financial Year 2011/12 | Financial Year 2012/13 |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Culcavy Road | 129 | 114 |
| Halftown Road | 98 | 162 |

Railway Stations on the Bangor to Belfast Line

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans for work on railway stations on the Bangor to Belfast line.

(AQW 24079/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise you that there are currently 3 projects planned for stations on the Bangor line. These are:

| Project Name | Est. Cost | Est. Finish |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Seahill – Platform Ramps | £100,000 | October 2014 |
| Bangor Bus/Rail Station – Set-down area at front | £70,000 | March 2014 |
| Bangor Bus/Rail Station – Improvements to rear path and fencing | £30,000 | March 2016 |

In addition, Translink is also in discussion with the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum at Cultra to operate, for a trial period, a railway Park & Ride using their existing facilities.

It should be noted that costs are at this stage estimates and completion dates are indicative; they will be firmed up on completion of business cases and when contracts are developed.

Cycle Paths: Properly Maintained and Kept Free of Debris

Mr Douglas asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures are in place to ensure that cycle paths, and other provision for cyclists, are properly maintained and kept free of debris, including broken glass.

(AQW 24084/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Article 8 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 places a duty on my Department to maintain all public roads in reasonable condition. The term 'road' includes all public adopted footways, cycle tracks, verges etc.

In recognition of its duty of care, my Department has put in place a set of Maintenance Standards for Safety, which are designed to ensure a consistent service level and a safe highway while offering value for money. These standards are based on best practice, research and consultation with both the public and other professional bodies and Industry.

The Safety Standards and procedures currently in operation establish frequencies for inspections and specify response times for the repair of defects. These systems and procedures are recognised and accepted by the courts as being appropriate given the finite level of funding available.

Surface defects identified outside of these inspection regimes will be dealt with according to same standards and remedial work arranged as necessary. If the relevant response time cannot be met, or is not appropriate, then my Department has the option of installing signs to warn road users of a possible danger.

Litter or other obstructions of this nature on the cycle lanes/tracks are usually detected during the routine maintenance inspections and the necessary action taken. However, in many instances these cycle routes/lanes do not belong to my Department and therefore, other parties have responsibility for their maintenance.

The following examples may help clarify the responsibility for maintaining cycle paths:

- Where the cycle track/lane belongs to my Department and runs along side a road then the responsibility for cleaning/sweeping lies with the local District Council. Article 7 of The Litter (NI) Order 1994 places responsibility for cleaning all roads on councils, with the exception of motorways and some designated roads which remain with my Department. Other general maintenance activities, such as patching and drainage etc. remain the responsibility of my Department.
- Where the cycle track/lane belongs to my Department but lies outside the area between the fence/hedge lines, interpreted as 'road' by the Roads (NI) Order, for example, the cycle tracks around the lakes in Craigavon, then all maintenance, including cleaning, is the responsibility of my Department.

- Where the cycle track/lane belongs to a third party, for example, the track along the M5, which is jointly owned by both Belfast and Newtownabbey Councils, then responsibility for all maintenance, including cleaning and other general maintenance activities, rests with the owners.

Cycle Underpaths at Knocknagoney: Maintenance or Inspection

Mr Douglas asked the Minister for Regional Development what maintenance or inspection has been carried out at the cycle underpaths at Knocknagoney, in the last three months.

(AQW 24085/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Officials from my Department inspected the cycle underpaths on 21 March and 23 May 2013, and no defects were noted on either occasion. In addition, the grass in this area has been cut on two occasions.

Belfast to Dublin Enterprise Train: Outline the Cause of the Fire

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the cause of the fire on the Belfast to Dublin Enterprise train on 6 June 2013; and the action that is being taken to ensure that there is no recurrence.

(AQW 24137/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing. The findings of that investigation will inform any necessary action to reduce the risk of any further recurrence.

As required under their Safety Management System NIR will commission their own inquiry into the matter. Engineers will investigate the cause of the fire on the locomotive and the inquiry team will also include representatives from Iarnród Éireann, given the shared nature of the Enterprise service, the fact that the train in question is an Iarnród Éireann vehicle and that all locomotives in the Enterprise fleet are maintained in the Iarnród Éireann engineering depot in Dublin. The Department has asked to be kept fully informed.

The Rail Accident Investigation Board have been informed and, while they have yet to decide if they will investigate directly, have indicated that they are content with the investigation now underway. The Health & Safety Executive have also indicated that they will carry out an investigation into the incident and they have been briefed by Translink on the incident.

I recognise that this was a very distressing situation for all passengers concerned and I am very relieved that no-one was injured. I attended the scene of the incident and I have met with officials and Translink staff. The safety of the public remains our key priority. The response from the train crew, Translink's response teams and emergency services was excellent.

Improved Bus Service: City Centre and Culmore Area of Foyle

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department intends to establish an improved bus service to and from the city centre and the Culmore area of Foyle.

(AQW 24212/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Currently the Lough Swilly Bus Company operates a service along this route. We partly fund this under the Rural Transport Fund. My officials will be meeting with the company in the coming weeks regarding the level of service provision from the city centre to the Culmore area.

A6 Dualling Project

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister for Regional Development how many objections have been received to the 4.8km stretch of the A6 Dualling Project by-passing Dungiven and on the remainder of the Dualling Project.

(AQO 4329/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has received 34 objections relating to the Dungiven By-pass part of the A6 dualling scheme.

A further 88 objections and 11 representations have been received relating to the remainder of the A6 Londonderry to Dungiven scheme.

Car Parking: Penalty Charge Notices

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development how many Penalty Charge Notices were issued in the towns of Coleraine, Limavady, Portstewart, Portrush and Dungiven, in each of the last two years.
(AQO 4317/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Mr Speaker, rather than read out a long list of numbers, I have placed the details in the Library.

In terms of the detail, I would highlight that parking control is important to help reduce congestion, improve road safety and improve access to town centres. My Department's parking policy is fundamentally about ensuring a turnover of spaces, and thus freeing up available spaces for shoppers and visitors which would otherwise be blocked by all day parkers. Such an approach is important to the viability of towns as shopping locations.

We are being successful – the numbers of PCNs issued across Northern Ireland in 2012/13 have reduced by 16,526 which represents a decrease of some 13% from the previous year. The figures for Limavady, Portstewart and Portrush reflect this decrease in PCN numbers. While Coleraine figures show an increase in the number of PCNs due to the addition of 610 new Pay and Display spaces in 2012-13, on a like for like basis, not including the impact of these additional spaces, the position for Coleraine is a 22% decrease for 2012-13.

Flags: Removal

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline who is liable for damage or injury caused by the removal of flags from lamp posts and other street furniture.
(AQO 4324/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I do not condone or support the unauthorised use of my Department's lamp posts, street furniture or other property.

Experience has shown that removal of flags in the absence of widespread support simply worsens the situation, with even more flags being displayed. My Department must also take account of the risks to its employees involved in removing flags where agreement has not been reached.

However, under the current Joint Protocol on the Display of Flags in Public Areas when called upon by the lead Agency, my officials will where necessary provide the access equipment and resources to remove unwanted flags.

Liability for damage or injury caused by the removal of flags from lamp posts and other street furniture lies with the persons who remove the flags. However, the Member will appreciate that the necessary evidence to pursue such liability may not always be available.

DRD: Roads Budget

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development what success he has had in retaining money previously allocated for the A5 road project within the roads budget.
(AQO 4325/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Following the recent Court ruling on the scheme, I wrote to the Finance Minister on 9 May 2013, to declare a reduced budget requirement in relation to the 2013/14 year.

In parallel with this, I highlighted alternative areas of spend in my Department to which this money could be reallocated, all of which would provide support to the construction sector and the local economy at this most difficult time.

Looking forward, there will be implications for 2014-15 allocation and I have provided options to the Finance Minister for other major road schemes that could be started in that financial year given the substantial delay in respect of the A5 project.

I await Executive consideration of these issues.

Roads: Maintenance Budgets

Mr Irwin asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the recent under investment in roads maintenance, what plans does he have to increase the maintenance budgets available to Roads Service for road network repairs.

(AQO 4326/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: It is currently estimated that £130 million per annum is needed to maintain the structural integrity of Northern Ireland's 15,500 miles of road network.

The structural maintenance budget for 2013/14 is around £62 million, leaving a shortfall of some £68 million. I made a bid in June monitoring to meet this shortfall and I hope that the member, and indeed the House, will support this bid.

I can assure you that I will continue to make strong bids for additional structural maintenance funds when necessary.

“Welcome to Northern Ireland” Signs

Ms Fearon asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent on erecting and replacing Welcome to Northern Ireland signs.

(AQO 4327/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has spent approximately £15,300 erecting and replacing 'Welcome to Northern Ireland' signs.

Such signs provide a very useful message to all road users who are not from this area. From a road safety perspective they inform the road user that the speed limits change to miles per hour, and from a tourist and visitor perspective they confirm that there is a change of jurisdiction. This is helpful for visitors, particularly in terms of currency, mobile phone use and, visa requirements for those from outside the European Union. My own view is that we would not be very good hosts if we did not welcome visitors to our country.

Glen Road, Derry: Traffic-Calming Island

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has evaluated the effectiveness of the traffic calming island installed on the Glen Road, in the Derry City Council area.

(AQO 4328/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I remain committed to improving road safety and reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. Traffic calming is a key element of my Department's road safety programmes

The traffic calming scheme on the Glen Road in Londonderry includes a number of islands. Since the scheme was introduced in March 2011, there have been no recorded collisions involving personal injury and a reduction in vehicle speeds has been observed. This compares to two personal injury collisions being recorded in the year before introduction of the scheme.

In these circumstances, it is considered that the traffic calming measures installed on the Glen Road have been effective.

A5 Western Transport Corridor: Conservation Areas

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development when will he make an appropriate assessment in respect of the report he commissioned on the impact of the proposed A5 Western Transport Corridor on the special areas of conservation and proposed mitigation measures.

(AQO 4330/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: During the tenure of my predecessor, a screening exercise, as allowed by the Habitats Directive, was carried out on behalf of the Department. The findings of the screening exercise were issued to the two relevant statutory bodies, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Republic of Ireland's National Parks and Wildlife Service. Both these bodies expressly agreed with the findings. The screening exercise concluded that given the outcome a full Appropriate Assessment was not required.

The Appropriate Assessment process for the A5 project has commenced and I expect to receive the report within the next 2 months. This will allow me to carry out an initial assessment of its content and conclusions.

I have also asked for a third party review of the project consultant's work in respect of the entire Appropriate Assessment process. This review will include the scope of the report to inform the Appropriate Assessment, as well as an overview of the Environmental Statement. The findings of this report will also assist my deliberations.

A public consultation exercise on the report to inform the Appropriate Assessment process is expected to commence in late summer 2013. If this consultation and the third party review do not raise any issues, I would be in a position to complete the Appropriate Assessment in about 4 months' time.

However, if issues emerge from either the public consultation and/or the review which require a public inquiry, then my completion of an Appropriate Assessment will take a further 12 months. This additional time would be required to arrange and hold the public inquiry and await and consider the Inspector's report.

A4: TEN-T

Ms McGahan asked the Minister for Regional Development what impact the removal of the N16 from the TEN-T Comprehensive Road Network could have on the A4.

(AQO 4331/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am delighted to confirm that, as a direct consequence of my personal intervention, my counterpart in the Republic of Ireland has withdrawn the proposal to remove the N16 from the Republic of Ireland's TEN-T Comprehensive Network. This avoids any adverse implications for the A4 in Northern Ireland.

Department for Social Development

Special Advisers

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department has spent on Special Advisers since May 2007, broken down by (i) salary; (ii) pension contributions; (iii) expenses; (iv) office costs; and (v) other costs.

(AQW 1004/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Department is subject to the Data Protection Act in the disclosure of remuneration details of civil servants other than in broad terms. The information which is provided below has therefore had regard to Data Protection considerations.

- (i) The table below sets out the minimum and maximum of the pay scales for Special Advisers within the Department for Social Development during the period from May 2007 to 31 March 2013.

SALARY RANGE

| Year | Minimum | Maximum |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 2007/08 | £56,100 | £78,540 |
| 2008/09 | £57,300 | £79,740 |
| 2009/10 | £57,300 | £82,531 |
| 2010/11 | £57,300 | £82,531 |
| 2011/12 | £57,300 | £90,000 |
| 2012/13 | £57,873 | £90,900 |

- (ii) Employer's pension contributions were paid over at a rate of 21½% in the period from May 2007 to 31 March 2010 and at a rate of 23½% in the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013.
- (iii) Expenses paid to Special Advisers in the period from May 2007 to 31 March 2013 totalled £8,927.
- (iv) There were no incremental office costs as a result of Special Advisers using existing NICS DFP provided accommodation.
- (v) Other costs in the period from May 2007 to 31 March 2013 totalled £65,897 and include Employer's National Insurance Contributions, Data Card and telephony costs.

Salary Scale for Special Advisers

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Special Adviser is paid within Band A or Band B of the Department of Finance and Personnel's salary scale; and, if it is within Band B whether, in light of the DFP decision to increase the upper limit of the Band B scale to £90,000, there has been an increase in salary or an increase is planned.

(AQW 2105/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Special Adviser within the Department is paid within Band B of the Department of Finance and Personnel's salary scale. There was no pay increase made in light of the change in the upper limit of the Band B scale to £90,000.

Unanswered Questions: AQW 1004/11-15 and AQW 2105/11-15

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to Standing Order 20 (B) which states that a written answer 'shall' be answered by the end of ten working days after it is published, (i) why AQW 1004/11-15 and AQW 2105/11-15 have not been answered; and (ii) to provide answers to these questions.

(AQW 3568/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I would advise the Member that AQW 1004/11-15 and AQW 2105/11-15 have been answered.

Funding of Fuel Poverty Programmes

Mr Maskey asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the level of funding attributed to each of the fuel poverty programmes his Department has had responsibility for in the last five years; and to explain the rationale behind each of the varying levels of funding.

(AQW 23831/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Warm Homes Scheme is my Department's primary tool in tackling fuel poverty and the funding for the past 5 years is:

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| 2009/2010 | £20.75m |
| 2010/2011 | £20.5m |
| 2011/2012 | £15.023m |
| 2012/2013 | £15.95m |
| 2013/2014 | £16.0m |

£12million was allocated by DFP to my department to deliver the Boiler Replacement Scheme; this budget is £4 million per year over the remainder of this CSR period. An additional £6million has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund, which brings the total budget available for boiler replacement to £18 million.

All the budget allocations including Warm Homes are agreed by the NI Executive during the Comprehensive Spending Review. The last CSR finished in 2010/11 and the allocation for Warm Homes was lower than the amount of funding which DSD had requested. Minister Attwood at the time increased this allocation by redirecting funding from other budget allocations.

Social Security Agency

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 22825/11-15, whether he will ensure that in future years, when significant numbers of people are due to be recruited to the Social Security Agency, that any recruitment disparity, compared to years when much smaller numbers are recruited, is closely examined to establish any reason for the difference in outcomes.

(AQW 23898/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Recruitment and promotion exercises for general service posts (i.e. administrators and managers) across the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) are managed on a corporate basis by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) through the HRConnect outsourced service.

On an annual basis, the Northern Ireland Research Agency (NISRA) produces an analysis of NICS recruitment competitions that includes equality information. From this report, DFP will identify disparities within the recruitment process and take any appropriate action. DFP use also data on recruitment to general NICS grades within triennial Article 55 reviews, and if this identifies a lack of fair participation in a grade, positive action advertising statements will be used to encourage applications from under-represented groups. The NICS also undertakes a number of outreach measures to address under representation as outlined at Section 1.8 of the NICS Recruitment and Procedures Manual (Version 13).

Rent Arrears

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the current level of rent arrears outstanding to (a) Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and (b) housing associations; and (ii) to state the period for which the arrears are outstanding.

(AQW 23950/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Table 1 below gives details of the Housing Executive tenants by the number of weeks in arrears as at 31 May 2013. The Housing Executive has advised that it is not possible to provide past tenant debt broken down in this format. Table 2 gives details of past tenant arrears by value as at 31 May 2013.

Table 3 below gives details of both past and current Housing Association tenant rent arrears by the number of weeks and value as at 31 May 2013.

TABLE 1 - CURRENT HOUSING EXECUTIVE TENANT RENT ARREARS BY NUMBER OF WEEKS

| No. of weeks | Value of rent arrears |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 0-4 weeks | £1,951,676.00 |
| 5-12 weeks | £2,544,771.00 |
| 12+ weeks | £6,951,543.00 |
| Totals | £11,447,990.00 |

TABLE 2 - PAST HOUSING EXECUTIVE TENANT RENT ARREARS BY VALUE

| Band | Value of past rent arrears |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| £0 to £99 | £50,753.00 |
| £100 to £299 | £230,762.00 |
| £300 to £499 | £206,035.00 |
| £500 to £999 | £536,586.00 |
| £1,000 to £1,999 | £776,132.00 |
| £2,000 to £2,999 | £498,289.00 |
| £3,000 to £3,999 | £299,214.00 |
| £4,000 to £9,999 | £561,255.00 |
| £10,000+ | £88,684.00 |
| | £3,247,710.00 |

TABLE 3 - PAST AND CURRENT HOUSING ASSOCIATION TENANTS RENT ARREARS BY NUMBER OF WEEKS AND VALUE

| | (i) Total | (i) 0-4 weeks | (i) 5-12 weeks | (i) 12 weeks + |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Abbeyfield & Wesley | £122,056.00 | £107,846.55 | £14,209.45 | nil |
| Alpha | £98,852.15 | £65,731.82 | £4,842.20 | £28,278.13 |
| Apex | £1,687,002.24 | £1,111,387.03 | £138,773.85 | £436,841.36 |
| Ark | £86,619.00 | £34,313.00 | £11,131.00 | £41,175.00 |
| Broadway | £0.00 | | | |
| Clanmil | £1,082,704.80 | £648,394.32 | £174,342.87 | £259,967.61 |
| Connswater | £420,657.96 | £141,165.31 | £144,400.63 | £135,092.02 |
| Covenanter | £0.00 | | | |
| Craigowen | £0.00 | | | |
| Filor | £37,247.08 | £10,134.30 | £7,345.97 | £19,766.81 |
| Flax | £59,516.66 | £17,340.69 | £19,714.36 | £22,461.61 |
| Fold | £302,400.95 | £47,396.30 | £40,013.51 | £214,991.14 |
| Gosford | £20,296.00 | £16,636.00 | £3,660.00 | £0.00 |

| | (i) Total | (i) 0-4 weeks | (i) 5-12 weeks | (i) 12 weeks + |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Grove | £29,147.29 | £11,352.62 | £9,425.82 | £8,368.85 |
| Habinteg | £701,936.61 | £276,585.23 | £169,741.75 | £255,609.63 |
| Harmony Homes | £83,991.20 | £44,522.76 | £13,856.48 | £25,611.96 |
| Hearth | £19,700.00 | £12,000.00 | £2,700.00 | £5,000.00 |
| Helm | £2,181,958.00 | £529,532.00 | £430,793.00 | £1,221,633.00 |
| Newington | £76,556.00 | £52,878.00 | £9,132.00 | £14,546.00 |
| Oaklee | £646,285.00 | £114,047.00 | £72,985.00 | £459,253.00 |
| Open Door | £90,842.94 | £48,900.22 | £21,033.00 | £20,909.72 |
| Rural | £25,652.81 | £9,423.44 | £9,603.99 | £6,625.38 |
| Shac | £0.00 | | | |
| South Ulster | £108,477.95 | £65,347.33 | £31,742.65 | £11,387.97 |
| St Matthews | £62,149.29 | £22,859.61 | £12,945.75 | £26,343.93 |
| Triangle | £91,540.00 | £68,884.00 | £10,576.00 | £12,080.00 |
| Trinity | £416,782.82 | £195,610.63 | £123,490.34 | £97,681.85 |
| Ulidia | £124,630.59 | £28,273.13 | £41,443.95 | £54,913.51 |
| Total | £8,577,003.34 | £3,680,561.29 | £1,517,903.57 | £3,378,538.48 |

The majority of large rent arrears, for Housing Executive tenants, have not been caused by the non payment of rent but historically is due to tenants receiving Housing Benefit to which they were not entitled and thus creating an overpayment. The current Housing Benefit management system ensures that Housing Benefit overpayments are no longer transferred to tenants' rent accounts.

In relation to Housing Association rent arrears the figures include amounts that are "technical arrears". These accrue because housing benefit is paid to the Housing Associations four weeks in arrears.

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Void Social Housing Properties in the Colin Area of West Belfast

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of void social housing properties in the Colin area of west Belfast; (ii) their location; (iii) the length of time they have been empty; and (iv) when they will be reallocated.

(AQW 23974/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that they currently have 12 void properties within the Colin area of West Belfast, seven of which are in Poleglass and the other five are in Twinbrook. The table below gives details in relation to parts (ii) to (iv) of the question.

| Location | Length of time empty | Reallocated |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Glenbawn Place, Poleglass | From February 2013 | Yes, awaiting completion of change of tenancy repairs |
| Woodside View, Poleglass | From March 2013 | Yes, awaiting completion of change of tenancy repairs |

| Location | Length of time empty | Reallocated |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Woodside Park, Poleglass | From March 2013 | Offered but not accepted |
| Glenkeen, Poleglass | From April 2013 | Offered but not accepted |
| Ardcaoin Ave, Poleglass | From May 2013 | Offered but not accepted |
| Glenbawn Drive, Poleglass | From May 2013 | Yes, awaiting completion of change of tenancy repairs |
| Glenwood View, Poleglass | From May 2013 | Offered but not accepted |
| Aspen Park, Twinbrook | From March 2013 | Yes, awaiting completion of change of tenancy repairs |
| Juniper Court, Twinbrook | From March 2013 | Yes, awaiting completion of change of tenancy repairs |
| Aspen Park, Twinbrook | From April 2013 | Offered but not accepted |
| Broom Park Heights, Twinbrook | From April 2013 | Offered but not accepted |
| Almond Heights, Twinbrook | From May 2013 | Offered but not accepted |

In relation to Housing Association's they have a total of 24 properties void in the Colin area of West Belfast. The table below gives details of parts (ii) to (iv) of the question.

| Location | Length of time empty | Reallocated |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cloona Manor | Boarded up following threat to tenants | No |
| Lagmore (17 properties) | Vacant on average of 33 weeks | Nine to be allocated by end of summer and other eight may not be lettable until November 2013 |
| Sheltered Housing Scheme at Pembroke Loop Road (3 properties) | One since 3 June 2013 Two since late 2011 | One to be let in the next few weeks. The other two are unlettable at present due to substantial repairs required |
| Stewartstown Road | 27/05/2013 | Unable to relet as structural work is required |
| Good Shepherd Court | 27/05/2013 | Unable to relet at present due to major dampness |
| Laurelbank | 26/05/13 | Due to be relet 19/08/13 |

Fuel Poverty

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will introduce a pilot scheme, similar to the Kirklees Metropolitan Area scheme in Yorkshire, targeted at alleviating the fuel poverty of the 13 percent of the population who are most affected.

(AQW 24044/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has recently completed an Achieving Affordable Warmth Area Based Pilot, in partnership with OFMdfM, DARD, the University of Ulster, NI Housing Executive and 19 local Councils. The aim of this unique approach was to deliver energy efficiency improvements to homes in small concentrated areas. The University of Ulster developed a sophisticated targeting tool which

identified areas of poor housing and low incomes indicating a high prevalence of fuel poverty. A total of 2,145 households were comprehensively surveyed and assessed in terms of their actual levels of fuel poverty and audited for eligibility to the Warm Homes Scheme. Approximately 1 in 2 houses contacted proved eligible for free energy efficiency measures under the Warm Homes Scheme and at least three-quarters of those contacted were in extreme or severe fuel poverty. The targeting system devised in this project is the most accurate area-based tool implemented thus far in the UK. Plans are being developed for a wider rollout of the area-based approach working with the 11 new council areas.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the leaving package of the former Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, who left in March 2012.

(AQW 24093/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services left the Housing Executive on the basis of Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy.

He received the pension entitlements from the Northern Ireland Local Government's Officers Superannuation Scheme (NILGOSC) appropriate to his contributions and length of service and a compensation payment of £97,296 from the Housing Executive.

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Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the cost of (i) flights; and (ii) accommodation incurred by the (i) Chairman; and (ii) vice Chairman of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive since they were appointed.

(AQW 24094/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The cost of the flights and accommodation incurred by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive since they were appointed to May 2013 are shown in the table below.

| | Chairman | Vice Chairman |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Flights | £4,407.92 | £2,628.47 |
| Accommodation | £2,209.00 | £774.00 |
| Total | £6,616.92 | £3,402.47 |

Stalls at Parades and Festivals in Towns and Villages

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development whether stalls at parades and festivals in towns and villages require street trading licences.

(AQW 24098/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The legislation regulating street trading in Northern Ireland (the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001) provides that any person who wishes to trade from a stall must obtain a street trading licence from the district council for the area in which trading is to take place.

A temporary licence may be issued for special events such as parades and festivals.

Responsibility for the issue of licences rests with district councils.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 23545/11-15, whether the use of a claimant's National Insurance Contributions, paid in the last two complete tax years immediately prior to the benefit year in which their claim is made, for the purposes of determining entitlement to contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance provides a fair assessment of the claimant's current income; and what impact this method has on claims.

(AQW 24115/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Entitlement to contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance is determined on the meeting of particular national insurance contribution conditions as set out in the Employment and Support Allowance (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008. The stipulation of the two year period of time over which contributions are paid in any tax year recognises and rewards recent proximity to the labour market. This provides a fair and equitable method of assessing entitlement to contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.

It is not possible to determine the impact of this method on claims as the majority of those claimants that do not meet the contribution conditions will still qualify for income-related Employment and Support Allowance if their income and capital levels are low enough.

Installation of Gas to Drumachose Park, Limavady

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Social Development for a timeframe for the installation of gas to Drumachose Park, Limavady.

(AQW 24151/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Drumachose Park gas heating scheme, for approximately 72 dwellings, is currently programmed with a start date of 19 August 2013 and the initial surveys are currently being carried out by the contractor. The start date is dependent on all relevant surveys being carried out.

Regeneration of Randalstown: Former Police Station

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has considered providing funding for the new car park at the site of the former police station in Randalstown, as part of the town regeneration programme.

(AQW 24165/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is one of a number of stakeholders involved in taking forward actions set out contained in the Randalstown masterplan. DSD is aware that a local regeneration community group recently purchased the former police station however the new owner has not contacted my Department to discuss their proposals for the site.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has used the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Central Investigation Service to investigate any actions or concerns in relation to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

(AQW 24174/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has never used the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Central Investigation Service to investigate any actions or concerns in relation to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Housing Executive Houses: Gas Network

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive houses in each district avail of the gas network.

(AQW 24182/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details the number of Housing Executive properties that have gas central heating in each of their district office areas.

| NIHE District Office | Properties with Gas |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Antrim | 973 |
| Armagh | 188 |
| Ballycastle | 0 |
| Ballymena | 690 |
| Ballymoney | 246 |
| Banbridge | 214 |
| Bangor | 1,690 |
| Carrickfergus | 1,360 |
| Castlereagh | 2,045 |
| Coleraine | 248 |
| Collon Terrace | 607 |
| Cookstown | 1 |
| Downpatrick | 11 |
| Dungannon | 2 |
| East Belfast | 2,499 |
| Fermanagh | 0 |
| Larne | 745 |
| Limavady | 197 |
| Lisburn Antrim Street | 2,435 |
| Lisburn Dairyfarm | 1,540 |
| Lurgan Brownlow | 372 |
| Magherafelt | 3 |
| Newry | 297 |
| Newtownabbey 1 | 1,412 |
| Newtownabbey 2 | 1,313 |
| Newtownards | 1937 |
| North Belfast | 4,767 |
| Omagh | 3 |
| Portadown | 438 |
| Shankill | 2,697 |
| South Belfast | 3,216 |
| Strabane | 2 |

| NIHE District Office | Properties with Gas |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Waterloo Place | 646 |
| Waterside | 688 |
| West Belfast | 3,886 |
| Total | 37,368 |

Housing Executive Occupancy Rates: North Down and Newtownards

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the occupancy rates for Housing Executive units in (i) North Down; and (ii) Newtownards.

(AQW 24192/11-15)

Mr McCausland: At 31 May 2013 the Housing Executive had 6,520 properties within their Bangor and Newtownards local office areas. Of these, 106 properties were vacant; with 35 in a lettable condition. The remainder were vacant for a variety of reasons such as undergoing repairs or decanting of tenants.

The table below details the breakdown of vacant stock by the various Housing Executive local offices in question.

| Local Office area | Total Stock | Tenanted Stock | Total Vacant |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Bangor | 2,660 | 2,613 | 47 |
| Newtownards | 3,860 | 3801 | 59 |
| Total | 6,520 | 6,414 | 106 |

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Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority: Supported People Funding

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development which service providers are at risk of losing Supported People Funding because they will be registered with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.

(AQW 24211/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority are responsible for the regulation and inspection of Registered Care Homes which are the statutory responsibility of DHSS&PS and Domiciliary Care services that can be delivered to supported living schemes. If the Regulatory authority decides that a supported living housing scheme should be registered as a Residential Care Home it becomes the responsibility of DHSS&PS to determine funding requirements.

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority and relevant trusts hold the information required in relation to all decisions regarding registration.

Complex Care and Learning Difficulties

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development for an estimate of the number of people in each constituency with complex care and learning difficulties who are being cared for by their parents.

(AQW 24222/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department does not hold this information.

Carers Allowance

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the total sum spent on the Carers Allowance in each of the last five years.

(AQW 24223/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The total sum spent in the Carers Allowance in each of the last five years is detailed below.

| Financial Year | Spend (£'000) |
|----------------|---------------|
| 2012-13 | £123,588 |
| 2011-12 | £111,219 |
| 2010-11 | £103,573 |
| 2009-10 | £97,999 |
| 2008-09 | £90,401 |

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Carers Allowance

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are in receipt of the Carers Allowance; and how many are providing care for a (i) child; (ii) sibling; and (iii) parent.

(AQW 24224/11-15)

Mr McCausland: At February 2013, there were 38,570 people in receipt of Carer's Allowance. Information is not held by my Department on the breakdown of care provision requested.

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Cavity Wall Insulation

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Social Development whether the cavity wall insulation schemes scheduled to take place in Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties in Castlereagh will be completed on schedule.

(AQW 24279/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive does not have any cavity wall insulation schemes scheduled to take place in Castlereagh.

Ballymoney Roadshow: Non-Financial Sponsor

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 24075/11-15, how the non-financial sponsor of the Ballymoney Roadshow was selected.

(AQW 24305/11-15)

Mr McCausland: No selection process was involved.

Cllr Mervyn Storey, MLA, advised the Department that he was planning to hold a benefit uptake event following his recent attendance at the Pensioner's Parliament.

This provided an ideal opportunity for the Department to test a delivery model for the first Maximising Incomes & Outcomes Community Road Show event in the Ballymoney Council area. As part of my Department's ongoing commitment to improving benefit uptake, a Road Show event will be delivered in every council area throughout Northern Ireland over the next 3 years.

Housing Executive: Home Improvements

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development how many grants for home improvements the Housing Executive has issued in the last year, broken down by amount.

(AQW 24309/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The breakdown for grant approvals in the financial year 2012/13 is detailed in the table below.

| Grant type | <£1k | £1k - £5k | £5k - £10 | £10k - £15k | £15k - £20k | £20k - £25k | > £25k | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Disabled Facilities | 27 | 675 | 146 | 94 | 45 | 68 | 152 | 1,207 |
| Home Repair Assistance | 5 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Renovation | 1 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 18 | 0 | 55 |
| Replacement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 33 | 719 | 158 | 102 | 54 | 86 | 160 | 1,312 |

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Campbell Tickell Investigation

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development (i) whether the consultancy firm Campbell Tickell has been appointed to independently review the alleged overpayments of £18m to four Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) contractors; (ii) who made this appointment; (iii) whether a Board member of NIHE, that was appointed by the Minister, Gregory Lomax, is an associate in Campbell Tickell; (iv) what was the procurement process followed in the appointment of Campbell Tickell; (v) if the Board of NIHE was involved in the appointment did Mr Lomax declare an interest; (vi) what are the terms of reference for the Campbell Tickell investigation; and (vii) what period they will investigate.

(AQW 24342/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that Campbell Tickell has been appointed to independently review the alleged overpayments. Campbell Tickell has been appointed by the Board of the Housing Executive. The Board member Gregory Lomax is an associate in Campbell Tickell. The procurement process followed was in line with the appropriate procurement guidance for the direct award of contracts and the use of consultants. In relation to 'if the Board of NIHE was involved in the appointment did Mr Lomax declare an interest,' the initial processes of appointing the consultant were managed by the Chairman. The external independent review of the organisation's handling of planned maintenance contracts will review how this situation arose, the reliability of the information on overcharging and the actions taken to recover the overpayments. The period under investigation relates to planned maintenance contracts over the past five years.

Housing-led Regeneration

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline what 'housing led regeneration' means.
(AQO 4302/11-15)

Mr McCausland: It is of considerable regret to me that many once vibrant housing estates across Northern Ireland have been allowed to decline and become blighted by vacant and derelict properties, undeveloped land and poor design. This approach is failing communities and exacerbating the housing waiting list, as no one wants to live in an area that is run down and I feel it is morally wrong to condemn home owners to live in dereliction.

That is why the Housing Strategy sets out my intention to take a housing-led approach to regenerating communities to provide; better homes; better places to live and work; better services for communities; and better opportunities for residents.

This approach will involve concerted social, economic and physical actions by my Department's Housing, Urban Regeneration and Social Security Agency teams, working in partnership with other statutory organisations and communities, to develop solutions which reverse decline and create sustainable communities.

Actions to be taken forward will include; refurbishment of current housing stock; infrastructure improvements; and programmes to tackle anti social behaviour and improve educational attainment and employability prospects for people living within these communities.

Connswater Community Greenway

Mr Douglas asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Connswater Community Greenway project, following the recent announcement about the contract being awarded to deliver the first phase.

(AQO 4309/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I very much welcome the announcement of the Contract being awarded which will deliver the first phase of the project. It is important that, given the previous delays, people can see some progression taking place with this significant regeneration project which my Department is helping to deliver across the city. This project will lead to considerable improvements to the City environment and will clearly demonstrate that Belfast is being 'turned around' for the benefit of its citizens.

Housing Executive: Electricity Group-buy Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what steps the Housing Executive has taken to examine the potential for a group buy scheme to help offset the recently announced electricity price rises.

(AQO 4310/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Member will be aware that we were faced with the same situation last year in relation to electricity prices and that there is legislative provision under Section 19 of the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to procure bulk energy. I raised the matter then with the Housing Executive and soon after there was a significant price cut.

In relation to the recently announced electricity price rises there is more work to be done with the Housing Executive to help achieve a similar result to last year. Again I asked the Housing Executive to raise the issue with the electricity license holders. They have advised me that they have written to all electricity license holders in Northern Ireland asking them to detail any discounts that they are prepared to offer to its tenants. A response is anticipated by Friday, 28 June 2013.

Housing Executive: Stock Transfer

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the progress on transferring Housing Executive stock to Housing Associations.

(AQO 4311/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As the Stock Transfer Programme involves the transfer of over 2000 housing units currently in Housing Executive ownership, to the Housing Associations, we must be sure that value for money is being achieved by the public purse when transferring assets. The Housing Executive is currently working with my Department to finalise the stock transfer process to ensure this process is fit for purpose.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the necessary approval to proceed with a further pilot in Bloomfield Bungalows, Bangor was received on 15 May 2013 and the Housing Executive issued a Formal Consultation first Notice to the tenants in Bloomfield Bungalows on Friday 17 May 2013.

The administrative processes and the oversight and approval mechanisms for the proposed Stock Transfer Programme are near completion and I intend to make an announcement on the Programme and the schemes it contains before the Summer Recess.

Landlord Registration Scheme

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Landlord Registration Scheme.

(AQO 4312/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My original intention was to have Landlord Registration in place by the Summer. However, in order to facilitate the direct payment to landlords of the housing cost element of Universal Credit, it is necessary to make a number of practical changes to implementation. In addition the Head of the Civil Service issued a directive to all Departments that when developing new programmes involving online or telephone interaction with citizens or business services, there should be a presumption in favour of using NI Direct programme. My Department is therefore now working with NI Direct to ensure there is a fully functional landlord registration scheme in place as quickly as possible and certainly before the end of 2013.

Although the delay is disappointing, this will ensure a better service to people delivered more effectively.

Housing: Repossessions

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Social Development what action he is taking to deal with the problem of house repossessions.

(AQO 4313/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department cannot resolve the underlying problems leading to possible home repossession; however it does offer help to people facing difficulty through the services outlined below.

My Department funds a Mortgage Debt Advice Service to help those experiencing difficulty making mortgage payments avoid the distressing prospect of court action and possible repossession. This free advice service, operated by the Housing Rights Service, has received funding until March 2015. The service operates during office working hours and includes an online advisor and evening opening hours to 8.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can be contacted directly on 0300 323 0310.

My Department also provides help through Support for Mortgage Interest to people receiving certain social security benefits.

Ballykeel, Ballymena: Regeneration

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the proposed regeneration scheme for the Ballykeel Ward, Ballymena.

(AQO 4314/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that it does not have any proposed regeneration schemes for Ballykeel. In addition, they advise that their local District Office is not aware of any schemes planned through Neighbourhood Renewal or Regional Development.

However, my Department will continue to work with the local voluntary and community sector and its local statutory partners including Ballymena Borough Council to identify, develop and deliver a range of projects to target the needs of the people in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, including Ballykeel.

Unanswered Questions: AQW 1004/11-15; AQW 2105/11-15, AQW 3568/11-15 and AQW 6109/11-1

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development why AQW 1004/11-15 tabled on 17/06/2011; AQW 2105/11-15 tabled on 16/09/2011; AQW 3568/11-15 tabled on 19/10/2011; and AQW 6109/11-15 tabled on 09/01/2012 have not been answered.

(AQO 4315/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I would advise the Member that AQW 1004/11-15; AQW 2105/11-15; and AQW 3568/11-15 were answered.

Limavady Social Security Office

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Social Development what scope exists to expand the role of the Social Security Office in Limavady.

(AQO 4316/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The role of the local Jobs and Benefits offices will continue to change as elements of welfare reform are rolled out across Northern Ireland. Whilst I am committed to maintaining the current network of offices, it is important that the Social Security Agency actively reviews all potential functions to ensure optimum use of the current estate. This review will include looking at the functions which could be carried out at the Limavady Jobs and Benefits Office

Housing Executive's Handling of Maintenance Contracts

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development when an external independent review of the Housing Executive's handling of maintenance contracts will (i) begin; and (ii) be completed.

(AQW 24411/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The external independent review has begun and is scheduled to take 13 weeks to complete.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Assembly Members: Lobbying

Mr Dallat asked the Assembly Commission what guidance is in place to define when lobbying involving Assembly Members is appropriate and when it is inappropriate.

(AQW 23888/11-15)

Mr Cree (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Standing Order 69 (Members' Interests) and the Assembly's Code of Conduct together with the Guide to the Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members ("the Code and Guide") set out the rules and guidance that Members must adhere to in relation to lobbying. I enclose with this response links to Standing Order 69 and the Code and Guide, both of which appear on the Assembly's website.

Lobbying of Members is permitted. However, Members must register and/or declare any relevant interests that they have in relation to lobbying. Paragraphs 7 to 94 of the Guide provide further detail in relation to the requirements to register and declare interests.

Paid advocacy is not permitted. The rules therefore provide that no Member shall, in any proceeding of the Assembly, in return for payment or benefit:

- advocate or initiate any cause or matter on behalf of any outside body or individual;
- urge any other Member of the Assembly to do so.

Paragraphs 95 to 102 of the Guide provide further detail in relation to the advocacy rule.

At its meeting on 22 March 2013 the Committee on Standards and Privileges agreed that, as part of its forthcoming review of the Code and Guide, it would review the relevant provisions in order to ensure that the Members and their staff have appropriate standards/guidance for dealing with lobbyists and others whose intent is to sway public policy on behalf of specific interests.

Should you require it, further advice and guidance on these issues is available from the Clerk of Standards (Room 254).

Link to Standing Order 69: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Standing-Orders/Standing-Orders/#69>

Link to the Code of Conduct together with the Guide to the Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Your-MLAs/Code-of-Conduct/The-Code-of-Conduct-together-with-the-Guide-to-the-Rules-Relating-to-the-Conduct-of-Members/>

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