

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 27 September 2013

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

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Farry, Dr Stephen (North Down)	Molloy, Francie (Mid Ulster)
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Lyttle, Chris (East Belfast)	Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 27 September 2013

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Single Identity Groups

Mr I McCrea asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much funding has been allocated to single identity groups in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) group; and (ii) constituency.
(AQW 19282/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): We do not hold this information.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act

Ms Lo asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they will review their various strategies under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act to ensure they are unified, coherent and up-to-date.
(AQW 19524/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are committed to the fulfilment of our Section 75 obligations in all aspects of our work. We view the requirement to have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity and to promote good relations as important objectives of all our policies.

As we continue to develop and review our policies and strategies, we ensure all are unified, coherent and up-to-date.

Northern Ireland Residents Born in the Irish Republic

Mr Campbell asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they will make representations to the Government regarding the thousands of Northern Ireland residents who were born in the Irish Republic, but have lived in Northern Ireland for decades and are unable to obtain a United Kingdom passport.
(AQW 19730/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We will write to the UK Government and make representations on this issue.

Delivering Social Change

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Delivering Social Change signature projects.
(AQW 21225/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Work on the implementation of the six initial Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes is ongoing and close discussions between our officials and lead departments continue in order to ensure effective delivery at the earliest opportunity.

The Department of Education has recently undertaken the recruitment process for the teachers under the numeracy and literacy project. These teachers will be in place for the beginning of the new school year.

The Department for Employment and Learning is leading on the 'Pathways to Employment for Young People' Signature Programme. A 26-week pilot of the Community Family Support programme commenced in January 2013 which is designed to focus on the needs of 44 disadvantaged families in the targeted areas of Belfast (West and East), Strabane, Cookstown and Newtownabbey. All 5 Family Liaison Officers have been recruited to support the families and they are currently working with mainstream provision to deliver the pilot. This pilot will be scaled up and rolled out as a Signature Programme to areas of greatest need where the levels of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) are highest. The intention is to replicate the model and help support over 720 families.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has lead responsibility for the 'Direct Family Support' and 'Support for Parents' Signature Programmes. Significant progress has been made by the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency on both programmes since the launch. As part of the Family Support Hub programme, the development infrastructure has been put in place. In the Northern Trust area, an additional Hub is coming "on-line" and Northern hubs will all be in place by the end of September.

In the Belfast Trust, work has begun to identify potential locations for four initial Hubs. The exact locations will be decided in September 2013.

In line with the Outcomes Groups' priorities to enhance the existing early intervention services, the planning for additional investment in early intervention services to support Hub work has been completed and has begun to move to the procurement stage. The Belfast Outcomes Group has completed this work and the Southern Outcomes Group will be moving to procurement in September.

In addition, an evaluation system for Hubs has been introduced across all existing Hubs and data capture will start across all Hubs for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Under the Support for Parents programme, a suite of parenting support programmes to be delivered has been developed from the Public Health Agency's ongoing engagement with stakeholders through the Child Development Programme Board and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The programmes focus on parenting programmes for the vulnerable groups.

The Department for Social Development and the Department of Education are working collaboratively to deliver 20 new Nurture Units under the 'Early Intervention for Vulnerable Children' Signature Programme. Twenty schools were invited to participate in an awareness session on 10 April 2013. Plans have been developed with the aim of having all Nurture Units in place by the start of the 2013/2014 academic year.

Finally, the Department for Social Development is also working in partnership with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to bring forward proposals to establish up to 11 Social Enterprise Incubation Hubs under the 'Accelerating Social Enterprise' Signature Programme. The Hubs will be established in currently vacant commercial premises and will offer a range of business advice and practical support to social enterprise entrepreneurs including facilities from which their businesses can operate on a 'test-trading' basis.

Audit of Victims and Survivors Groups

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) how much McClure Watters was paid for the 2010 Audit of Victims and Survivors Groups; (ii) whether this was paid from core victims funding; and (iii) if not, what was the source of the payment.

(AQW 23258/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: FGS McClure Watters were appointed following a tender process to carry out an audit of a number of victims groups focusing on controls and governance. The audit was funded by our Department and the company paid £110,000. This did not come from core victims funds.

Project Director with the UK City of Culture

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the position of Project Director with the UK City of Culture was filled by secondment by the Strategic Investment Board in March 2013 from Temple Bar Cultural Trust, given that the latter organisation is under investigation for financial irregularities; and what due diligence was completed before this appointment was approved as a Single Tender Action.

(AQW 23403/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The report of the investigation referred to has not been formally published and is a matter for the Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council. It is understood that a report was due to be presented to Dublin City Council in March 2013 so it could not have been considered at the time of Mr McLaughlin's appointment, nor would it have been appropriate prior to the final report being completed to draw any conclusions from allegations which may have been made.

In relation to the Single Tender Action, OFMDFM carried out appropriate consideration of the business case in relation to need, value for money and reason for the recommended appointment route and concluded that these had been demonstrated. OFMDFM was not involved in the appointment process.

Delivering Social Change Signature Projects

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister who undertook the assessments of the cost effectiveness of the Delivering Social Change signature projects; and whether their Department had any role in the evaluation.

(AQW 23429/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Through the workings of the Delivering Social Change Ministerial Sub-Committees and Programme Board we are continuing to regularly monitor progress with regard to programme implementation and budget spend, and will continue to do so post implementation.

The cost effectiveness of each of the programmes will be a key consideration, for the lead departments, within both the initial approval and evaluation processes.

Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister which agencies are conducting psychological assessments for the Victims and Survivors Service; and when and how these contracts were awarded.

(AQW 25011/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The table below shows the agencies/organisations which conduct psychological assessments for the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS), the individuals conducting the assessments and details of the contracts awarded. The VSS conducts both needs reviews (stage one) and psychological assessments (stage two). Victims and Survivors Groups and Carecall only conduct psychological assessments (stage two).

Organisation	Individuals Conducting Assessments	Contract details
VSS	Psychological Assessments are conducted by two appropriately qualified Clinical Assessors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Internal Employees – Posts filled through open recruitment ■ One post was filled in January 2013, the other in May 2013

Organisation	Individuals Conducting Assessments	Contract details
Victims and Survivors Groups	Psychological Assessments are conducted by the Clinical Lead/ equivalent within the funded organisation concerned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Application process – funding from the Health and Well-Being Programme ■ Letters of Offer were issued in March 2013, for implementation 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014.
Carecall	Psychological Assessments are carried out by a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. This psychologist is the Clinical Lead within Carecall, with responsibility for Clinical Governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Direct Award Contract ■ Awarded 1st January 2013, and is due to complete on 30th September 2013.

Strategic Investment Board

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to explain the role performed by Mr Paul Priestly in respect of the Strategic Investment Board; and to detail the process and timing of his recruitment.

(AQW 25190/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Mr Priestly was seconded from the Department of Finance and Personnel to the Strategic Investment Board in September 2012. He is employed on a variety of work including the production of a review of the commissioning and delivery system for major infrastructure projects.

Acting Chair of ILEX

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what role (i) their Department; and (ii) the Strategic Investment Board had in the appointment of Mr Matt McNulty as Acting Chair of ILEX.

(AQW 25191/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Sir Roy McNulty resigned from the Ilex Board in February 2012. Subsequent to his departure, Sir Roy, with the Ilex Board's support, recommended the appointment of Matt McNulty as interim Chair. Departmental officials supported this recommendation and Mr McNulty accepted the position as interim Chair in March 2012.

The Strategic Investment Board had no role in the appointment of Matt McNulty as Acting Chair of Ilex.

Project Director of UK City of Culture 2013

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why the appointment of Mr Dermot McLaughlin as Project Director of UK City of Culture 2013 was approved as a single tender action; and what financial package was approved.

(AQW 25194/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Department approved the business case for the process to make a direct appointment as there was an urgent need to recruit a Project Director to enable key aspects of the City of Culture programme to be delivered in the required timescale.

The recruitment process and financial package were a matter for SIB and did not involve OFMDFM.

People Employed by Recruitment Agencies

Mr Swann asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the number of people employed by recruitment agencies in (i) their Department; and (ii) arms-length bodies, as of 1 April (a) 2011; (b) 2012; and (c) 2013.

(AQW 25256/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The number of people employed by recruitment agencies in OFMDFM and its arms-length bodies is shown in the table below.

Organisation	1st April 2011	1st April 2012	1st April 2013
Department - OFMDFM	0	0	2
Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry	0	0	3
NI Commissioner for Children and Young People	2	2	0
Equality Commission for NI	0	0	1
Commissioner for Older People NI	0	1	13
Commissioner for Public Appointments NI	0	0	0
Attorney General's Office NI	0	0	0
Planning Appeals Commission and Water Appeals Commission	0	0	0
NI Judicial Appointments Commission	1	3	3
Strategic Investment Board	0	0	1
Community Relations Council	4	3	1
Victims & Survivors Service	0	12	3
Commissioner for Victims & Survivors	4	0	5
NI Memorial Fund	0	0	1
ILEX Urban Regeneration Company	3	1	2
Maze Long Kesh DC	0	0	3

Programme for Government Commitments

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the progress made on each of their Programme for Government commitments.

(AQW 25287/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Progress on the delivery of Programme for Government commitments is closely monitored in accordance with the published programme arrangements and delivery framework and includes scrutiny by departments, the Delivery Oversight Group and by the PfG Programme Board.

The latest available information on progress against Programme for Government Commitments can be accessed at: <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/work-of-the-executive/pfg-budget-economic-strategy/pfg/strategic-online-report-2011-2015.htm>

Steering Groups for the Social Investment Fund

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many times, and on what dates, each of the Steering Groups for the Social Investment Fund met.

(AQW 25600/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Steering Groups met on the following dates.

Zone	Date
Belfast North 16 meetings	24/10/12, 31/10/12, 7/11/12, 21/11/12, 28/11/12, 6/12/12, 19/12/12, 11/1/13, 16/1/13, 21/1/13, 23/1/13, 25/1/13, 29/1/13, 13/2/13, 25/7/13, 2/9/13
Belfast East 19 meetings	7/11/12, 27/11/12, 6/12/12, 10/12/12, 13/12/12, 19/12/12, 10/1/13, 24/1/13, 30/1/13, 11/2/13, 27/2/13, 27/3/13, 10/4/13, 17/4/13, 24/4/13, 8/5/13, 16/6/13, 1/8/13, 12/9/13
Belfast West 11 meetings	7/11/12, 22/11/12, 4/12/12, 14/12/12, 11/1/13, 18/1/13, 28/1/13, 27/2/13, 20/3/13, 11/4/13, 21/6/13
Belfast South 12 meetings	9/11/12, 23/11/12, 30/11/12, 3/12/12, 13/12/12, 9/1/13, 21/1/13, 23/1/13, 19/2/13, 25/3/13, 10/5/13, 21/6/13
Northern 9 meetings	30/10/12, 21/11/12, 10/12/12, 13/12/12, 18/12/12, 14/1/13, 25/1/13, 14/2/13, 29/8/13
Derry / Londonderry 8 meetings	19/11/12, 22/11/12, 17/12/12, 8/1/13, 29/1/13, 13/2/13, 25/2/13, 3/9/13
Western 13 meetings	8/11/12, 29/11/12, 17/12/12, 8/1/13, 10/1/13, 17/1/13, 24/1/13, 30/1/13, 31/1/13, 22/2/13, 28/3/13, 17/5/13, 6/6/13
Southern 12 meetings	7/11/12, 14/11/12, 29/11/12, 6/12/12, 17/12/12, 3/1/13, 16/1/13, 30/1/13, 13/2/13, 27/2/13, 26/3/13, 14/5/13
South Eastern 11 meetings	14/11/12, 6/12/12, 17/12/12, 11/1/13, 16/1/13, 24/1/13, 30/1/13, 18/2/13, 25/2/13, 26/3/13, 28/5/13

Social Investment Fund

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many applications to the Social Investment Fund have been (i) made for each designated area; (ii) assessed; and how many successful applicants have been notified.

(AQW 25601/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Strategic area plans were received by the Department on 28 February 2013. Each zone has submitted economic appraisals for up to ten projects within their area plans. These are currently being considered as part of a comprehensive appraisal process. As the process remains ongoing, no zones have been notified of the final outcome.

Child Rights Indicator Framework

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the Child Rights Indicator Framework will monitor departmental progress on the Children and Young People's Strategy.

(AQW 25640/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Child Rights Indicator Framework will incorporate the majority of indicators which are currently used to monitor progress on the Children and Young People Strategy and will therefore provide an evidence base for reporting not just on compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) but also on delivery of the Strategy. This reflects the central role of the Strategy in co-ordinating and driving forward the work of the Executive on the delivery of children's rights and wellbeing.

Victims and Survivor Service

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what analysis of need is conducted by the Victims and Survivor Service when a group applies for funding; and how this analysis is conducted.

(AQW 25659/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Comprehensive Needs Analysis produced by the Commission for Victims and Survivors categorises seven areas of need which are reflected in the Victims Support Programme. Groups submitting applications to the Programme are required to provide an analysis of the needs that exist within their client base and the services and support they propose to offer to meet those needs.

The independent panel, set up by the Service, then assesses the extent to which the group has objectively provided evidence of need and the adequacy and quality of the proposed services.

Two panels were established by the Service to assess applications for funding: an Independent Grant Funding Panel and an Independent Grant Funding Appeals Panel. The overall objective of the panels is to ensure a fair, objective and impartial mechanism for funding applications to be considered.

Through monitoring and evaluation returns provided by funded groups and the individual needs reviews conducted by the Service's assessors, a more comprehensive picture of needs across the victims sector is being developed. The analysis of this information will ensure the future revision of services is better targeted to where they are required.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on how her Department is controlling the risk of badgers spreading Bovine Tuberculosis to cattle.

(AQW 25552/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): My Department provides generic TB disease control advice for all herdkeepers and provides specific advice to those who have a TB herd breakdown. The "Biosecurity Code for NI Farms" includes advice about reducing the risk that is posed by wildlife. The publication "TB in your Herd", which is issued to all herdkeepers who have a TB herd breakdown, also includes specific advice in relation to mitigating the risk of badgers spreading bovine Tuberculosis to cattle. We have also recently, with input from stakeholders, produced easy to understand leaflets entitled "Biosecurity Measures which help protect your herd against TB" and "Wildlife Biosecurity". These publications are available on the recently refreshed DARD website.

In addition, DARD Veterinary Officers and Animal Health and Welfare Inspectors give on-farm advice to farmers in relation to specific biosecurity issues relevant to their farm business.

I have asked my officials to develop a “test and vaccinate or remove (TVR)” wildlife intervention research. The aim of this wildlife intervention research will be to test the effectiveness of this approach on the level of TB in badgers and in cattle in the north of Ireland. It is envisaged that badgers in the study area will be tested and the test negative badgers will be vaccinated and released. Only test positive badgers will be removed.

The TVR study design is complex and there are number of preparatory phases that must be completed before the main elements of this TVR research can get underway. However, I am pleased to say that substantial preparatory work has already been undertaken. Computer modelling to help us design the TVR study has been completed. We have made good progress with badger sett surveying in two 100km² areas in Co. Down. Some 75% of the Banbridge / Rathfriland area and 61% of the area near Castlewellan have already been surveyed. We will soon invite other landowners to participate and surveying the remainder of these areas will commence again in coming weeks. We are also planning to soon commence a badger ecology study to gather baseline monitoring data on badger movements in these areas.

I also propose to consult on changing secondary legislation to allow trained and licensed lay persons to vaccinate badgers for TB. This would allow, for example, environmental organisations or interested farmers to vaccinate badgers on their own land.

I recently announced that I propose to establish a government / industry Strategic Partnership Group to develop a long term strategy to eradicate TB from the cattle population here. This new Strategic Partnership Group will be all embracing and will be asked to address all the issues including biosecurity and the wildlife factor.

I am also considering what support could be provided through the next Rural Development Programme, for example training for herdkeepers on biosecurity and if any capital funding could be made available to help herdkeepers ensure that badgers do not have access to their farmyards, housed cattle or animal feed stores.

Ploughing Competition

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the monetary value of the support that her Department is providing to The Ploughing Competition in (i) the Republic of Ireland; and (ii) Northern Ireland.

(AQW 25632/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department is providing sponsorship support to the NI Ploughing Association through sponsorship to the value of £230 for the 2013 NI Ploughing Championships.

No sponsorship support is provided to the National Ploughing Championships.

2013 Single Payment Scheme

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what input and contribution she made to the discussions and agreement in Brussels during the week commencing 9 September 2013, which allow for an advance 50 percent contribution to be made under the 2013 Single Payment Scheme.

(AQW 25736/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: On 11 September, the Commission's Management Committee for Direct Payments agreed to allow any Member State that was in a position to do so to make up to 50% advance payments from 16 October 2013.

This was as a result of a number of Member States having made requests for derogations to make advance payments as required under the existing EU legislation. The meeting was not attended by Ministers. I understand that some Member States including south of Ireland, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary and Greece made this type of request. Decisions in regard to advance payments are relevant to Paying Agencies or Member States that consider that they are in a position to make

advance payments. DARD is not currently in that position, but the work necessary to change that must be carried out here and not in Brussels.

Farm Business ID Numbers

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of Farm Business ID numbers (i) applied for; and (ii) granted by her Department, in each of the last twelve months, broken down by county.

(AQW 25963/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The table attached provide details of the number of Farm Business ID numbers (i) applied for; and (ii) those granted, broken down per county for the period, September 2012 to August 2013.

FARM BUSINESS IDS

	Sep 12		Oct 12		Nov 12		Dec 12	
County	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted
Antrim	21	14	24	17	10	7	16	12
Armagh	15	14	19	19	16	13	12	10
Down	15	13	20	19	17	17	20	18
Fermanagh	7	7	3	3	9	9	0	0
Derry	9	8	8	8	18	13	14	14
Tyrone	9	6	10	7	13	10	13	10
Totals	76	62	84	73	83	69	75	64

	Jan 13		Feb 13		Mar 13		Apr 13	
County	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted
Antrim	23	17	18	11	36	27	15	11
Armagh	20	18	29	27	15	12	20	11
Down	27	26	39	35	38	37	25	21
Fermanagh	9	8	7	7	12	11	7	6
Derry	7	7	13	13	19	14	6	3
Tyrone	18	13	28	20	33	24	18	10
Totals	104	89	134	113	153	125	91	62

	May 13		Jun 13		Jul 13		Aug 13	
County	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted	No. Applied For	of which were granted
Antrim	15	12	15	8	12	8	15	8
Armagh	7	6	14	11	11	4	15	4
Down	22	20	13	11	21	16	24	17
Fermanagh	7	5	6	4	5	2	10	4
Derry	11	7	10	6	4	3	6	4
Tyrone	12	8	15	6	11	7	13	2
Totals	74	58	73	46	64	40	83	39

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Milk Cup Funding

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she is considering allocating additional funding to the Milk Cup in order to support its ongoing development.

(AQW 24425/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): Primary responsibility for providing support and funding to events, including sporting events such as the Milk Cup, transferred in 2010 to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI).

However, in order to support the ongoing development of the Milk Cup, £10,000 was allocated from my Department through the June Monitoring Round.

In addition, my Department has approved a one year pilot Sports Events Funding Programme, which has just recently been launched by Sport NI, and to which the Milk Cup may be eligible to apply.

Belfast Mela

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail how much the Arts Council has awarded the Belfast Mela, in each of the last seven years.

(AQW 24719/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Arts Ekta received funding for the Belfast Mela from 2009/2010 through the Arts Council's lottery funded small grants programme. Funding details are listed in the table below:-

Finance Year	Grant Amount
2011-2012	£2,830.00
2010-2011	£7,200.00
2009-2010	£5,000.00

Undertakings Not to Fish

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 22086/11-15, whether the fishermen who did not receive licences for the 2013 season refused to provide written undertakings not to fish.

(AQW 24854/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The coastal salmon netsmen who have not received licences for the 2013 season did not apply for licences from the Department. Therefore the provision of an undertaking not to fish is not relevant.

Salmon and Inland Fisheries Forum

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 23598/11-15, when she will recruit for the two vacant positions; and if the positions are specifically representative of any group or body.

(AQW 24856/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The two vacant positions on the Salmon and Inland Fisheries Forum are for representatives of Lough Erne commercial fishermen and fish dealers.

Both of these groups are licensed by the Department and officials have written to licence holders seeking applications for the posts. To date there have been no applications received from these groups.

The Department will continue to seek applications from the two groups.

Branded Apparel for Non-Frontline Staff

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much her Department has spent on branded apparel for non-frontline staff, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 24879/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department incurred no expenditure on branded apparel for non-frontline staff in this period.

Draft Pleasure Ground Bye-Law Proposals

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQO 4337/11-15, when her Department received the new draft Pleasure Ground Bye-Law proposals for the North Down Borough Council area; and for her assessment of the proposals.

(AQW 24890/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department received the new draft Pleasure Ground Bye-Law proposals for the North Down Council area on 13 February 2013. Departmental officials subsequently sought legal advice on technical issues related to the bye-law proposals. Having given due consideration to the proposal and the legal advice received, my Department has now confirmed approval of the bye-laws to the Department of the Environment.

Netting Licences

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of netting licences that have been granted for Lough Neagh in the last twelve months.

(AQW 24917/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The open seasons for different species of fish vary throughout the calendar year, therefore the table below relates to 2012, the last year for which records are complete.

Licence type	Number of licenses issued
Eel Draft net	45
Draft net for the capture of salmon and fresh water fish	21
Single wall set net or trammel net (Trout)	63
Single wall set net or trammel net (Coarse)	125
Bait nets (only for use with eel long lines)	69

Board of Sport NI

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to list the members of the Board of SportNI; and how many vacant places there are on the Board.

(AQW 25053/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The members of the Board of Sport NI are as follows:

- Brian Henning (Chair)
- John D'Arcy (Interim Vice-Chair)
- Gerard Campbell
- Paul Cummings
- Brian Delaney
- Barry Macaulay
- Roisin Mallon
- Shane McCullough
- Danny O'Connor
- John O'Neill

There are currently five vacant places on the Board, including the position of Vice-Chair.

Fisheries Employees

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of fisheries employees that are (a) suspended; and (b) how long they have been suspended; and (ii) the terms and conditions that relate to their suspension.

(AQW 25089/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am unable to supply the information requested as this could lead to the possible identification of individual(s) concerned and would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

Consumption of Alcohol at Public Angling Estate Waters

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action is being taken to make drinking alcohol an offence at fishing loughs that are maintained by her Department, in the interests of public safety and to ensure these areas remain family-orientated and free of anti-social behaviour.

(AQW 25155/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department has had very few reports or complaints involving the consumption of alcohol at DCAL Public Angling Estate waters.

DCAL does not have any powers to regulate the consumption of alcohol at these locations, but should evidence emerge of alcohol related issues at PAE waters my Department will consider appropriate action.

Compensation for Netsmen

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 24526/11-15, in which she states "the other netsmen who held licences in 2012 have not received compensation to date" whether they have or will receive compensation from 28 August 2013.

(AQW 25163/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: No compensation has been paid to date to the other netsmen.

The Department has written to each of the netsmen who did not apply for licences in 2013 on this issue, but to date no agreement has been reached.

Fish Kill at Portavoe Reservoir

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the reasons for the recent fish kill at Portavoe Reservoir.

(AQW 25167/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has confirmed that water samples taken from Portavoe show no evidence of pollution. There are no health concerns about anglers taking fish at Portavoe.

It is likely that a combination of high temperatures and excessive weed growth have depleted dissolved oxygen levels. The Department is using a weed cutter at Portavoe to reduce the weed cover which will contribute to improving oxygen levels.

Fish are sensitive to Dissolved Oxygen levels in the water and the NIEA staff have taken a number of samples from the reservoir. Dissolved Oxygen levels recorded during the daytime were deemed adequate to sustain fish life, however it is at night that the dissolved oxygen levels will be at their lowest. The NIEA subsequently positioned a water monitoring buoy in the centre of the reservoir to record Dissolved Oxygen levels over a number of days and information received has indicated that the lake is prone to periods of low oxygen levels. As such DCAL is currently reviewing it's stocking protocols for Portavoe.

Any fish stressed by the depleted dissolved oxygen level would be more vulnerable to lice and fungal infections and it is likely that the conditions were more suitable for the infections to take hold.

Illegal Nets Removed from Lough Neagh

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many illegal nets have been seized in Lough Neagh in the last three years, broken down by quarter; and how many prosecutions have resulted from these breaches.

(AQW 25246/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Number of nets seized on Lough Neagh:

Year	March/May	June/August	Sept/Nove	Dec/Feb
09/10	2	1	6	9
10/11	2	7	12	17
11/12	5	8	2	1
12/13	3	4		

PROSECUTIONS RESULTING FROM THESE SEIZURES:

Year	March/May	June/August	Sept/Nov	Dec/Feb
09/10	0	0	0	1
10/11	1	0	0	0
11/12	0	1	0	0
12/13	1			

People Employed by Recruitment Agencies

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of people employed by recruitment agencies in (i) her Department; and (ii) arms-length bodies, as of 1 April (a) 2011; (b) 2012; and (c) 2013.

(AQW 25309/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Under the terms of the NICS Framework Agreement for the Provision of Temporary workers, DCAL has engaged with recruitment agencies to secure temporary workers to cover various posts over the last three years.

The table below details the number of people employed by recruitment agencies in both DCAL and its Arms Length Bodies (ALBs).

Source	1 April 2011	1 April 2012	1 April 2013
DCAL	2	3	12
ALBs	60	78	95
Total	62	81	107

Flag Representations at World Police and Fire Games

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why Team Northern Ireland were not represented by a flag at the World Police and Fire Games 2013.

(AQW 25445/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Country flags were displayed at the Opening Ceremony of the 2013 World Police and Fire Games. During the athletes parade a team of volunteers entered the arena carrying country flags for all countries represented at the Games. The country flags were then displayed near the stage for the remainder of the Opening Ceremony.

Regional Sports Stadia

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if the funding allocated to Regional Sports stadia has been ring-fenced.

(AQW 25447/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: A funding package totalling £110m (including Optimism Bias) for the Regional Stadium Development was endorsed by the Executive as a priority area of spend in this current CSR period.

Windsor Park Development

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what impact the delay in progressing the Windsor Park development is having on the work programme and funding for the Regional Sports Stadia.

(AQW 25448/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Windsor Park development is currently on programme for full commitment of the public sector spend within the current CSR period, provided that significant delays around any legal challenges are avoided and IFA provide assurance to DCAL that appropriate governance and accountability structures are in place.

Deprivation and Participation in Physical Activity

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she plans to investigate the link between deprivation and low adult participation in physical activity; and if the targeting of legacy funding can be directed towards sporting facilities in deprived areas.

(AQW 25670/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Extensive research continues to be carried out by my Department to investigate the link between deprivation and low adult participation in physical activity. In addition to the annual analysis of the Continuous Household Survey – which assesses the experience of sport and physical activity by adults across the north of Ireland, including in deprived areas - my Department has just recently published research into “The Impact of Poverty on Engagement in Sport in NI”. These findings can be accessed via the DCAL website at www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/quick-links/research_and_statistics-3.htm.

All Departmental funding provision will be considered in line with DCAL's priorities of promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion; and in the context of DCAL's strategy for sport, 'Sport Matters'.

Department of Education

Evaluations of Classroom Assistants

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many evaluations of classroom assistants posts have yet to be completed in each Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 25504/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The information requested has been provided by Education and Library Boards and is set out in the table below. The figures relate to only those classroom assistants who have signed up to have their post evaluated and for whom the process is not yet complete:

BELB	62
WELB	90
NEELB	29
SEELB	201
SELB	239
Total	621

Classroom Assistants

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many appeals have been lodged by classroom assistants over the outcome of the job evaluation process, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 25505/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There is no appeal process attached to job evaluation for Classroom Assistants as generic job descriptions were agreed by the Employers and Trade Unions in advance of evaluation. However, the following number of Classroom Assistants have signified their disagreement with their allocation of a job description and the associated grade.

BELB	47
WELB	19
NEELB	29
SEELB	16
SELB	69
Total	180

Classroom Assistant Job Evaluation

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education what is the average length of time taken to complete the appeal process for a classroom assistant job evaluation.

(AQW 25507/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There is no appeal process attached to the job evaluation for Classroom Assistants as generic job descriptions were agreed by the Employers and Trade Unions in advance of evaluation. What is being considered at the moment is an Assessment and Review Process for those Classroom Assistants, who are dissatisfied with the job description and associated grade that they have been allocated. The Employers are still in discussions with the Trade Unions on this matter and have not agreed an appropriate review process to date.

Admissions Criteria

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education when he will publish the outcome of his Department's review of the current advice and guidance on admissions criteria.

(AQW 25508/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Working in close collaboration with the 5 Education and Library Boards, my Department has conducted a series of workshops during September 2013 for representatives of primary schools and their Boards of Governors to provide advice on best practice when formulating their admissions criteria for the 2014/15 school year.

This training was scheduled to assist schools in reviewing the criteria they wish to be included in booklets for parents, which will be published by the ELBs before the end of November. All primary schools were invited to attend. School feedback on the events was positive and attendance of oversubscribed primary schools was good.

The guidance given to primary schools at the workshops, and the training materials, will be published on the Department's website and a link sent to all primary schools by the end of September.

Based on attendee feedback and issues raised during the workshops, the Department is now considering what further advice and guidance needs to issue to schools in autumn 2013 to support them for the 2014/15 admissions process and beyond.

Works Contracts

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the value of minor works contracts awarded by his Department over the last twelve months, broken down by (i) Education and Library Board; and (ii) educational sector.

(AQW 25510/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The value of minor works contracts awarded by the Department of Education over the last twelve months up to 31 August 2013, broken down by (i) Education and Library Board; and (ii) educational sector is as follows:-

SECTOR (£000s) 1/9/12 – 31/8/13	BELB	WELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	TOTAL
Controlled	2,729	2,503	6,048	2,880	4,663	18,823
Controlled Integrated	296	0	583	5	0	884
Irish Medium	164	0	0	0	10	174
Roman Catholic Maintained	5,701	1,361	1,467	1,557	2,805	12,891
Other Maintained	0	0	124	0	16	140

SECTOR (£000s) 1/9/12 – 31/8/13	BELB	WELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	TOTAL
Voluntary Grammar School	2,183	307	666	26	557	3,739
Grant Maintained Integrated	159	103	48	613	42	965
Special	423	239	47	484	597	1,790
Other	80	7	430	609	0	1,126
Overall Total	11,735	4,520	9,413	6,174	8,690	40,532

Pre-School Admission Criteria

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education when he will issue revised guidance on pre-school admission criteria.

(AQW 25551/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department issued a circular to all statutory pre-school providers in September 2012 advising Principals and Boards of Governors of the arrangements for the application of open enrolment procedures to admissions to nursery schools and classes in primary schools. Similar advice was also issued to voluntary/private pre-school settings participating in the Pre-School Education Programme.

My officials will be writing to all funded pre-school before the end of this month to clarify that advice and to confirm the timetable for September 2014 admissions.

Conductive Education

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education whether he has considered commissioning research into Conductive Education as a form of teaching children with disabilities and special educational needs; and if not, to outline his reasons.

(AQW 25576/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have not, to date, considered commissioning research into Conductive Education as a method of teaching children with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN).

I am sure you will appreciate that due to the financial constraints under which my department, and indeed all government departments, currently operate that priority must be given to the provision of frontline services.

While Conductive Education is one option for supporting children with disabilities and SEN, the Education and Library Boards provide a wide range of educational services, based on the individual SEN of the child, and non-educational support may also be provided, including therapeutic support from medical professionals.

Free School Meals

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education what research his Department has carried out into the impact of free school meals locally.

(AQW 25578/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: International research and evidence demonstrate the critical influence of nutrition on cognitive development and academic performance in children and adolescents and that poor diet is detrimental to children's learning, concentration and behaviour, in addition to its wider health impacts.

Similarly, evaluations of various school food initiatives, such as the Jamie Oliver led "Feed Me Better" campaign, the free school meal pilots in England, and Kingston-upon-Hull's "Eat Well, Do Well" initiative also highlight the positive correlation between nutrition, health and educational attainment.

Whilst research at a local level has not been undertaken the findings of these research studies are directly applicable to the north of Ireland and have informed the development of my Department's approach to the provision of free school meals.

Children from families on low incomes and those living in poverty, whether they live in the north of Ireland, in Scotland, England or Wales face significant and particular barriers in accessing and benefiting from a good education. I consider that the provision of healthy free school meals is necessary to address the particular challenges that these children face in accessing and participating fully in school life, in improving their learning outcomes and ultimately lifetime opportunities. This also contributes to the statutory target to take action to eradicate child poverty here by 2020 and to the Programme for Government Commitment to tackle disadvantage.

Consequently, I announced in June that I will extend the Working Tax Credit free school meal eligibility criterion from September 2014. This will mean that an estimated additional 15,000 pupils from low income households to benefit from free school meals as a direct result.

Children Living in Areas Affected by Conflict

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education what specific support his Department offers children living in areas most affected by conflict.

(AQW 25579/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recognise that children who live in areas affected by conflict can face particular barriers in accessing and benefitting from a sound education. Research indicates that many of the areas in the north of Ireland which are characterised by high levels of social deprivation are also areas which have been affected by conflict.

My Department is committed to ensuring that children and young people from socially deprived backgrounds, including those living in areas affected by conflict, are supported to achieve their full potential. A wide range of programmes and interventions, which are supported by substantial funding allocations, are being taken forward which directly and indirectly provide support to children who live in these areas. These include the provision of:

- an additional £9m over the period 2012-13 to 2014-15 to increase access to mainstream youth services in disadvantaged areas which gives priority to interface areas;
- a further £420k allocated by the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) in 2013/14 to youth groups to run youth intervention schemes particularly in interface areas; £750k to deliver projects to address educational underachievement in the West Belfast area;
- £376k for 2013/14 for each of the two Full Service pilot programmes at the Boys and Girls Model Schools in North Belfast and through the Full Service Community Network in Ballymurphy;
- over £15.6m funding over three years for the Delivering Social Change programme to employ additional teachers to support pupils at risk of underachievement;
- £2m funding per annum in 2013/14 and 2014/15 on a new community education initiatives programmes to address educational underachievement in socially and educationally disadvantaged communities;
- £360k funding per annum for the Achieving Belfast and Achieving Derry – Bright Futures programmes; and
- £12m in 2013/14 through the Extended Schools Programme and in each year to 31 March 2015 to enable schools serving pupils from areas of disadvantage to improve their life chances by providing additional learning opportunities.

My Department also provides financial support for the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy through the ELBs and Youth Council Northern Ireland (YCNI). A minimum of 20% of this funding must be used to support meaningful interaction between young people with different social, cultural or religious backgrounds.

In addition, my Department works closely with the Department for Social Development in relation to education-related Neighbourhood Renewal Projects which target children in the most disadvantaged areas, providing additional support to address educational underachievement.

I consider that the range of Departmental interventions outlined, therefore, will continue to provide both targeted and indirect support to children at greatest risk of underachievement, including those living in areas most affected by conflict.

Western Education and Library Board: Staff

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Education how many (i) teachers; and (ii) classroom assistants in the Western Education and Library Board (i) retired; (ii) were made redundant; and (iii) have been left unemployed, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 25582/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: (i) Since the removal of the compulsory retirement age in October 2006, employers have not recorded leavers as "retired". The table below provides the number of teachers who have opted to access their pension in the last five years. The same information is not available for classroom assistants as the employers are not the pension providers and therefore do not hold pension related details.

Academic Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Retired	120	99	88	111	132	550

(ii) The number of redundancies for teachers and classroom assistants are set out in the table below. In relation to teachers, it should be noted that there is the potential for double counting of staff included in both the redundancy figures below and retirement figures quoted at (i) above. Teaching figures include staff in all grant-maintained schools and the classroom assistant figures include staff in Controlled and Maintained schools only.

Academic Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Total
Redundancies:						
Teachers	42	33	61	111	80	327
Classroom Assistants	17	23	23	66	41	170

(iii) Regarding the number left unemployed, the department does not hold this information.

Bangor Grammar School

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education what plans his Department has for the Rugby pitches belonging to Bangor Grammar School at Ballymacormick, Bangor.

(AQW 25643/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The future of Bangor Grammar School's rugby pitches at Ballymacormick is a matter for the school itself. My Department does not own the property.

Child Obesity

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what strategies are being pursued through the education system to tackle child obesity.

(AQW 25688/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department recognises the detrimental impacts which being overweight or obese can have on children and young people's physical, emotional and mental health. Consequently, a range of measures are in place which will support the delivery of the targets set in the obesity prevention

strategy "A Fitter Future for All" to reduce the proportion of children who are obese or overweight and obese by 2022.

The Department recognises the particular importance of a healthy, balanced diet in this regard and has proactively worked to improve the quality of food in schools here. In 2007 my Department introduced mandatory Nutritional Standards for School Meals which ensures that children receive only healthy, nutritious school meals. Nutritional Standards for Other Food and Drink provided in schools have also been introduced. I have allocated annual funding - some £4.2 million in 2013/14 - to support the implementation of the standards with part funding also provided for a regional Food in Schools Coordinator to provide specialist support in all aspects of healthy eating.

The Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (primary) and Learning for Life and Work (post-primary) Areas of Learning within the curriculum provide opportunities for pupils to learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles, including diet and physical activity. In addition, the curriculum requires all pupils to undertake Home Economics at Key Stage 3 which provides opportunities for young people to develop their understanding of a healthy diet and the hygienic and healthy use of foods in the preparation of meals.

My Department also promotes physical activity through Physical Education (PE) which is a compulsory curriculum element for all pupils through all Key Stages. Schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for pupils to take part in at least 2 hours of PE per week. I have also made £1.5 million available this year to fund the Curriculum Sports Programme in primary schools. The programme aims to develop the physical literacy skills of our youngest pupils and encourage ongoing participation in physical activity.

I intend, along with the Minister for Health, to announce the Food in Schools policy in the near future. The policy advocates a whole school approach to all food and drinks provided in schools to ensure that all children develop the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy food choices now and in later life.

I consider that through the measures outlined my Department and the wider education system will make an important contribution to tackling childhood obesity.

Southern Education and Library Board

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 25018//11-15, whether a new provider has been engaged by the Southern Education and Library Board; and what progress has been made with the Development Proposals that are currently with his Department.
(AQW 25706/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education and Library Board has advised that the that Pre-School Education Advisory Group for the area has approved the participation of Care Bears Day Nursery in the Pre-School Education Programme for the 2013/14 academic year.

As previously advised, I will consider all Development Proposals submitted to me in light of demand for additional nursery places. To date, however, no Development Proposals have been published seeking additional nursery places in the Cookstown District Council area.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many pupils with Special Educational Needs in the South Eastern Education and Library Board require transport to school, broken down by district.
(AQW 25718/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been advised by the South Eastern Education and Library Board that the number of children with special educational needs who require transport to school is as set out in the table below:

District by Council Area	Number of pupils
Ards Borough Council Area	631
Castlereagh Borough Council Area	332
Down District Council Area	733
Lisburn City Council Area	902
North Down Borough Council Area	314

Primary School Starting Age

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans he has to allow flexibility in primary school starting age. (AQW 25720/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recognise that we have the youngest school starting age in Europe and following a meeting with representatives from the Association of Teachers & Lecturers and associates, I agreed to look at options for introducing a degree of flexibility around the school starting age here.

Work on identifying potential options within this area is currently ongoing and will be completed as quickly as possible.

Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020 Report

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education to detail the occasions, including the dates, that his Department has liaised with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on the incorporation of Organ Donation and Transplantation into schools criteria, as recommended in the Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020 report.

(AQW 25742/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: A Department of Education official attended a meeting with a delegation of the Committee for Organ Donation and Transplantation (established by the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety) on 15 April 2013.

Following the meeting, the Department provided details for the appropriate contact from the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) to advise the Committee on the development of its educational resource for schools. The Department has also offered assistance with the dissemination of any resource developed by the Committee via the C2k service in schools. A further meeting is scheduled for 18 November 2013.

Bush Primary School, Dungannon

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education for an update on the provision of a nursery school unit at Bush Primary School, Dungannon, including the progress made to date.

(AQW 25749/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Development Proposal 293 was published by the Southern Education and Library Board on 2 September 2013. This proposes the provision of a nursery unit at Bush Primary School, Dungannon catering for 26 pupils on a part time basis with effect from 1 September 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Following publication of a Development Proposal (DP) there is a statutory two month consultation period during time which anyone who wishes can forward objections or comments to the Department. At the end of this consultation period I will make a decision on the DP, taking account of all relevant issues and the comments received.

The two month consultation period for DP 293 ends on 4 November 2013.

Southern Education and Library Board

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education, following the area plan consultation, for his assessment of the level of public funds required to meet the redundancy costs of (i) Principals; (ii) academic staff; and (iii) non-academic staff, following the decision of the Southern Education and Library Board to back Option A as the model for future provision.

(AQW 25750/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am aware that, following the completion of a public consultation on its post-primary area plan, the Southern Education and Library Board supported the recommendation of its advisory subcommittee for controlled schools by backing Option A.

To date, however, the Board has not yet published any Development Proposals in regard to the future provision of post primary schools in the Craigavon area.

Until formal Development Proposals have been brought forward it is not possible for me to make an assessment of the level of public funds required to meet potential redundancy costs if they arise from the SELB decision to back Option A.

Common Funding Scheme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education to publish the anticipated impact of the revised Common Funding Scheme, in terms of the increases and decreases in funding, for each individual school.

(AQW 25762/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Illustrative budgets have been prepared for all schools as part of the current consultation process on the proposed changes to the Common Funding Scheme and are available on the Department's website at <http://www.deni.gov.uk/june-2013-common-funding-scheme-consultation.htm>. Information on each school's current budget for 2013/14 can be found at <http://www.deni.gov.uk/common-funding-formula-budgets-for-schools-2013-15.htm>

School budgets for the new financial year will be published in due course. They will reflect increases in the Aggregated Schools Budget in 2014-15, factors at individual school level such as pupil enrolment numbers and Free School Meals entitlement and my final decisions on changes to the Scheme following consideration of consultation responses.

Levels of Progression

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent on the implementation of Levels of Progression to date.

(AQW 25768/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following figures have been provided by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA).

To date, £1,788,373 has been spent on implementation of the Levels of Progression. The breakdown by financial year is provided below.

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
£796,297	£674,951	£317,125	£1,788,373

These figures cover the period from 1 April 2011 (initiation of pilot assessment training programme in primary schools) to 31 August 2013 (latest available figures).

Project costs included relate to additional teacher release costs and the training, support and operational costs associated with implementation.

Costs for development and trialling phases up to 31 March 2011 (i.e. prior to system implementation in schools) are not included.

Salaries of CCEA officers are not included.

Free School Meals

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the current uptake of free school meals, broken down by (i) Education and Library Board; and (ii) sector.

(AQW 25769/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The uptake of free school meals by those entitled to them is measured through the annual School Meals Census which takes place in October. The table below provides information on the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals who took a school meal on census day 2012.

Free school meals taken as a proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals by Education and Library Board and School Management Type: 2012/13

Management type	Education and Library Board					Total
	BELB	WELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	
Controlled	77.6	85.0	79.0	69.4	80.0	77.6
Voluntary	75.4	99.3	83.8	71.3	78.8	83.4
Catholic Maintained	83.8	87.3	83.6	78.3	84.0	84.2
Other Maintained	84.3	81.5	87.3	78.0	91.5	84.5
Controlled Integrated	70.8	91.7	82.1	62.4	113.6	75.4
Grant Maintained Integrated	79.5	84.9	81.1	80.2	80.4	81.4
Total	80.9	87.2	80.8	73.0	82.9	81.4

Entitlement Source: NI School Census 2012/13

Uptake Source: NI School Meals Census 2012/13

Notes:

- Figures are based on nursery schools, primary (including nursery classes, reception and years 1-7) and post primary schools. Special schools are not included.
- Uptake percentages express the number of free school meals taken by pupils present in a particular category as a proportion of the number of pupils entitled to free school meals in the same category.
- The school census date was 5 October 2012 while the school meals census date was 19 October 2012. The later date of the school meals census could be responsible for a slighter higher level of uptake of free school meals compared to entitlement, than if the data was collected on the same date.

Free School Meals

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the current entitlement to free school meals, broken down by (i) Education and Library Board; and (ii) sector.

(AQW 25770/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The most up-to-date figures for entitlement to free school meals relate to the 2012/13 school year and are provided in the table below. Updated 2013/14 figures will be available following completion of the annual school census which will be carried out during October.

Percentage free school meal entitlement - Nursery schools, primary and post primary - 2012/13

Management type	ELB					Total
	BELB	WELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	
Controlled	38.8	26.3	21.2	20.4	18.6	23.3
Voluntary	7.1	11.7	5.5	3.5	10.2	7.6
Catholic Maintained	46.1	38.4	19.9	30.6	29.7	33.1
Other Maintained	49.8	49.8	26.3	59.9	30.5	43.8
Controlled Integrated	42.6	30.0	26.7	25.2	38.1	28.1
Grant Maintained Integrated	43.8	30.7	20.7	16.0	23.9	25.4
Total	33.1	30.8	19.1	21.1	23.3	25.0

Source: school census

Note:

- 1 Figures include nursery schools, primary (including nursery classes, reception and years 1 – 7) and post primary schools. Special schools are not included.
- 2 Figures for free school meals include all pupils entitled to free school meals including nursery (whether JSA or FSM)

Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education what advice he has received from the Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment following its consultation with teachers on the implementation of the Levels of Progression.

(AQW 25771/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I accepted advice from the Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) on the operation of the new assessment arrangements on the basis that they would be reviewed after their first year of operation.

The Council's programme of research and evaluation took place between September 2012 and June 2013. As an important aspect of this, my Department together with CCEA conducted a review of the new arrangements consisting of 10 face-to-face workshops with school leaders.

While there were some positive aspects to take from the feedback from schools (the value of internal standardisation for example), it is clear that the feedback overall was very negative. While CCEA will publish its research findings shortly, in summary the Council reported a number of common messages, particularly during the workshops held in June. These included that:

- the submission date for levels is too early;
- timescales are too tight / unrealistic; and
- the arrangements create a heavier / unmanageable workload.

After considering this feedback and the options to address them, I have decided to move to revised arrangements that I believe will reduce the pressure on teachers and schools whilst maintaining the primary purpose of the Levels of Progression – to assist teaching and learning. I plan to make a more detailed announcement shortly and I have asked my officials to arrange a detailed update for the members of the Education Committee.

Primary Schools: Computer Based Assessments

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent on computer based assessment in primary schools to date.

(AQW 25772/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) has provided the following figures:

Contracts were let with the suppliers (Tribal and Rising Stars) in November 2011. From this date to the end of August 2013 a total of £2,378,385¹ was spent on implementing the new computer-based assessment arrangements.

The breakdown of NINA/NILA costs is as follows:

Total Cost to Aug 2013	£
Supplier Costs	1,496,660
Teacher Release Costs	836,152
Implementation Costs (Venues, Print Resources)	45,573
Total	2,378,385

The Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) was the CBA tool used by schools during the period 2007-08 to 2011-12 and cost £3,425,939² to implement.

The breakdown of InCAS costs is as follows:

Total Cost	£
Software Licence Agreement (via C2K)	1,050,441
Development and Implementation Costs (CCEA)	2,375,498
Total	3,425,939

Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for an update on the newbuild for Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim.

(AQW 25775/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Parkhall Integrated College is one of the 22 projects I announced to advance in planning in January 2013.

The Department is currently working with the North Eastern Education & Library Board (NEELB) to finalise the Economic Appraisal for the project. While the project is at an advanced stage in design, the NEELB has advised it will require a review to confirm compliance with current building regulations and the school building handbook. A fresh planning application will also be required for the project.

Victoria Park Primary School

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education when the capital build at Victoria Park primary school will begin.

(AQW 25840/11-15)

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- 1 This cost includes payments to suppliers and teacher release provided to schools to engage in training and excludes CCEA staffing costs.
 - 2 This cost includes payment to supplier, teacher release, venues, printing etc. and excludes staffing costs.
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Mr O'Dowd: In my statement to the Assembly on 25 June 2012 I announced a programme of 18 new build schools as part of a £173 investment in the school's estate, Victoria Park Primary School was included in that announcement.

My officials are working with the school authorities to bring the project forward as swiftly as possible. The Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) are currently in discussions with their strategic partner regarding the delivery of the Victoria Park project. A start date will not be available until these discussions have been completed.

Free School Meals

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to list the 15 Independent schools whose pupils will benefit from his recent announcement to extend Free School Meals provision.

(AQW 25841/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In line with child poverty considerations I consider that it is important that eligible children from low income households should receive free school meals whether they attend a grant-aided school or an independent school. Therefore, I have extended Free School Meal provision to apply also to children and young people who attend independent schools and who meet my Department's free school meal eligibility criteria.

The fifteen independent schools whose pupils may benefit from my recent announcement to extend Free School Meals provision are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Ballymoney Independent Christian School | ■ Buddy Bear Trust Conductive Education School |
| ■ Focus School, Knockloughrim Campus | ■ Clogher Valley Independent Christian School |
| ■ Living Rivers Christian School | ■ Focus School, Newry Campus |
| ■ Newtownabbey Independent Christian School | ■ Mourne Independent Christian School |
| ■ Bangor Independent Christian School | ■ Portadown Independent Christian School |
| ■ Glencraig Curative School | ■ Gaelscoil na Deirge |
| ■ Hollywood Rudolf Steiner School | ■ Kilskeery Independent Christian School |
| ■ Rockport School | |

The Education and Library Boards are working with the independent sector to put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure this support is provided as soon as possible. My officials are working closely with the Boards to identify the number of pupils who will be eligible.

GCSE Passes

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education how many young people in the Upper Bann constituency (i) achieved; and (ii) did not achieve pass grades in GCSE (a) English; and (b) Maths, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 25848/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The answer is contained in the table below.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS RESIDENT IN THE UPPER BANN CONSTITUENCY WHO (I) ACHIEVED AND (II) DID NOT ACHIEVE PASS GRADES IN GCSE (A) ENGLISH; AND (B) MATHS, IN EACH OF THE LAST TWO YEARS

		2010/11		2011/12	
		Number	%	Number	%
(a) GCSE English	(i) Achieved	1352 (21078)	90.6 (91.0)	1382 (20790)	92.2 (92.1)
	(ii) Not Achieved	141 (2082)	9.4 (9.0)	117 (1778)	7.8 (7.9)
(b) GCSE Maths	(i) Achieved	1389 (21389)	93.0 (92.4)	1409 (20989)	94.0 (93.0)
	(ii) Not Achieved	104 (1771)	7.0 (7.6)	90 (1579)	6.0 (7.0)

Notes:

Figures in brackets refer to the NI Average

For GCSE, pass grades are grades A*-G

Source: School Leavers Survey

GCSE Pass Grades

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education how many young people in the Upper Bann constituency (i) achieved; and (ii) did not achieve 5 or more GCSE pass grades, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 25849/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The answer is contained in the table below.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL LEAVERS RESIDENT IN THE UPPER BANN CONSTITUENCY WHO (I) ACHIEVED AND (II) DID NOT ACHIEVE 5 OR MORE GCSE PASS GRADES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

		2010/11		2011/12	
		Number	%	Number	%
(i) Achieved		1390 (21655)	93.1 (93.5)	1445 (21363)	96.4 (94.7)
(ii) Not Achieved		103 (1505)	6.9 (6.5)	54 (1205)	3.6 (5.3)

Notes:

Figures in brackets refer to the NI average

For GCSE, pass grades are grades A*-G

Source: School Leavers Survey

Early Years Funding

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education why there is a delay in issuing the awards for the Early Years funding, given that the letters of award were made in April 2013.

(AQW 25850/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Following a thorough assessment of the financial position of the applicant groups by the strategic funding panels, letters of award were issued by Early Years – the Organisation for Young Children in August 2013. Groups awarded funding are subsequently required to submit a claim for funds to Early Years, which is verified before payment is made.

Free School Meals

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education how much additional funding per child is available to schools when a pupil avails of Free School Meals.

(AQW 25857/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Registered entitlement to Free School Meals is a key indicator used within the Common Funding Formula to distribute additional funding to schools' delegated budgets under the Targeting Social Need (TSN) factor. In the current financial year almost £66.7 million was distributed to schools under the TSN factor, of which £44.2m used free school meal entitlements as an indicator – in full or in part – of social deprivation and additional need.

The level of funding per child with a registered entitlement that is distributed to schools will vary, due to the progressive weighting applied under the main element of social deprivation funding within the funding formula, as well as the phase of education.

For a nursery-age pupil, funding per pupil ranges from approximately £670 to £1,340, averaging around £755 per pupil. For a primary-age pupil, funding per pupil ranges from approximately £340 to £680, averaging around £605 per pupil*. For a post-primary age pupil funding per pupil ranges from approximately £380 to £760, averaging around £440 per pupil.

Note * primary-age funding includes both weighted funding under the social deprivation element and a flat rate of £210 per pupil under the educational under-achievement element.

As I announced in June, I am making £30million of additional funding available, over the next two years, to target support for pupils and schools; to break the link between social deprivation and low educational outcomes. I have also announced an extension to the free school meals eligibility criteria that will see, by September 2014, an additional 15,000 children entitled to free school meals and support with uniform costs.

Allowances for School Uniforms

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education to outline the cost to his Department of providing allowances for school uniforms, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 25858/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The cost to my Department of providing the school uniform grant in each of the last three years is as follows:

2010/11	£3.421 million
2011/12	£3.835 million
2012/13	£4.051 million

The increase in cost reflects the increase in the numbers entitled to receive the school uniform grant over this time. Around 77,800 pupils were entitled to receive the uniform grant in 2012/13 compared to almost 62,400 in 2010/11.

School Uniform Costs

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education whether he has held discussions with individual schools and schools' representative bodies in an effort to reduce the burden of uniform costs on parents and carers.

(AQW 25859/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I recognise that the cost of school uniforms can place a substantial financial burden on families particularly in the current economic climate when many families are struggling to make ends meet. I consider it wholly unacceptable that some schools charge excessive costs for school uniforms, particularly where such costs may act as a deterrent to parents who are considering whether to send their child to a particular school.

Whilst the day-to-day management of schools, including school uniform policy, is a matter for school Principals, subject to any directions that might be given by the Board of Governors (BoGs), my Department recognised the burden that uniform costs can place on families and issued guidance to schools in March 2011 on school uniform policy. The guidance makes it very clear that the Department expects Boards of Governors to give high priority to cost considerations when designing their uniforms and that schools "... should ensure that their school uniform policy is fair and reasonable, in practical and financial terms, and should have regard to their duties under relevant equality and other legislation."

Schools were also advised to ensure that their uniform is widely available in high street shops and other retail outlets, and internet suppliers rather than from an expensive sole supplier.

Whilst I have not held discussions with individual schools and have not been approached by their representative bodies on this matter I wrote to all schools in September 2012 reminding Boards of Governors of their responsibilities in relation to the Department's school uniform guidance and emphasising that Governors should ensure that regard is given to the guidance when drawing up their school uniform policy.

If schools or their representative bodies consider that it would be helpful to discuss this matter with me or with my officials I would be pleased to facilitate this.

I would urge Boards of Governors, however, to take action to reduce their school uniform costs and ease the financial burden this can place on parents and carers.

School Transport Facilities

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the safety concerns arising from his Departmental policy not offering transport facilities to children who live less than three miles from their school.

(AQW 25897/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Under the existing Home to School Transport policy, transport assistance is restricted to pupils who have been unable to gain a place in a suitable school within statutory walking distance of their home – two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for post-primary pupils. The distance criterion is used solely to determine who is responsible for a child's journey to school and is not an injunction that an ineligible pupil must walk to school.

In the case of post-primary pupils, responsibility lies with the Education and Library Board where it is determined that the pupil lives over three miles from their nearest suitable school using the shortest walking route. If the pupil lives under three miles from their nearest suitable school, then the parent is responsible for making whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to facilitate their child's attendance at school. Where this is the case, the safety of the child on any part of its journey to school is the parent's responsibility.

Due to the geographical distribution of schools, the majority of pupils in rural areas are eligible for transport assistance, particularly at post-primary level.

I have signalled my intention to bring forward a wide-ranging review of the Home to School Transport policy. My officials are currently taking forward work to establish the review and I hope to make an announcement in the near future.

Free School Meals: Post-Primary Children.

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 15960/11-15, what has convinced him since November 2012 to extend free school meals to post-primary children.

(AQW 25902/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Children from families on low incomes and those living in poverty face significant and particular barriers in accessing and benefiting from a good education. I consider that the provision of healthy free school meals is necessary to address the particular challenges that these children face in accessing and participating fully in school life, in improving their learning outcomes and ultimately lifetime opportunities. This also contributes to the statutory target to take action to eradicate child poverty here by 2020 and to the Programme for Government commitment to tackle disadvantage.

I constantly keep the free meal criteria under review to ensure that children and young people from low incomes receive the support they need, in doing this, I also need to take account of resource constraints and competing budgetary pressures.

On 11 June 2013 I announced how I intended to take forward the recommendations from the "Independent Review of the Common Funding Scheme." The Review included a specific recommendation to adjust the eligibility criteria for free school meals which I accepted and is why I announced my intention to apply the same eligibility criteria for free school meals for both primary and postprimary pupils from September 2014. This will benefit an estimated additional 15,000 children from lower income households.

Shared Education Campuses

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how he proposes to deal with issues of ownership in the context of shared education campuses.

(AQW 25903/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Work on the delivery of the 10 shared education campuses as announced recently by the FM and dFM is at an early stage and as such the issue of ownership of these campuses has not yet been addressed.

Early Years Organisation

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 25286/11-15, whether his Department has issued additional guidance to the Early Years organisation in advance of the allocation of funding for the current financial year.

(AQW 25906/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In order to ensure compliance with the criteria for the Fund, officials requested that Early Years – the Organisation for Young Children should conduct a comprehensive assessment of the financial needs of the applicants to the Early Years Fund in 2013/14 in accordance with good financial governance. Groups were required to demonstrate continued requirement for support from the DE

Early Years Fund and show that they:

- Provide direct early years care and education to children;
- Provide a service in areas of low provision, disadvantaged areas or where the service is considered critical for children;
- Ensure inclusion and diversity; and
- Ensure a standard of excellence in relation to quality.

Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidance

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Education (i) for his assessment of the current Relationships and Sexuality Education guidance; (ii) what plans his Department has to update these guidelines; and (iii) whether he will consider bringing Relationships and Sexuality Education into the statutory curriculum.
(AQW 25909/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: (i) Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance for schools is provided in the Department of Education Circular 2001/15 'Relationships and Sexuality Education' and the accompanying materials produced by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). Guidance and resources on RSE are also provided on the Northern Ireland Curriculum website.

There is a need to review and update the 2001 RSE guidance to set it within the context of the statutory Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (primary) and Learning for Life and Work (post-primary) areas of learning within the revised curriculum.

- (ii) The Department of Education has asked CCEA to commission a review of existing RSE guidance and develop resources to address any identified gaps in provision. Preliminary work is underway on this project.
- (iii) RSE is an integral part of the revised curriculum in both primary and post-primary schools and must be delivered in a sensitive manner which is appropriate to the age and understanding of pupils and to the ethos of the school. The Department requires each school to have in place its own policy on how it will address the delivery of RSE. A school's policy should be subject to consultation with parents, and should be endorsed by a school's Board of Governors.

A key strength of the revised curriculum is the flexibility it provides for teachers to introduce topics to meet the needs and interests of pupils, the statutory content has therefore been considerably reduced. I have no immediate plans at this stage to make any legislative changes to introduce any further compulsory elements to the curriculum. However I will keep the matter under review.

School Crossing Patrols

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what policy his Department has on the provision of school crossing patrols.
(AQW 25913/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education does not have a policy on the provision of school crossing patrols as overall responsibility for road safety in the North lies with the Department of the Environment. However, Education and Library Boards have a role to play and they can set out measures in a scheme, approved by my Department, to assist in the prevention of accidents involving school children. This enables Boards to provide school crossing patrols where particular traffic hazards have been identified. It also enables them to remove crossing patrols where conditions have changed over time to the extent that a hazard has disappeared or declined in significance. The assessment of potential sites for school crossing patrols is carried out using guidelines developed by the Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association in England and Wales which the Boards have adapted to reflect local circumstances.

Woodlands Speech and Language Unit, Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education whether any jobs will be lost as a result of the closure of the Woodlands Speech and Language Unit, Derry.
(AQW 25914/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In approving the relocation of the Woodlands Speech and Language Unit I modified the proposals to allow the unit to continue to operate, if required, until the end of the 2014/15 academic year to allow all pupils allocated a 2 year place from the 2013/2014 academic year to complete the placement should their parents so wish. I also modified the commencement date of the new Speech

and Language Units opening at Ebrington, St Anne's and Ballykelly Primary Schools to open from 1 September 2014.

The Woodlands Unit currently has a staffing complement of four teaching staff and four classroom assistants. The relocation and expansion proposals will provide for six teaching posts and six classroom assistant posts.

The Western Education and Library Board (WELB) has confirmed that, with the agreement of staff, employees will transfer from the Woodlands Unit and follow the speech and language classes. The WELB's Human Resources Service will identify staff transfer preferences and where possible make arrangements for transfer to their preferred location.

Free School Meals

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Education, for the current school year, (i) how many pupils are enrolled in Primary 1-3; (ii) how many of these pupils are entitled to free school meals; and (iii) how many take their free school meal entitlement.

(AQW 25932/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The most up-to-date figures for entitlement to free school meals relate to the 2012/13 school year. Updated 2013/14 figures will be available following the completion of the annual school census which will be carried out during October. Figures collated from the 2012/13 school census indicated that there were 71,048 pupils enrolled in years 1 – 3 in primary schools, of these 21,893 were entitled to free school meals. Figures for pupils entitled to free school meals who go on to take a meal are not available by year group.

School Transport Facilities

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of, from a safety perspective, school transport facilities being denied to rural children living less than three miles from the school which they attend.

(AQW 25940/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Under the existing Home to School Transport policy, transport assistance is restricted to pupils who have been unable to gain a place in a suitable school within statutory walking distance of their home – two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for post-primary pupils. The distance criterion is used solely to determine who is responsible for a child's journey to school and is not an injunction that an ineligible pupil must walk to school.

In the case of post-primary pupils, responsibility lies with the Education and Library Board where it is determined that the pupil lives over three miles from their nearest suitable school using the shortest walking route. If the pupil lives under three miles from their nearest suitable school, then the parent is responsible for making whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to facilitate their child's attendance at school. Where this is the case, the safety of the child on any part of its journey to school is the parent's responsibility.

Due to the geographical distribution of schools, the majority of pupils in rural areas are eligible for transport assistance, particularly at post-primary level.

I have signalled my intention to bring forward a wide-ranging review of the Home to School Transport policy. My officials are currently taking forward work to establish the review and I hope to make an announcement in the near future.

New School Build Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new school build programme in Holywood.

(AQW 25943/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The South Eastern Education & Library Board identified a multi-schools project for Holywood as one of its top three priorities for major capital investment. However the project was not included in my January 2013 announcement due to the need for clarity on enrolments at Priory Integrated College and the potential to increase these above sustainable schools thresholds, as well as the potential for alliances with other secondary schools in relation to 6th form provision.

On 16 April 2013, the South Eastern Education and Library Board published Development Proposal proposing that the approved enrolment at Priory College, Holywood should increase from 450 to 600 with effect from 31 August 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter. Officials are currently compiling the information available and I expect to take a decision on this in the near future.

While Holywood Primary / Holywood Nursery / Priory Integrated College will be disappointed that they were not included in the capital investment announcement in January 2013, this in no way implies that they will not be considered for funding at a later stage within the on-going area planning process.

Pay Remit and Staff Remit

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for an update on the (i) 2013 pay remit; and (ii) 2010/11 non-teaching staff remit.

(AQW 25946/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: (i) Under the Executive's Public Sector Pay Policy when a pay award agreement is outstanding, the pay remit for that group of staff cannot normally be approved until the pay award has been agreed.

The 2013/14 formal pay claim was received from Teacher Unions on 10 September and there was a risk that payment of increments could be indefinitely delayed. As a result, the Department of Education (DE) has secured, exceptionally, DFP agreement to separate the teachers' pay remit into two elements – one covering incremental progression and one covering the pay award once agreed.

DE is currently preparing the former for urgent submission to DFP for approval. It is hoped the necessary approvals will be in place to allow for the payment to be made in October. In due course, the second remit covering any pay award will be submitted to DFP for approval.

(ii) 2010/11 non-teaching staff remit - Under the Executive's Public Sector Pay Policy, pay remits for all staff in public bodies, are required to be completed and submitted to DFP for approval. It has been agreed that pay remits will be prepared from the 2012/13 financial year onwards for non-teaching staff in the Voluntary Grammar and Grant Maintained Integrated Sectors and initially it was agreed with DFP that this was to be used as the mechanism to seek approval to make the £250 payment to eligible staff for both the 2010/11 and 2011/12 years.

DFP has subsequently agreed to accept a short submission, separate from the normal pay remit process, to enable payments to be made as quickly as possible. The timeline for completion of this work is dependent on DE receiving outstanding returns from a small number of schools. Once the necessary approvals are in place, funding will be made available to enable schools to make the payment to eligible staff.

Recently Qualified Teachers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education how many recently qualified teachers have been employed on fixed-term contracts following the Delivering Social Change programme.

(AQW 25951/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The recruitment process to employ 268.7 (233.3 funded by OFMdfM; 35.4 funded by DE) recent graduate teachers to fixed term contracts is still ongoing; to date 167.9 posts have been confirmed for appointment, including 7.5 appointments made under the DE funded expansion project.

Delivering Social Change Programme

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) when; and (ii) where he expects all fixed-term teaching posts contained in the Delivering Social Change programme to be filled.

(AQW 25952/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The recruitment process to employ 268.7 (233.3 funded by OFMdFM; 35.4 funded by DE) recent graduate teachers to fixed term contracts is still ongoing; to date 167.9 posts have been confirmed for appointment, including 7.5 appointments made under the DE funded expansion project.

It is envisaged that all the school appointments will be completed by the end of September; the teachers appointed to the central pool will be placed in schools mid October with all appointments being made by the end of October.

The following Primary Schools will receive extra teaching support under the OFMdFM funded Delivering Social Change Programme.

School Name	Teacher Allocation
Abbots Cross Primary School	1
Aghadrumsee Primary School	0.2
Altayeskey Primary School	0.2
Ashlea Primary School	0.2
Avoniel Primary School	1
Ballycraigy Primary School	0.5
Ballykeel Primary School	1
Ballysally Primary School	1
Barrack Street Boys' Primary	1
Belleek (2) Primary School	0.2
Belvoir Park Primary School	1
Blackmountain Primary School	0.5
Bloomfield Road Primary School	1
Blythefield Primary School	0.2
Botanic Primary School	1
Bunscoil An Traonaigh	0.2
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain	0.2
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	0.2
Carhill Integrated Primary School	0.2
Chapel Road Primary School	1
Clandeboyne Primary School	0.2
Cliftonville Integrated Primary School	1
Crumlin Controlled Integrated Primary	0.5
Currie Primary School	0.5

School Name	Teacher Allocation
Donaghmore Primary School	0.2
Donegall Road Primary School	0.5
Donemana Primary School	0.2
Downpatrick Primary School	0.5
Drumachose Primary School	1
Drumlins Integrated Primary School	0.5
Earlview Primary School	0.5
Ebrington Controlled Primary School	1
Edenbrooke Primary School	1
Elmgrove Primary School	1
Euston Street Primary School	1
Fane Street Primary School	0.5
Fountain Primary School	0.5
Gaelscoil An Chaistil	0.2
Gaelscoil An Lonnain	0.2
Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir	0.5
Gaelscoil Na Gcrann	0.5
Gaelscoil Na Mona	0.2
Glenwood Primary School	1
Groggan Primary School	0.2
Harmony Primary School	1
Harpur's Hill Primary School	1
Harryville Primary School	0.5
Hollybank Primary School	1
Holy Child Primary School, Derry	1
Holy Family Primary School, Belfast	1
Holy Family Primary School, Omagh	1
Holy Trinity Primary School, Belfast	1
Killyleagh Primary School	0.2
Kirkinriola Primary School	0.2
Knockmore Primary School	0.5
Knocknagoney Primary School	0.2
Ligoniel Primary School	0.2
Lisburn Central Primary School	1

School Name	Teacher Allocation
Lowwood School	0.5
Malvern Primary School	0.5
Mount St Catherine's Primary School	0.5
Nazareth House Primary School	1
Nettlefield Primary School	1
Newbuildings Primary School	0.5
Old Warren Primary School	0.5
Parkhall Primary School	1
Primate Dixon Primary School	1
Rathcoole Primary School	0.5
Rathenraw Integrated Primary	0.2
Roe Valley Integrated Primary School	0.5
Rosemount Primary School	1
Roundtower Intergrated Primary School	1
Sacred Heart Primary School, Belfast	1
Seymour Hill Primary School	1
Silverstream Primary School	0.5
Springfield Primary School	0.2
St Aidan's Christian Brothers' Primary School (Now John Paul II Ps - Amalgamated With St Bernadette's Ps, Belfast)	1
St Caireall's Primary School	0.5
St Clare's Primary School, Belfast	1
St Colman's Primary School, Kilkeel	1
St Colmcille's Primary School, Downpatrick	1
St Francis Of Assisi, Keady	0.5
St Joseph's Primary School, (Slate Street), Belfast	1
St Joseph's Primary School (Bessbrook)	1
St Joseph's Primary School (Glenmornan)	0.2
St Kevin's Primary School, Belfast	1
St Kieran's Primary School, Poleglass	1
St Luke's Primary School, Twinbrook	0.5
St Malachy's Primary School, Belfast	1
St Malachy's Primary School, Carnagat	1
St Mark's Primary School, Twinbrook	1

School Name	Teacher Allocation
St Mary's P.S. (Greenlough)	0.5
St Mary's Primary School, Belfast	0.5
St Mary's Primary School, Annalong	0.2
St Mary's Primary School (Pomeroy)	1
St Mary's Primary School, Strabane	1
St Matthew's Primary School, Belfast	1
St Michael's Primary School (Clady)	0.2
St Nicholas' Primary School, Ardglass	0.2
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School (Strathfoyle)	1
St Patrick's Primary School, Crossmaglen	1
St Patrick's Primary School (Newry)	1
St Paul's Primary School, Belfast	1
St Paul's Primary School, Slievemore	1
St Teresa's Primary School, Mountnorris	0.2
St Vincent De Paul Primary School, Belfast	1
Star Of The Sea Girls' Primary School, Belfast (Now St Patricks Ps-Amalgamated 1/9/2013)	1
Stewartstown Primary School	0.2
Sunnylands Primary School	0.5
Taughmonagh Primary School	1
The Diamond Primary School	0.2
The Good Shepherd Primary School	1
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Primary School	0.2
Tonagh Primary School	0.5
Tullycarnet Primary School	0.2
Tullygally Primary School	0.5
Victoria Park Primary School	1
West Winds Primary School	1
Wheatfield Primary School	1
Woodlawn Primary School	1
Edmund Rice(Cb) Primary School (Now St Patricks Ps-Amalgamated 1/9/13)	1
Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir	0.2
Gaelscoil Na Mona	0.2
St Columbkille's Primary School, Carrickmore	0.2

School Name	Teacher Allocation
St Mary's Star Of The Sea Primary School, Belfast	0.5
Total Ofmdfm Funded Posts	82.3

The following posts have been funded by a de expansion of the project.

School Name	Teacher Allocation
Anamar Primary School	0.2
Ballyoran Primary School	1
Ballysillan Primary School	0.2
Bunscoil Cholmcille	0.2
Christ The King Primary School	0.5
Dunclug Primary School	0.2
Gaelscoil Na Bhfal	0.5
Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh	0.5
Gaelscoil Ui Neill	0.5
Greenhaw Primary School	1
Holy Cross Boys' Primary School, Belfast	1
Holy Cross Girls Primary School, Belfast	0.5
Holy Family Primary School, Derry	1
Kilcooley Primary School	0.2
Largymore Primary School	0.2
Longtower Primary School	1
Mercy Primary School, Belfast	0.5
Mullabuoy Primary School	0.2
Our Lady's Girls' Primary School, Belfast	1
Scoil An Droichid	0.2
Scoil Na Fuiseoige Primary School	0.2
Seaview Primary School, Belfast	1
St Anne's Primary School, Strabane	1
St Bernadette's Primary School, Belfast (Now St John Paul II Ps - Amalgamated With St Aiden's Cb Ps)	0.2
St Brigid's Primary School, Derry	1
St John The Baptist Primary, Belfast	1
St John's Primary School, Derry	1
St Mary's Primary School, Stewartstown	0.2

School Name	Teacher Allocation
St Michael's Primary School, Newtownhamilton	0.2
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School, Belfast	1
St Peter's Primary School, Belfast	1
St Therese's Lenamore P S, Derry	1
Steelstown Voluntary Maintained Primary	1
Total De Funded	20.4

The following Post Primary Schools will receive extra teaching support under the OFMdFM funded Delivering Social Change Programme.

School Name	No of Teachers
Malone Integrated College	1
Mercy College, Belfast	1
Orangefield High School	1
St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Belfast	1
St Patrick's College, Belfast	1
Ballee Community High School	1
Ballymoney High School	1
Carrickfergus College	1
Coleraine College	1
Crumlin Integrated College	1
Larne High School	1
Monkstown Community School	1
Newtownabbey Community High School	1
Our Lady Of Lourdes High School	1
Parkhall Integrated College	1
St Colm's High School, Draperstown	1
Bangor Academy And 6Th Form College	2
Dundonald High School	1
Knockbreda High School	1
Lisnagarvey High School	1
Newtownbreda High School	1
Saintfield High School	1
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	1
St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn	1
The High School Ballynahinch	1

School Name	No of Teachers
Banbridge High School	1
City Armagh High School	1
Cookstown High School	1
Craigavon Senior High School	1
Fivemiletown College	1
Lismore Comprehensive School	2
Newry High School	1
Rathfriland High School	1
St Brigid's High School, Armagh	1
St Mary's High School, Lurgan	1
St Patrick's College, Banbridge	1
St Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan	1
Devenish College	1
Immaculate Conception College	1
St Fanchea's College	1
Kilkeel High School	1
Ashfield Boys' High School	1
Ashfield Girls' High School	1
Belfast Boys' Model School	2
Belfast Model School For Girls	2
Campbell College	1
Christian Brothers' School, Belfast	1
Colaiste Feirste	1
Corpus Christi College, Belfast	1
De La Salle College, Belfast	2
Little Flower Girls' School, Belfast	1
St Genevieve's High School, Belfast	2
St Joseph's College, Belfast	1
St Louise's Comprehensive College	2
St Rose's Dominican College	1
Ballycastle High School	1
Ballyclare Secondary School	2
Cross And Passion College, Ballycastle	1
Cullybackey High School	1

School Name	No of Teachers
Downshire School	1
Dunclug College	1
Dunluce School	1
Edmund Rice College	1
Glengormley High School	2
Magherafelt High School	1
North Coast Integrated College	1
Slemish College	1
Sperrin Integrated College	1
St Benedict's College, Randalstown	1
St Joseph's College, Coleraine	1
St Killian's College, Carnlough	1
St Mary's College, Portglenone	1
St Patrick's College, Ballymena	1
St Paul's College, Kilrea	1
St Pius X College, Magherafelt	1
Ulidia Integrated College	1
Blackwater Integrated College	1
De La Salle High School, Downpatrick	1
Glastry College	1
Movilla High School	1
Nendrum College	1
Priory College	1
Shimna Integrated College	1
St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	1
St Colm's High School, Twinbrook	1
St Columbanus' College, Bangor	1
St Columba's College, Portaferry	1
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	2
St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	1
Strangford Integrated College	1
Brownlow Int College	1
Drumcree College	1
Drumglass High School	1

School Name	No of Teachers
Integrated College Dungannon	1
Markethill High School	1
New-Bridge Integrated College	1
St Catherine's College, Armagh	1
St Columban's College, Kilkeel	1
St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	1
St Joseph's College, Coalisland	1
St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	1
St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	1
St Mary's High School, Newry	1
St Patrick's College, Dungannon	1
St Patrick's High School, Keady	1
St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	1
Castlederg High School	1
Dean Maguirc College	1
Drumragh College	1
Erne Integrated College	1
Holy Cross College, Strabane	2
Limavady High School	1
Omagh High School	1
Sacred Heart College, Omagh	2
St Brigid's College, Derry	1
St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea	1
St Joseph's College, Enniskillen	1
St Mary's Limavady	1
St Patricks & St Brigids High School, Claudy	1
St Patrick's College, Dungiven	1
Strabane Academy	1
Lagan College	2
St Patrick's Co-Ed Comprehensive College	1
Laurelhill Community College	1
Aughnacloy High School	0.5
Newtownhamilton High School	0.5
St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley	1

School Name	No of Teachers
St Aidan's High School, Derrylin	0.5
St Eugene's College, Roslea	0.5
St Mary's High School (Brollagh)	0.5
Hazelwood College	1
Fort Hill College	1
Dromore High School	1
Holy Trinity College	1
Lisnaskea High School	0.5
Lisneal College	1
Oakgrove Integrated College	1
St Cecilia's College, Derry	1
St John's High School, Dromore	0.5
St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry	1
St Mary's College (Irvinestown)	0.5
St Mary's College (Derry)	1
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The following posts have been funded by a DE expansion of the project.

School Name	Teacher Allocation
Laurelhill Community College	1
Aughnacloy High School	0.5
Newtownhamilton High School	0.5
St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley	1
St Aidan's High School, Derrylin	0.5
St Eugene's College, Roslea	0.5
St Mary's High School (Brollagh)	0.5
Hazelwood College	1
Fort Hill College	1
Dromore High School	1
Holy Trinity College	1
Lisnaskea High School	0.5
Lisneal College	1
Oakgrove Integrated College	1
St Cecilia's College, Derry	1

School Name	Teacher Allocation
St John's High School, Dromore	0.5
St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry	1
St Mary's College (Irvinestown)	0.5
St Mary's College (Derry)	1
Total De Funded	15

Local Primary Schools

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of teaching posts created by additional places being made available in local primary schools, broken down by the (i) Catholic Maintained; (ii) Controlled; (iii) Integrated; and (iv) Irish language sectors.

(AQW 25974/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Schools may apply to the Department for a temporary variation to increase their admissions or enrolment numbers. The vast majority of temporary variation requests are for between 1 and 5 pupils and only apply to the year in which they are granted.

Accordingly it is extremely difficult to understand where any situation would arise that an additional teacher would be required given the low number of spaces granted in respect of any individual request.

Area Learning Communities

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 25329/11-15, why the seven Area Learning Communities did not receive funding.

(AQW 25981/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Six of these seven Area Learning Communities did not make an application to the Strategic Development Fund in the 2013/13 year. The remaining ALC's application did not meet the criteria for funding set out in the application form and guidance.

Funding Transferred from Capital to Recurrent

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how much funding his Department has transferred from Capital to Recurrent, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 25982/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Executive agreed to consider requests from Ministers to reclassify capital expenditure to resource if, following the draft Budget 2011-15 allocations, the pressures on the resource side of the budget were particularly severe and unmanageable. In view of the significant pressures on the resource budget in 2011-12 and the limitations on the Department's ability to release such savings within that financial year, my predecessor wrote to the then Finance Minister seeking to reclassify £41m of capital expenditure to resource funding in 2011-12. This request was to minimise, as far as possible, the impact on the level of funding directly available to schools. In agreeing final Budget 2011-15 allocations, the Executive agreed a reclassification of £25m from capital to resource in 2011-12.

I can confirm that no other transfers from capital to resource funding have taken place in the last 3 years.

Free School Meals

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many children receive free school meals.

(AQW 26017/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The most up-to-date figures for entitlement to free school meals relate to the 2012/13 school year, these are detailed in the table below. Updated 2013/14 figures will be available following the completion of the annual school census which will be carried out during October.

ALL PUPILS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS – 2012/13

School type	Pupils entitled to free school meals	Total pupils
Voluntary and private preschool centres	851	8,410
Nursery schools	1,934	5,910
Nursery units	2,468	8,703
Reception	50	417
Primary (years 1 - 7)	47,657	158,914
Post primary	27,701	145,658
Total	80,661	328,012

Source: School census

Note:

- 1 Figures include all pupils entitled to free school meals, including the nursery/preschool sector (whether free school meal or JSA). Special schools are not included.

Young-For-Year Children

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Education what provisions are in place to enable young-for-year children, who have already started primary school, to be held back if deemed appropriate; and whether he plans to review these arrangements.

(AQW 26019/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: It is a matter for the school in discussion with the parent of the child to consider but such a movement should only occur in exceptional circumstances where there are clear justifiable educational reasons to do so, and it is in the best interests of the child. The school should, where possible, make every effort to return the child educationally to the correct year group.

I have no plans to change this arrangement.

Incremental Pay Increases

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education to detail whether (i) teachers; (ii) classroom assistants; (iii) ancillary staff; and (iv) Education and Board headquarters staff received incremental pay increases during 2012/13 or the current financial year.

(AQW 26022/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The majority of eligible teachers, classroom assistants, ancillary staff and Education and Library Board headquarters staff received incremental pay increases during 2012/13. However, 2012/13 pay remits have yet to be completed for Education and Library Board Chief Executives and second tier officers and non-teaching staff in the Voluntary Grammar and Grant Maintained Integrated Sectors. These will be progressed as soon as possible.

For 2013/14, my Department is currently working on obtaining the relevant approvals to allow teachers to receive their incremental pay progression as soon as possible, hopefully in October. My Department will shortly commission 2013/14 pay remits for its arms length bodies and will work to obtain the relevant approvals to allow non-teaching staff to receive their incremental pay progression as soon as possible thereafter.

St. Patrick's Academy

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 17179/11-15, and given that eligible staff at neighbouring schools in the Dungannon area have received payment, when eligible staff at St. Patrick's Academy will receive their payments.

(AQW 26024/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department is currently processing the information which has been submitted from the Voluntary Grammar and Grant Maintained Integrated Sectors to enable the £250 payment to be made to eligible staff. However, returns are required from all 89 schools before the Department can seek DFP approval. There are currently 6 outstanding returns which are being pursued as a matter of urgency.

These payments will be made once the necessary approvals have been secured.

Free School Meals, North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils with Free School Meals entitlement in each school in North Down; and what this figure represents as a percentage of the number of pupils attending each school.

(AQW 26066/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The most up-to-date figures for entitlement to free school meals relate to the 2012/13 school year, these are detailed in the tables overleaf. Updated 2013/14 figures will be available following the completion of the annual school census which will be carried out during October.

PUPILS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN NORTH DOWN, 2012/13

VOLUNTARY AND PRIVATE PRESCHOOL CENTRES

School name	Total enrolment	Free school meal entitlement	% of pupils entitled to free school meals
Ballycrochan Playgroup	38	*	*
Ballyholme Presbyterian Church Playgroup	25	0	0%
Bangor Abbey PreSchool Centre	26	0	0%
Bangor West Nursery Playgroup	26	0	0%
Big Red Balloon Day Nursery	3	0	0%
BoPeep Corner PreSchool Playgroup	26	*	*
Bright Sparks PreSchool	20	*	*
Country Kids Day Nursery	24	0	0%
Crawfordsburn Playgroup	19	0	0%
Early Days Playgroup	24	*	*
Glencraig Integrated Playgroup	26	0	0%
Groomsport Playgroup	23	0	0%
Little Acorns PreSchool Playgroup	33	*	*
Little Bear's Day Nursery	20	*	*
Redburn Community Playgroup	19	0	0%

School name	Total enrolment	Free school meal entitlement	% of pupils entitled to free school meals
St Comgall's PreSchool Education Centre	24	0	0%
Tiddliwinks Playgroup	24	0	0%
Tiggers Palace Day Nursery	13	0	0%

NURSERY SCHOOLS

School name	Total enrolment	Free school meal entitlement	% of pupils entitled to free school meals
Bangor Central Nursery School	78	25	32%
Hollywood Nursery School	52	10	19%
Trinity Nursery School	52	10	19%

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School name	Total enrolment	Free school meal entitlement	% of pupils entitled to free school meals
Ballyholme Primary School	627	49	8%
Ballymagee Primary School	404	73	18%
Ballyvester Primary School	97	23	24%
Bangor Central Primary School	604	205	34%
Bloomfield Primary School	394	216	55%
Clandeboyne Primary School	181	87	48%
Crawfordsburn Primary School	212	25	12%
Donaghadee Primary School	431	88	20%
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	221	15	7%
Glenlola Collegiate	62	*	*
Grange Park Primary School	394	70	18%
Hollywood Primary School	340	61	18%
Kilcooley Primary School	165	128	78%
Kilmaine Primary School	670	90	13%
Millisle Primary School	190	84	44%
Rathmore Primary School	598	84	14%
St Anne's Primary School, Donaghadee	46	12	26%
St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor	302	28	9%
St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor	351	98	28%

School name	Total enrolment	Free school meal entitlement	% of pupils entitled to free school meals
St Patrick's Primary School, Holywood	249	25	10%
Sullivan Upper School	180	*	*
Towerview Primary School	391	58	15%

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School name	Total enrolment	Free school meal entitlement	% of pupils entitled to free school meals
Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	1466	276	19%
Bangor Grammar School	864	49	6%
Glenlola Collegiate	1069	60	6%
Priory College	492	120	24%
St Columbanus' College	608	100	16%
Sullivan Upper School	1080	25	2%

Source: School census

Note:

- 2 Figures include all pupils entitled to free school meals, including the nursery/preschool sector (whether free school meal or JSA). Special schools have not been included.
- 3 * denotes fewer than 5 pupils

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Sector

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what meetings he has had with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sector since he came to office; and what further meetings are planned.

(AQW 26104/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have met with a number of groups representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sector since my appointment.

These are detailed in the table below;

Date	Group
23 August 2011	Cara- Friend and The Rainbow Project
12 October 2011	Launch of the Education Equality Curriculum Guide
10 July 2013	Cara-Friend
10 July 2013	The Rainbow Project

There are no outstanding requests for meetings.

Admission to Primary Schools

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Education what provisions are in place to enable young-for year-children, who have already started primary school, to be held back a year if necessary; and whether he has any plans to review these arrangements.

(AQW 26122/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: It is a matter for the school in discussion with the parent of the child to consider but such a movement should only occur in exceptional circumstances where there are clear justifiable educational reasons to do so, and it is in the best interests of the child. The school should, where possible, make every effort to return the child educationally to the correct year group.

I have no plans to change this arrangement.

GCSE Pass Grades

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Education how many young people in the South Antrim constituency (i) achieved; and (ii) did not achieve 5 or more GCSE pass grades, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 26123/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The answer is contained in the table below.

Number of school leavers resident in the South Antrim constituency who (i) achieved and (ii) did not achieve 5 or more GCSE pass grades in the last two years

	2010/11	2011/12
(i) Achieved	1220	1184
(ii) Not Achieved	53	67

Notes:

For GCSE, pass grades are grades A*-G

Source: School Leavers Survey

GCSE Pass Grades

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Education how many young people in the South Antrim constituency (i) achieved; and (ii) did not achieve pass grades in GCSE (a) English; and (b) Maths, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 26124/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The answer is contained in the table below.

Number of school leavers resident in the South Antrim constituency who (i) achieved and (ii) did not achieve pass grades in GCSE (a) English; and (b) Maths, in each of the last two years

		2010/11	2011/12
(a) GCSE English	(i) Achieved	1182	1163
	(ii) Not Achieved	91	88
(b) GCSE Maths	(i) Achieved	1179	1167
	(ii) Not Achieved	94	84

Notes:

For GCSE, pass grades are grades A*-G

Source: School Leavers Survey

School Land

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail the development proposals that exist, or are being considered, for each school in Londonderry, including the sale or lease of land belonging to, or being used, by schools.

(AQW 26127/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There are no development proposals currently published for schools in the area. However, CCMS recently sent a request to the WELB to publish a development proposal for phased closure of Immaculate Conception College. It is anticipated that this will be published in local papers during the week beginning 21 October.

The sale or lease of school land does not in itself require the publication of a development proposal but must be approved by the Department. No requests are currently awaiting Departmental approval.

School Pupils with Cerebral Palsy

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education what provision is made by his Department for primary and post-primary school pupils with cerebral palsy.

(AQW 26134/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have advised that there is a wide range of special education provision available, for both primary and post-primary school pupils, in both special and mainstream schools to meet the individual needs of children with cerebral palsy. Each child will have an Individual Education Plan and an Individual Health Care Plan and the provision detailed therein will vary depending on the individual special educational needs of each child.

Provision in special schools may involve:-

- Adapted/specialist seating;
- Specialist lifting equipment and adapted technology;
- Allied Health Services such as speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and occupational therapy;
- Specialist outdoor play facilities.

Provision in mainstream schools may involve:-

- Support from a classroom/general assistant;
- Specialist advice and support for the child's teacher;
- Recommendations regarding curriculum access and technology support;
- Allied Health Services such as speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and occupational therapy;
- Lifting and handling training for staff;
- Specialist furniture/equipment.

ELBs may also have specialist educational centres for children with physical difficulties, including cerebral palsy.

Department for Employment and Learning

South West College, Dungannon Campus: Students with Special Needs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning following the decision taken by South West College to cease part-time courses at the Dungannon campus in favour of amalgamation to full time courses in Cookstown, what discussions were held with Sperrinview Special School staff and the

parents/carers of pupils approaching Post 19 transition, particularly but not exclusively in relation to travel between Dungannon and Cookstown on public transport.

(AQW 25350/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): Part time provision

Firstly, I wish to clarify the level and type of provision on offer at the Dungannon campus of South West College (SWC) for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability. The College has informed me that the existing part-time provision on offer at the Dungannon Campus related to courses for participants from the Beacon Centre. SWC consider that this type of provision would not be appropriate for young adults leaving special schools.

Therefore, SWC have stated they chose to review provision of courses for young adults leaving special schools, in the greater Dungannon and Cookstown catchment area, as part of the collaborative work with Principals and staff in both Sperrinview and Kilronan schools and Day Opportunity Workers and Transitions Officers. Subsequently, the college put in place a full-time programme, in addition to the already established part time provision in the Cookstown campus.

Consultation

The college has advised that, in terms of general consultation, as mentioned above, they maintain extremely good links with the Principals and staff in the Sperrinview and Kilronan schools. In addition, strong links have been established with Day Opportunity Workers and Transitions Officers.

As a result of these links, part-time provision has been expanded at the Cookstown campus over the last five years. During this period, the college used meetings, open days and celebration of achievement events to discuss opportunities with students, parents and school managers. The feedback obtained from these meetings and events led to the expansion of existing provision for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability at the Cookstown campus.

Transport

The College has also advised that the issue of prospective students from Sperrinview Special School travelling between Dungannon and Cookstown on public transport was not raised during any discussions relating to location of provision; nor were any further substantive issues raised in relation to the location of this provision

Whilst the College state that there was no formal consultation regarding the location of provision at Cookstown, SWC have reassured me that open channels of communication were consistently maintained between the college and the schools concerned.

Regional Colleges: Budget

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what proportion of each Regional College's budget is provided by the taxpayer; and what proportion each college makes through full cost recovery and income generating activities.

(AQW 25521/11-15)

Dr Farry: The financial accounts for each of the further education colleges provide an audited breakdown of income sources. The table below shows each income source, for each college, as a percentage of that college's total income. This is based on the latest audited accounts, for the year ended 31 July 2012.

	BMC	NRC	NWRC	SERC	SRC	SWC	Sector
2011/12	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
DEL grants	77.50%	72.80%	73.17%	71.47%	65.18%	60.98%	70.67%
Education contracts	7.88%	15.93%	17.48%	21.32%	24.74%	31.37%	19.03%
Tuition fees and charges	11.31%	6.94%	6.12%	4.54%	5.52%	4.48%	6.82%
Other grant income	1.25%	1.41%	1.25%	0.87%	2.20%	1.83%	1.44%
Other operating income	1.61%	2.13%	1.19%	1.55%	1.27%	0.87%	1.43%
Investment income	0.45%	0.79%	0.79%	0.25%	1.09%	0.47%	0.61%

Colleges' accounts do not provide a precise breakdown between their income from the taxpayer and from full cost recovery and income generating activities. However, full cost recovery items are mainly within the other operating income line. The financial accounts for each college, which provide further analysis of the income within each of the lines above, are available in the Assembly Library.

Regional Colleges: skills

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what steps his Department takes to ensure that Regional Colleges implement his Department's policies, particularly in respect of providing a skilled workforce for the economy.

(AQW 25522/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department's skills agenda is articulated in the Skills Strategy "Success through Skills – Transforming Futures". The Further Education Strategy "FE Means Business" reflects the role which Regional Colleges play in relation to skills development.

Colleges have a vital role as key drivers in meeting skills needs to foster economic prosperity at local, sub regional and regional level.

My Department's further education policy has therefore been developed to ensure that colleges have a strong focus on provision that supports the economy while enhancing social cohesion and advancing individuals' skills and learning. Around 98% of the Department's funding to the further education sector is for provision that leads to qualifications that are on the regulated qualifications frameworks, and the content of professional and technical (vocational) qualifications on the Qualifications and Credit Framework has been informed by the needs of employers. College enrolments and rates of learner retention, achievement and success are scrutinised through College Development Planning meetings which take place annually between the Department and individual college's Chairs and Directors.

In addition to colleges providing a supply of qualified and skilled individuals, colleges also work directly with employers to support them in areas such as prototyping, product design and development, and innovation.

These measures are examples of the close liaison that exists between my Department, employers and Regional Colleges, and demonstrate the importance that I attach to ensuring that skills provision and workforce development remain in tune with the specific needs of the Northern Ireland economy in both the short and longer term.

Essential Skills Courses

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students are currently studying Essential Skills courses; and whether he plans to implement similar action to that being undertaken

in England, where students will continue to study functional skills until aged 18 years or a satisfactory grade is achieved.

(AQW 25523/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the academic year 2012/13, there were 50,480 enrolments (26,902 individuals) on Essential Skills courses. These figures are provisional up to 7 June 2013, and full year data will not be available until December. Since the start of the Essential Skills Strategy, there have been just over 352,000 enrolments in respect of 146,701 individuals.

Young people leaving school who have not achieved a Grade C or above in English, mathematics and ICT who wish to enter DEL funded programmes, such as Training for Success and ApprenticeshipNI, are required to undertake Essential Skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT as part of their programme. Further education colleges also require those participating in full time courses to complete Essential Skills qualifications if they do not have GCSEs at grade C or above in relevant subjects. In addition, all those participating in the Steps to Work Programme have the opportunity to gain Essential Skills qualifications.

South West College, Dungannon Campus: Students with Special Needs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to the decision taken by the South West College to cease part-time courses in the Dungannon campus in favour of amalgamation to full-time courses in Cookstown, (i) what consultation was carried out; (ii) with whom did the college consult; and (iii) to provide the general responses to the consultation.

(AQW 25524/11-15)

Dr Farry: Part time provision

Firstly, I wish to clarify the level and type of provision on offer at the Dungannon campus of South West College (SWC) for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability. The College has informed me that the existing part-time provision on offer at the Dungannon Campus related to courses for participants from the Beacon Centre. SWC consider that this type of provision would not be appropriate for young adults leaving special schools.

Therefore, SWC have stated they chose to review provision of courses for young adults leaving special schools, in the greater Dungannon and Cookstown catchment area, as part of the collaborative work with Principals and staff in both Sperrinview and Kilronan schools and Day Opportunity Workers and Transitions Officers. Subsequently, the college put in place a full-time programme, in addition to the already established part time provision in the Cookstown campus.

Consultation

The college has advised that, in terms of general consultation, as mentioned above, they maintain extremely good links with the Principals and staff in the Sperrinview and Kilronan schools. In addition, strong links have been established with Day Opportunity Workers and Transitions Officers.

As a result of these links, part-time provision has been expanded at the Cookstown campus over the last five years. During this period, the college used meetings, open days and celebration of achievement events to discuss opportunities with students, parents and school managers. The feedback obtained from these meetings and events led to the expansion of existing provision for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability at the Cookstown campus.

Transport

The College has also advised that the issue of prospective students from Sperrinview Special School travelling between Dungannon and Cookstown on public transport was not raised during any discussions relating to location of provision; nor were any further substantive issues raised in relation to the location of this provision

Whilst the College state that there was no formal consultation regarding the location of provision at Cookstown, SWC have reassured me that open channels of communication were consistently maintained between the college and the schools concerned.

Youth Employment Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of opportunities advertised under the Youth Employment Scheme; (ii) the number of these posts that were filled; (iii) the number of young people in full time employment as a result; and (iv) cost of scheme per full time job created.

(AQW 25618/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) The Youth Employment Scheme was formally launched to employers at the Titanic Building on 26 September 2012. From that date until 13 September 2013 a total of 3951 opportunities have been made available for young people. These comprise of 2082 short work experience opportunities lasting 2- 8 weeks, 1150, 6 – 9 month skills development placements and 719 jobs for which the Department will provide an enhanced employer subsidy.
- (ii) To date 1943 young people have availed of opportunities as follows; 823 have gone into work experience opportunities, 611 into skills development placements and 509 have availed of jobs offered under the enhanced employer subsidy.
- (iii) In this period 626 young people have moved directly into employment (including subsidised permanent employment) immediately after participating on the scheme. More will have found work as a direct result of the experience and skills obtained while participating on the scheme.
- (iv) However, the Youth Employment Scheme's employer subsidy provides an important incentive to stimulate demand among employers. This increases opportunities for YES participants. The cost of the employer subsidy element of the scheme per full time job filled is £5,750.

The Department therefore does not retain figures in relation to the cost of the scheme per full time job created.

South West College

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) how a £30,000 underspend of Departmental money for courses aimed at adults with learning disabilities is alleged to have accumulated at South West College; (ii) which specific campus or campuses this underspend relates to; and (iii) whether this funding will remain within the South West College current budget or if it will be returned to his Department.

(AQW 25619/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) This amount can be attributed to a full-time course, 'On Board PLP' (Personal Learning Programme), on offer in the Cookstown campus, for the 2013/14 academic year.

My Department allocates funding to colleges through the annual College Development Plan (CDP) process. This process requires each of the six further education colleges to bid for resources based on the volume of planned provision for the incoming year.

The South West College's bid for resources for the 2013/14 Academic Year will have included provision for the 'On Board PLP' course for 8 full time students, which would have equated to around £30,000 in funding for the College, should it have been able to fill all available places. However, to date, there have been no enrolments on this course and as such it is unlikely that this course will be viable, resulting in a potential underspend of £30,000.

- (ii) This relates to full time provision at the Cookstown campus; however it is part of the South West College overall budget.

- (iii) Colleges are responsible for determining the distribution of their funding, in line with their curriculum provision. The Department does not, therefore, prescribe how funding is distributed at a course level and the South West College would have the authority to re-allocate this funding to provision in other areas if additional pressures arise.

Zero-Hour Contracts

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to (i) outline how the rights of workers are affected by zero hour contracts; and (ii) what safeguards are in place to ensure that all workers' rights and entitlements are honoured and protected.

(AQW 25667/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) Most people on a zero-hours contract are 'workers' who operate under a contract, but this can include a number of different employment relationships such as agency workers, short-term casual workers, freelancers, and contractors. Irrespective of the precise nature of a zero-hours contract, certain core rights apply such as:
- the National Minimum Wage;
 - rest breaks, paid holiday and night work limits;
 - protection against unauthorised deductions from pay;
 - statutory maternity, paternity and adoption pay (but not leave);
 - protection under Public Interest Disclosure law;
 - protection from unlawful discrimination;
 - Health and Safety protection; and
 - additional rights under the Agency Workers Regulations (NI) 2011.
- (ii) Workers' rights are protected by a range of safeguards enshrined in employment legislation. In most cases, workers have recourse to an industrial tribunal if they believe their statutory rights have been breached.

I have asked my officials to commission new research to establish a more reliable estimate of the number of workers on zero-hours contracts in Northern Ireland. The research will also seek to identify the merits and demerits of using this type of contract, and will provide the Department with a more informed understanding of whether there is a need to introduce additional protections for workers on zero-hours contracts.

Daycare Facility at Magee.

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 20714/11-15 to outline the amount of funding awarded to construct the daycare facility at Magee.

(AQW 25697/11-15)

Dr Farry: The amount awarded, under the Northern Ireland Single Document – European Regional Development Fund Training Infrastructure Measure, for the project was £193,500.

The “On Board PLP” Course

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to South West College and the decision to offer the “On Board PLP” course for the 2013/14 academic year, (i) when was the decision taken to offer this course; (ii) what College department will take the lead on delivery; and (iii) with whom did the College consult when compiling this course and/its deciding on content.

(AQW 25702/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) South West College (SWC) has advised that the College reviewed provision during 2012/13, following a range of discussions and enquiries, and has decided to offer an Entry Level Certificate, entitled 'On Board PLP' (Personal Learning Programme), for the 2013/14 academic year, at the Dungannon Campus.
- (ii) The College hope to commence this course in September 2013. However, this programme has only received one enrolment application to date, and the remaining places have not been taken up. At present, SWC may not have sufficient numbers to successfully run the course, due to this lack of demand.
- (iii) The decision was reached following a number of enquiries through the College's normal channels of communication, which includes Principals and staff in both Sperrinview and Kilonan schools; Day Opportunity Workers; Transitions Officers; and also at open days and celebration of achievement events, which provided opportunities to discuss the issue with students, parents and school managers.

Youth Employment Scheme

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Employment and Learning in relation to business and organisations in North Antrim, to detail (i) how many have signed up to the Youth Employment Scheme; and (ii) what work his Department is doing to encourage more business and organisations to sign up to the scheme.

(AQW 25743/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the North Antrim area, serviced by Ballymena and Ballymoney Jobs & Benefits office, a total of 148 employer agreements have been signed since the Youth Employment Scheme was launched in September 2012. Employers have made 197 opportunities available and to date 96 young people have availed of a placement, 33 of these having secured subsidised employment.

My Department is actively working with employers in the North Antrim area to source as many opportunities as possible for young people. Since the launch of the scheme there has been a series of promotional events and press releases in local newspapers across the North Antrim area and I am pleased at the level of support given by local employers for the scheme. The next event is in the Braid Centre, Ballymena on 10 October 2013 where we will be encouraging employers to offer short work experiences, 6 -9 month skills development and subsidised employment. The event will enable employers to match young people to the range of opportunities they can provide.

In addition a number of large Northern Ireland organisations in the priority sectors have offered placements and jobs and some of these have been made available to young people in the North Antrim area. We will continue working actively with these employers to secure as many quality placements as possible that will help and support unemployed young people find and keep employment.

Collaboration and Innovation Fund

Mr Douglas asked the Minister for Employment and Learning in relation to the Collaboration and Innovation Fund, to detail (i) the funding allocated to the programme; (ii) the number of programmes approved; (iii) the number of youth at risk engaged to date; and (iv) the number envisaged to participate over the life of the programme.

(AQW 25778/11-15)

Dr Farry: Over £9.2 million was allocated to the Collaboration and Innovation Fund in December 2012. Eighteen organisations from the community, voluntary and educational sectors will deliver project activity from December 2012 to March 2015. To date projects have engaged with 1,187 young people aged 16-24 who were not in education, employment or training. Projects funded under the Collaboration and Innovation Fund will help a total of 5,500.

My Department is in the process of allocating funding to a further five projects; this will increase the total number of Collaboration and Innovation Fund projects to 23 from October 2013. These new projects will help an additional 900 young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Apprenticeship Posts

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on securing additional apprenticeship posts, including (i) when the posts will be available; (ii) in which industries; and (iii) in which constituencies.

(AQW 25852/11-15)

Dr Farry: The ApprenticeshipsNI programme is an employer-led provision, with employers creating apprenticeship positions in line with their future business needs.

My Department funds the 'off-the-job' training element of an apprenticeship through the ApprenticeshipsNI programme. ApprenticeshipsNI aims to provide participants with the opportunity to take part in a Level 2/Level 3 Apprenticeship where the apprentice, in paid employment from day one, works towards achieving an industry-approved Level 2/Level 3 Apprenticeship Framework.

The latest statistical bulletin shows that the ApprenticeshipsNI programme occupancy at 30th April 2013 was 8,998. The full statistical bulletin, containing an occupancy breakdown by apprenticeship framework and parliamentary constituency, can be viewed on the Department's website <http://www.delni.gov.uk/appsni-bulletin-aug-13.pdf>.

To further raise awareness of ApprenticeshipsNI, my Department conducted an extensive 'employer-focussed' advertising campaign earlier in the year and again in July - ahead of the main recruitment period. The campaign, including; television, radio, internet and outdoor advertising, promoted the benefits to be gained from employing apprentices.

I have also commissioned a review of youth training and apprenticeships, which commenced in February 2013. Key aspects of the review of apprenticeships terms of reference include: how to encourage SMEs to engage with apprenticeships; how to expand apprenticeships into other sectors, such as the professions; and, the role of higher level apprenticeships. The review's full terms of reference can be accessed on the Department's website.

The outworking of the review will report later in the autumn of this year.

Further and Higher Education Bodies

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he would consider the introduction of an ombudsman style oversight body for Further and Higher Education bodies.

(AQW 25866/11-15)

Dr Farry: It is my view that all learners should have access to a standardised, clear and independent grievance procedure.

Further Education Colleges currently lie outside the remit of the Assembly Ombudsman/Commissioner for Complaints and complainants currently have nowhere to bring complaints except through the tribunal route. I am supportive therefore of the colleges being included within the proposed Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman Bill in relation to the investigation of maladministration. The Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman's remit will not, however, encompass the exercise of professional judgement and this is accepted by the OFMdfM Committee. My Department will continue to engage with the OFMdfM committee on the passage of this Bill.

In relation to higher education, my Department's Higher Education Strategy, "Graduating to success" includes a Project which is considering whether the remit of the Ombudsman should be extended to include higher education learner grievances. A Project Team has been established to take this work forward by 2015.

Zero Hours Contract

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what contact his Department has had with H.M Government regarding zero hours contract regulations.

(AQW 25944/11-15)

Dr Farry: My officials have been in contact with their counterparts in the GB Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), about the internal review of zero-hours contracts that was undertaken during the Summer.

One outcome of the BIS review was the announcement by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, on 16 September, that he planned to launch a consultation in GB on how to tackle abuses of zero-hours contract workers.

As employment law is a devolved matter, my Department is currently exploring the potential to commission bespoke research that would provide an accurate understanding of the role and use of zero-hours contracts in Northern Ireland. Any consideration of zero-hours contracts in Northern Ireland will of course be informed by any GB developments following the BIS consultation.

North West Regional College's Target for Priority Skills

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to (i) outline the North West Regional College's target for priority skills; and (ii) their current outcome figures.

(AQW 26193/11-15)

Dr Farry: Through the annual College Development Planning process, the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) sets a variety of key high level targets for curriculum provision through the further education colleges. One of these high level targets relates to the proportion of provision which is in the priority skills areas.

In the most recent academic year for which full validated data is available, the target for year 2011-2012 for North West Regional College in the priority skills areas was 2808 enrolments, the outcome was 2917 enrolments, which represents achievement over target of 3.9%.

The Department's further education curriculum policy has been developed to ensure that colleges have a strong focus on provision that supports the economy and strengthens economic and workforce development, while also enhancing social cohesion and advancing the individual's skills and learning.

Through the Annual College Development Planning and budget setting processes, colleges are expected to:

- increase the proportion of enrolments at Level 2 and above;
- increase the proportion of enrolments that are on the regulated qualification frameworks;
- increase the proportion of enrolments that are on professional and technical courses, particularly in the priority skills areas; and,
- increase the number of learners who complete a recognised qualification in Essential Skills.

While the Department sets the strategic direction for the Further Education Sector in Northern Ireland, each College is responsible for its own curriculum offer tailored to meet the needs of learners and employers in their areas in a cost effective way that ensures best use of public money.

DEL and further education colleges have developed, and continue to refine, the annual College Development Planning (CDP) process, where each college discusses and agrees with DEL how it will meet curriculum targets. The ongoing monitoring of the impact of curriculum changes on learners is important in shaping the curriculum delivered by colleges to its local community. This strong focus on economically relevant provision is particularly relevant to the provision that further education colleges can make available to learners.

University of Ulster: Creche Facilities

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the annual running costs of the crèche facilities at (a) Magee College; and (b) University of Ulster, Jordanstown in each of the last five years; and (ii) the income derived from these facilities over the same period.

(AQW 26252/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department does not hold the information requested. The University of Ulster, like all other universities, is an autonomous body and as such responsibility for the management of services to students including the provision of childcare is a matter for the senior management of the University.

I have, however, asked my officials to pass on your request for income and expenditure information in respect of the creche facilities at the Magee and Jordanstown campuses for the period in question to the University of Ulster. The University will be asked to provide a response direct to you.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Local Banks

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what further plans she has to reverse the trend by local banks who have closed local branches and reduced services in those that remain open.

(AQW 25491/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): I have been concerned at the branch closures announced in recent times, and in particular the impact of this in rural communities. The DFP Minister and I raised the issue of rural access with the main banks in Northern Ireland as part of our ongoing series of meetings with banks.

In addition, the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI) have requested the Northern Ireland Select Affairs Committee enquiry into the Northern Ireland Banking Structure consider the overall impact of bank branch closures on local communities. They also suggested to the Committee that Banks should offer face to face support to customers on the alternative services available from the bank and other alternative options such as Post Offices and that all banks should offer basic current account facilities in Post Offices.

The Consumer Council has also published a Personal Current Account Manifesto. This sets out the key priorities consumers have with daily banking services and they are working with the banks to address these consumer concerns. The Consumer Council is also a member of the recently formed British Bankers Association Consumer Panel and have raised the issue of bank branch closures at this level and have been successful in ensuring the issue is included as an action in the work plan going forward.

Cruise Ships at Ballycastle

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she plans to increase the number of cruise ships that dock at Ballycastle.

(AQW 25541/11-15)

Mrs Foster: During 2013 Moyle District Council expects to welcome and service 8 cruise ships with 3 ships docking in Ballycastle and a further 5 at Rathlin Island.

It is my understanding that, to date, no formal strategy has been established by Moyle District Council for the servicing of cruise ships to the area.

Both my Department (DETI) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) would strongly encourage the council to consider the potential for this market and to provide an appropriate strategy for the future growth of the market.

Patents Rregistered

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many patents have been registered per capita compared to the rest of the UK, for every year since 2007.

(AQW 25547/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Patents are a reserved matter and not within the remit of the NI Executive to grant.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) grants patents for the UK; however, companies can also apply for patents from external offices such as the European Patent Office (EPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). There is therefore no one single source of patent information for Northern Ireland.

The Intellectual Property Office provides a regional breakdown of UK patent applications that are filed and granted on an annual basis. This information is publically available at <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about/whatwedo/ourpublications/ourpublications-review.htm>.

TABLE 1: PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED WITH THE UK INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

	Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Applications Filed	Filed per million persons	Applications Filed	Filed per million persons
2012	252	138	15,370	241
2011	249	137	15,343	242
2010	240	133	15,490	247
2009	213	119	15,985	257
2008	253	142	16,523	267
2007	215	122	17,375	283

Source: Intellectual Property Office

TABLE 2: PATENTS GRANTED BY THE UK INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

	Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Patents Granted	Granted per million persons	Patents Granted	Granted per million persons
2012	23	13	2,974	47
2011	16	9	2,992	47
2010	7	4	2,323	37
2009	11	6	2,118	34
2008	10	6	2,070	34
2007	11	6	2,058	34

Source: Intellectual Property Office

Eurostat also provide statistics regarding the number of patent applications made to the European Patent Office by region. The latest publically available annual data is for 2009.

TABLE 3: PATENT APPLICATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (PER MILLION PERSONS)

	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
2009	32	68
2008	33	84
2007	35	89

Source: Eurostat

No information is available on patent applications filed or granted from Northern Ireland to other patent offices.

Climate Change Levy

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the discussions she has had in relation to an extension to the lower rate of the Climate Change Levy.

(AQW 25566/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In advance of the ending of Northern Ireland's 10 year exemption from the Climate Change Levy (CCL) on natural gas supplies to business and public sector customers in Northern Ireland at 31 March 2011, I held discussions with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury in January 2011 which resulted in the agreement that gas supplies in Northern Ireland should be subject to a reduced rate of CCL (35% of the full rate) for a strictly time-limited period, between 1 April 2011 and 31 October 2013. This was confirmed in a Written Ministerial Statement by HM Treasury on 31 January 2011 which noted that, after 31 October 2013, the main CCL rate for natural gas would apply in Northern Ireland.

In April 2013, my Department engaged again with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to press the case and ascertain the scope for continuing with the reduced CCL rate. However, in response, HMRC confirmed that, due to European tax law and State aid rules, it is not possible to extend the reduced rate of CCL past October 2013.

Lighthouses

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if there are plans to open all lighthouses as tourist attractions, in addition to those initially announced in the joint scheme with the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 25587/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Many lighthouses already successfully offer visitor accommodation and are tourist attractions.

The Lighthouse Trail Project lead partner is the Commissioner's of Irish Lights (CIL) who would develop the tourism potential of lighthouses. CIL operate over 70 lighthouses around the coast of Ireland, many of which are suitable for tourism development.

The announcement of Phase 1 of the All Ireland Lighthouse tourism trail was made in September 2013 and this new initiative is set to develop the creation of a new lighthouse tourism sector.

Phase 1 of the project involves 5 sites, 3 in Northern Ireland and 2 in Donegal. These will be added to the 6 sites already operating in the Republic of Ireland, with the eventual plan being to have between 15 to 20 lighthouses operating as part of a tourist trail all around the Irish coast.

Phase 2 will deliver a coastal lighthouse trail and the installation of interpretation materials within the lighthouse towers. This phase is aimed primarily at the out-of-state visitor market.

Lighthouses

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when lighthouses will be able to avail of opportunities provided by tourism.

(AQW 25588/11-15)

Mrs Foster: It was my pleasure to launch a Lighthouse Tourism Trail during a recent visit to Blackhead Lighthouse, Co Antrim on 4 September 2013.

The Lighthouse Trail is being supported with £2.2m million of financial assistance from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The first phase of the project involves three lighthouse properties in Northern Ireland – Rathlin West Lighthouse, Rathlin Island; Blackhead Lighthouse, Co. Antrim and St. John's Point Lighthouse, Co. Down, as well as two in the Republic of Ireland.

The target date for project completion is spring 2015 with a view to availing of the Summer 2015 tourist season. The estimated target completion dates currently envisaged for individual properties are as follows:

- Rathlin West Lighthouse, Rathlin Island – November 2014
- Blackhead Lighthouse, Co. Antrim – March 2015
- St. John's Point Lighthouse, Co. Down – April 2015.

Onshore Petroleum Licence Area

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to each onshore petroleum licence area, to detail (i) the size of each in sq km; (ii) the annual rental paid; and (iii) the size of each in imperial measurements for fiscal and licensing terms.

(AQW 25614/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

(i)	PL1/10	InfraStrata plc	661.7 sq km
	PL2/10	Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd	746.5 sq km
	PL3/10	Rathlin Energy Limited	870.5 sq km
	PL5/10	Providence Resources plc	14.4 sq km

(ii) No annual rent is payable by Petroleum Licence holders in Northern Ireland.

(iii)	PL1/10	Infrastrata plc	255.5 square miles
	PL2/10	Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd	288.2 square miles
	PL3/10	Rathlin Energy Limited	336.1 square miles
	PL5/10	Providence Resources plc	5.6 square miles

Broadband Access in North Antrim

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many customers from North Antrim have reported problems with broadband access whilst using the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project.

(AQW 25734/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project (NIBIP) is still in its 'pre-procurement' stage, and not in an operational phase, hence it does not have any customers.

Broadband Services

Mr D McIlveen asked Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many people from North Antrim have checked their broadband services using www.nibroadband.com.

(AQW 25735/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not hold this information. The website www.nibroadband.com is owned by and operated by BT.

Broadband Services

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans her Department has to improve broadband services in rural North Antrim.

(AQW 25806/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department has initiated the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project which aims to provide a 2Mbps broadband service to virtually all premises in Northern Ireland and 24Mbps superfast broadband to 90% of premises by 2015.

A consultation exercise, to identify areas where intervention may be required was undertaken in September 2012 and the outcome published on 5 July 2013, coupled with a refined intervention area.

The process is subject to continuous refinement and a second consultation exercise was recently carried out and completed on 16 August 2013. The results are currently being analysed to ensure that any intervention complies with strict State Aid rules.

It is intended that this project will move to the procurement stage shortly, with a contract expected to be signed by the end of the year and implementation completed by the end of 2015. This project will benefit a number of areas including rural North Antrim

Broadband Services

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans her Department has to improve broadband services in (i) Broughshane; (ii) Cullybackey; (iii) Kells; and (iv) Ahoghill.

(AQW 25807/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I refer to my previous answer to AQW No.25806/11-15.

Manufacturing: Island-wide Networks

Mr Milne asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the steps taken to enhance the engagement of local manufacturers with island-wide networks.

(AQO 4624/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI and InterTradeIreland both work to promote the links between our firms and business networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Air Connectivity

Ms Brown asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on her Department's work on improving air connectivity to Belfast International Airport.

(AQO 4621/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department is in regular dialogue with all of Northern Ireland's airports to help bring new air services to Northern Ireland and to promote demand for existing services. As these discussions are of a commercially sensitive nature they must be treated with confidentiality.

I am keen to see improved access to all markets which offer important business and inbound tourism links and have met with a number of airlines in recent months.

I particularly believe there is real potential to reinstate a direct air service between Northern Ireland and Canada and raised this with potential carriers during my recent visit to Toronto.

Tourism: Devolution of Funding

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she would consider devolving tourism marketing finance from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board to Regional Tourism Partnerships or local councils.

(AQO 4622/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I will use a pending review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board to examine if there is any further scope to transfer tourism functions to councils beyond what has already been agreed under the reform of local government.

Councils are already responsible for local tourism marketing and when looking at the marketing of Northern Ireland I must consider the need to create stand out for Northern Ireland as a destination against key competitors such as Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland and how this can be best achieved.

Energy Prices

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assessment she has made of the impact of the rise of energy prices on households.

(AQO 4623/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Increases in energy tariffs are never to be welcomed. The Utility Regulator in verifying and approving the 17.8% Power NI tariff increase reported that it will increase a typical, domestic customer bill by £90 per year.

In relation to the recent firmus energy gas tariff increase in the '10 towns', I am informed that depending on usage, the increase is in the region of £70 per year.

Skills: Growth Sectors

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on discussions she has had with the Minister for Employment and Learning to ensure that there are adequate skill levels for growth sectors.

(AQO 4625/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have regular discussions with the Minister for Employment and Learning, including engagements at the Executive Sub-Committee on the Economy. In addition, my Department and Invest NI work closely with DEL in regard to the provision of future skills needs for priority sectors and markets.

In order to meet the changing skills needs of these sectors, DEL, in collaboration with Invest NI and employers, has set up working groups to consider the specific skills required by key sectors. The aim is to put in place suitable interventions such as the Assured Skills programme and the ICT Skills

Tourism: All-island Cooperation

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the steps taken to enhance local tourism through all-island cooperation.

(AQO 4626/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has been working with local area tourism groups to assist them in developing, clustering and promoting their local tourism offer. This work has been informed by a number of collaborative initiatives between NITB, Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, the most recent example being the Tourism Recovery Taskforce which was aimed at restoring growth from the important GB market.

A number of joint INTERREG tourism projects are also underway such as the Lighthouse Trail, the Malin Waters Initiative, the Appalachian Trail, which now links the stunning Antrim Coast with Donegal and Scotland, and the recent investment relating to the Gobbins Path experience, which is linked to a similar project in Donegal.

In addition, Tourism Ireland continues its work across 30 markets to promote Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as an all-island tourism destination.

Housing Executive: Glazing

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with the Minister for Social Development regarding the delays in the procurement process for Northern Ireland Housing Executive glazing contracts including the negative impact that this is having on the local economy.

(AQO 4627/11-15)

Mrs Foster: None

Private Sector: Productivity and Employment

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on attempts to increase private sector productivity and employment.

(AQO 4628/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All of the commitments identified within the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy will contribute to the Executive's collective goal of increasing economic growth.

The key productivity drivers are innovation, R&D, business growth, infrastructure and skills and the Executive's Economic Strategy outlines the actions we are taking in these and other areas.

The Executive Sub-Committee on the Economy will shortly be publishing its first annual report setting out the significant progress being made against the Executive's Economic Strategy commitments.

Broadband: Satellite Service

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the uptake of the satellite broadband service funded by her Department.

(AQO 4629/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I am disappointed with the uptake of satellite broadband services under my Department's Remote Broadband Services contract. Despite significant enhancement of the packages on offer from Onwave, uptake by both residential and business users remains low. Regrettably, there is a poor public perception of satellite broadband. I would encourage consumers to consider satellite solutions where other services are not available for either technical or commercial reasons.

Department of the Environment

Judicial Reviews and Planning Appeals

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the (i) judicial reviews; and (ii) planning appeals that his Department has lost in each financial year since 2006/07.

(AQW 25242/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): Robust and readily accessible information relating to judicial reviews is only available for the last 3 years. In this period twenty six judicial reviews were received by the Department in respect of planning decisions. Of these twenty six cases, ten are ongoing, eight were withdrawn or settled, three were upheld and five decisions were quashed. The decisions quashed are set out in table 1.

TABLE 1

JR	Litigation Reference	Date Commenced	Status
Mr Raymond Martin RE: Permission granted for a farm dwelling at Drumbo Road, Lisburn	LIT 34331/2012	April 2012	Decision Quashed
William Donnelly, RE: Variation of condition to remove rock from site, K/2008/0995/F & K/2011/0476/F	LIT 33530/2012	17/05/2012	Both Decisions Quashed
Miss Gillian Stewart RE: Permission granted for a residential development at 25 Hospital Road, Magherafelt	LIT 27195/2010/KJB	18/02/2011	Decision Quashed
Sandale Developments Ltd (3) Re: permission granted for housing under K/2008/0452/O	LIT 30815/2011 & LIT30453	07/11/2011	Decision Quashed

In relation to appeals to the Planning Appeal Commission, Table 2 below details the number of appeals received, decided, upheld and dismissed in each financial year since 2006/07.

TABLE 2

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Appeals Received	2765	1493	515	515	435	451	406
Appeals Decided	973	1065	1411	1304	681	332	477
Appeals Upheld	362	334	487	516	226	91	170
Appeals Dismissed	611	731	924	788	455	241	307
% Appeals Upheld	37%	31%	35%	40%	33%	27%	36%
% Appeals Dismissed	63%	69%	65%	60%	67%	73%	64%

Mobile Vehicle License Enforcement Camera

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the areas that mobile vehicle license enforcement camera visited, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 25346/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Agency manages two ANPR mobile camera units in Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, ensuring they are deployed on a rolling basis across the whole of Northern Ireland to make maximum use of this resource.

The cameras are routinely deployed in or in the vicinity of all main postal towns or associated arterial routes, taking cognisance of local circumstances and road safety conditions.

The Agency is able to provide a breakdown of the overall total number of ANPR camera detections in each of the last three years. The details of which are set out in the table below:

Period	Volume
01 April 2012 – 31 March 2013	16,229
01 April 2011 – 31 March 2012	16,073
01 April 2010 – 31 March 2011	15,634
Total	47,936

Note: Figures were sourced from DVA information systems and are not validated DOE/DVA Official Statistics.

The records of ANPR detections are stored against individual registration marks and places of detection are not stored in a way that would facilitate the breakdown of the relevant figures by individual area.

Implementation of the Marine Bill

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the steps to be taken, and the timescale, for the implementation of the Marine Bill.

(AQW 25400/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Marine Bill principally provides my Department with powers to prepare a marine plan for Northern Ireland's inshore region (out to 12 nautical miles); and to designate any area of sea falling within that region as a marine conservation zone (MCZ).

The Bill's final stage was taken in the Assembly on 21 May 2013 – it will come into operation in its entirety following Royal Assent, which is expected shortly.

Marine Plan

Preparatory work on the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland commenced in 2012 with publication of a Statement of Public Participation. This sets out how my Department proposes to engage with people with an interest in the marine area and the timeline for delivering a Marine Plan.

As a next step, the plan vision, objectives and alternatives, as well as the scope of a Sustainability Appraisal, will be discussed at a stakeholder event in November 2013.

I expect to receive the draft Marine Plan for my approval by November 2014, after which it will be subject to a 12-week public consultation. A report on the Sustainability Appraisal will also be published at this stage.

My Department will then consider whether any amendment to the draft plan's proposals is required and whether an Independent Investigation is needed. Should an investigation be necessary, the Marine Bill provides for the investigator to report within 6 months or such longer period as approved by my Department.

The Marine Plan would subsequently be adopted and published.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

The Marine Bill gives my Department powers to better protect and manage Northern Ireland's marine environment. These include a new mechanism for the conservation of marine biodiversity through the designation of MCZs, which are a new type of marine protected area.

A 12-week public consultation on draft MCZ guidance should start in October, followed by a series of stakeholder workshops related to the identification and designation process in November 2013, March 2014 and November 2014.

The final MCZ proposals and documents will be subject to a 12-week public consultation process by December 2015, with all MCZs being formally designated by December 2016.

In accordance with the Marine Bill's provisions, Strangford Lough will become Northern Ireland's first MCZ on enactment of the Bill.

Landowners who Undertake to Drain or Infill Quarries

Mrs Dobson asked Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 25055/11-15, to detail the processes that need to be completed by a landowner who voluntarily undertakes to drain or infill quarries, including the timescale for each process.

(AQW 25454/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The processes that are required are detailed as follows:-

Planning Permission

If the quarry is to be infilled with waste, then it will need appropriate planning permission. This will need to cover issues such as final levels, restoration details, permitted waste codes, permission for ancillary facilities such as site office, weighbridge, wheel wash etc. as required. The Department will determine the need for an Environmental Statement under the Planning (EIA) Regulations (NI) 1999, as amended. Full consultation with relevant expert bodies will take place during the planning process. A planning application for infilling of a quarry can be processed within 6 months provided all the required information is submitted by the applicant at the outset. Where a minerals or waste application was originally involved, I would add that where the drainage or infill represents a departure from an approved restoration required by condition; this variation would be required to form part of an application for infilling.

Consent for drainage

In addition any work that affects the drainage function of a watercourse must receive consent under Schedule 6 of the Drainage (NI) Order 1973. This process is managed by Rivers Agency and provided all relevant information is submitted by the applicant, a decision on Schedule 6 approval will take no more than 3 months.

PPC Permit

Once planning permission has been granted, the operator can apply for a pollution prevention and control permit (PPC) permit. This will need to be supported by appropriate site specific management plans, risk assessments (hydrogeological, gas, stability, etc) and environmental monitoring plans.

The level of management plans and risk assessments required will depend on the environmental risk the PPC application will also have to address issues such as technical competence, financial provision, etc to meet the requirements of the relevant PPC and waste regulations. A PPC application can be determined in 6 months provided all the required information is submitted by the applicant.

Consent to Discharge

Under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, the consent of the Department of Environment is required to discharge any trade or sewage effluent into our waterways or underground strata. This includes any potentially polluting matter (including site drainage liable to contamination) from commercial, industrial or domestic premises including the dewatering of quarries to waterways or underground strata. Further details on the application process can found on the NIEA website at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/regulation_of_discharges_industrial/industrial_and_private_sewage_2.htm. Applications for Consent to Discharge can be processed in parallel with the PPC Permit and/or Planning Permission.

Coleraine Borough Council: Waste Management Contracts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any instances of serious fraud that have occurred in the waste management contracts in Coleraine Borough Council.

(AQW 25464/11-15)

Mr Durkan: These contracts are a matter for Coleraine Borough Council. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on waste management contracts between Coleraine Borough Council and its contractors.

Waste Management Contracts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will inquire with Derry City Council and Coleraine Borough Council if there has been any fraudulent or illegal activity related to waste management contracts in their areas ;and then to publish their response.

(AQW 25466/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Waste management contracts entered into by Derry City Council and Coleraine Borough Council are a matter for them and it would not be appropriate for me to comment on them. The Department's investigation into whether there has been any illegal activity on the part of specific private sector waste operators is a separate and ongoing matter and not one upon which it is appropriate to comment at this juncture.

Wind Turbines

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to list the current planning applications for wind turbines; and the estimated time before a decision will be made in each case.

(AQW 25478/11-15)

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

As of 31 July 2013 the Department had 750 applications for wind turbines under consideration, of which 44 relate to wind farms and 706 relate to single wind turbines. A list of these applications is available in the Assembly library.

To establish an estimated time before a decision will be made in each of these cases would require detailed consideration of each of the relevant planning application files and this would result in a diversion of staff from normal duties for an unreasonable period of time. This would have an impact on the Department's ability to provide the statutory public service for which it is obligated.

Decision times for wind farms and single wind turbines vary depending on a number of factors. The vast majority of applications for single wind turbines still under consideration are awaiting further information from the applicant or agent in relation to amendments; bat surveys; noise reports; road details; or are awaiting consultee responses.

In most instances, applications for wind farms are accompanied by an Environmental Statement. They are complex applications that require input from a wide range of consultees. The quality of the information submitted and the sensitivity of a particular site will also influence the time frames for determination. In many instances the Department may have to request Further Environmental Information before a final decision is taken and this can lead to delays. The volume of objections to an application may also affect determination times.

Cycling Safety at School

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what steps he has taken to increase the opportunities for children to learn cycling safety at school.

(AQW 25585/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department has a statutory duty to promote road safety and, within the context of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy, does this through a wide range of road safety education activities, including road safety education programmes within schools.

The DOE Road Safety Education Officer Service has a programme of work which is designed to strengthen road safety education within the school environment, including cycling safely. Best practice guidelines advise that teaching professionals are best placed to embed the road safety message. Therefore it is within that context that DOE provides road safety teaching resources to enable teachers to teach road safety as part of the curriculum. Advice and guidance is also provided where required by the teaching professionals. In addition DOE also supports several road safety schemes, such as, the Practical Child Pedestrian Safety Training, Theatre in Education, and the Cycling Proficiency Scheme.

The Cycling Proficiency Scheme targets child cycling safety. The scheme focuses on the road safety elements of cycling, providing formal training in how to ride a bicycle safely, learn some of the rules of the road and how to negotiate junctions. In February each year the Road Safety Education Officers write to every primary and special school in Northern Ireland to promote the scheme. The teaching of road safety within the school environment is optional and down to the individual school, falling into 'Life Long Learning' agenda. Approximately 62% (539) Primary Schools with an average of 8,365 children train children through the Cycling Proficiency Scheme each year. It is delivered mostly to children in Primary 7, although some schools do offer the scheme to Primary 6 and occasionally Primary 5 children.

My Department has no powers to insist that a school takes up the option to deliver the Cycling Proficiency Scheme; this decision lies solely with individual schools.

Mobouy Road

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of times the Planning Service did not enact, follow or adhere to the recommendation by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency at Mobouy Road; and to outline the reasons for each instance.

(AQW 25616/11-15)

Mr Durkan: NIEA and its various business units are consultees to the Department on applications and enforcement cases such as Mobuoy Road. NIEA provide Strategic Planning Division with their input and comments and it is for SPD to interpret that advice and make a decision or determination. SPD are not bound or required to accept the advice from any consultee and will provide valid justification for any disagreement.

In relation to concerns raised by NIEA on an application at Mobuoy Road, the case officer challenged the concerns raised by the consultee to ensure they were relevant and substantiated.

The application was subsequently deemed refused before a response from the consultee was received.

Drumglass Hospital Building

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 22801/11-15 and relating to the ongoing situation with the formerly known Drumglass Hospital building, to provide an update on the status of the matter and the proposed outcome.

(AQW 25623/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I understand that you received an update in regard to urgent repair works at Drumglass House, dated 24 May 2013, in response to AQW 22801/11-15.

NIEA:HBU (Historic Buildings Unit) issued an Urgent Works 'final warning' letter on 13 May 2013 to Havenport Properties Ltd, c/o MKB Russell's Solicitors, advising that the Department would issue an Urgent Works Notice, if works had not commenced by 17 June 2013.

No response was received to this final warning letter. On 28 June 2013, MKB solicitors confirmed that they were no longer acting for Havenport Properties Limited.

NIEA's Environmental Crime Unit (ECU) was then asked to help identify the buildings' owners. On 1 July 2013 the ECU reported that a meeting of creditors was scheduled for 4 July 2013 at James B. Kennedy & Co., Chartered Accountants and Licensed Insolvency Practitioners. On 29 July 2013, a letter was received from James B. Kennedy & Co., enclosing a copy of the Disclaimer in relation to Drumglass House, as lodged with the High Court (stamped 5 July 2013). The letter also advised that it is the understanding of the Liquidator '*...that the property reverts to the Crown*'.

Article 80(4) of the Planning (NI) Order states '*...(4) The owner of the building shall be given not less than seven days' notice in writing of the intention to carry out the works and the notice shall describe the works proposed to be carried out.*'

Until an owner has been identified, NIEA:HBU cannot proceed to issue a written notice. The matter has now been referred to the DoE Departmental Solicitors Office. I have asked officials to provide me with a further update on this case following receipt of further legal advice.

Stonebridge Village Development Site

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 24945/11-15, whether departmental officers have visited the Stonebridge village development site; and if so, what was the outcome of the visit.

(AQW 25628/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In AQW 24945/11-15 my predecessor Alex Attwood MLA confirmed that, in the past and actually back in 1973 the bridge in this development had been considered for listing. At that stage it was not considered to be listworthy. He informed you that he had asked departmental officers to revisit the structure and to reconsider its architectural and historic interest.

This re-visit and re-evaluation of the bridge has now been carried out and I can now confirm that, although the bridge is of some architectural and historic interest, it is not considered to be of sufficient interest to meet the statutory test as a listed building.

Mineral Extraction Sites

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of discharge consents which have been granted to mineral extraction sites which did not have planning permission, at the time the consent to discharge was granted, in each year since 2000.

(AQW 25630/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There are currently 85 discharge consents which have been granted to mineral extraction sites since 2000. I have been advised by my Department's Strategic Planning Division that the exercise to determine the existence of planning permission, bearing in mind the manual search of minerals files, would be disproportionate in terms of costs and staff time and divert staff from operational duties. If the Member seeks the planning history on a particular site this can be provided.

Marine Bill Guidance

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what consultation there will be on the guidance to be issued under the Marine Bill.

(AQW 25686/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department plans to issue draft guidance on the selection and designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Northern Ireland inshore region for a 12 week public consultation process in October 2013.

This guidance sets out the Department's approach to the selection and designation of MCZs in the Northern Ireland inshore region.

The Department also intends to develop guidance on the enforcement of byelaws in relation to MCZs and use of fixed monetary penalties. This guidance will be consulted on in due course.

Cyclist Safety

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment how many adverts his Department has commissioned, and plans to commission, to raise awareness of cyclist safety among motorists.
(AQW 25692/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department has a statutory duty to promote road safety and, within the context of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy, does this through a wide range of road safety education activities, including road safety public information campaigns and education programmes.

Drivers are responsible for the majority of collisions, with the main causes being speeding, drink driving and inattention on our roads. Changing the attitudes and behaviours of drivers is therefore the most effective way of protecting all road users and our campaigns concentrate on changing such behaviours.

In October 2011, the Department launched the 'Be Cycle Aware' campaign, comprising of three advertisements; two of which are radio advertisements and the third a bus rear advertisement. This three-fold campaign reminds drivers and cyclists alike to pay attention when sharing the road. The first radio ad targets drivers as they travel in their vehicle during daytime hours when they would be expected to share the road with cyclists. The second targets cyclists, reminding them of their vulnerability and the need to pay attention. Likewise, the bus rear advertising reinforces this message as it alerts cyclists to be aware of their vulnerability as they share the road with many different vehicles. The radio campaign is on air at regular intervals as part of the Department's road safety radio activity and the bus rear campaign is also currently running.

In May 2012, a campaign was launched to encourage road users to 'respect everyone's journey'. The important safety messages to drivers will benefit all vulnerable road user groups, including cyclists.

In September 2012, a campaign was launched, focusing on wider road user responsibility, urging all road users to take responsibility for their actions on the road. The television, press and online campaign includes an injured cyclist saying "I was cycling in the bike lane. The driver said the sun was in his eyes."

A further campaign, launched on 24 April 2013, invites everyone to 'Share the Road to Zero'. This is aimed at all road user groups – cyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists, drivers and passengers and, indeed, focuses heavily on cyclists in the opening scenes. The aim is to get every road user to take personal responsibility for helping to prevent deaths on Northern Ireland's roads. The social media aspect of this campaign provides appropriately targeted road safety messages to subscribers, including cyclists. This can be found at www.sharetheroadtozero.com

Between 2008 and 2012, six cyclists died on our roads. So far this year three cyclists have died. In 2012, 55 cyclists were seriously injured, an increase from 36 in 2003. The rate of Pedal Cyclist deaths and serious injuries per 100 million kilometers cycled in 2011, the latest figures available, was 77, an increase of 28% on the 2004-2008 baseline of 60.

Given a rise in cyclist casualties, the Department is currently analysing available data and has commissioned qualitative research to help inform consideration of potential new educational activity around cyclist safety.

I recognise the continuing challenges of reducing casualties on our roads, and will take forward further actions as appropriate from this analysis and research.

European Heritage Open Days

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to European Heritage Open Days (i) how much has been spent on advertising in 2013; and (ii) how many properties have been opened to the public, in each of the last five years.
(AQW 25704/11-15)

Mr Durkan:

- (i) £10,016 was used for advertising in the two weeks before the EHOD weekend.

Other communications activities included media relations, digital and social media marketing, brochures and posters. All of these other communications activities were delivered by staff within the Department, or by the events many volunteers, to highlight buildings or events they were involved with. Social media activities reached over 800 thousand people during this year's campaign; and also the print and broadcast media coverage was very extensive.

- (ii) In regard to the second part of your question, the table below gives numbers of properties and events together with information on properties alone for each of the last five years.

Year	No. of properties and events	No. of properties
2009	250	189
2010	265	185
2011	304	292
2012	320	303
2013	432	315

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment, given its impact on local businesses, when the report on the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan will be published.

(AQW 25710/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department plans to publish BMAP on completion of the relevant statutory processes and following the issue by DRD of a certificate of general conformity with the Regional Development Strategy 2035.

Safety in Quarries

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on his Department's work to increase safety in quarries.

(AQW 25719/11-15)

Mr Durkan: On 3 July Minister Attwood convened a meeting with the Quarry Products Association, Health and Safety Executive NI, district councils, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and the Department of Justice to discuss options for taking further action to reduce the risks posed by disused quarries.

Following this meeting, the Minister:

- wrote to councils requesting as a matter of urgency, that the quarry review work is focussed on those disused quarries which present the highest risk sites before the main July holiday period, so that additional signage could be erected at these sites, and the PSNI advised accordingly;
- wrote to PSNI district commanders on 4th July, drawing their attention to the issue of potential risks at disused quarry sites, setting out the relevant legislation and listing the highest priority sites by district council area;
- launched a quarry safety campaign, 'Stay out! Stay safe!' on 8th July, with a news release which had wide uptake in regional and local press;
- engaged with the Department of Justice to raise awareness of the issue by distributing information and resources through Policing and Community Safety Partnerships;

- commissioned the Government Advertising Unit to arrange for a detailed schedule of display advertisements to be designed and placed in the daily and Sunday newspapers (11th July and 14th July), as well as all the regional weekly newspapers, (week beginning 15th July);
- commissioned the production of 1,000 'DANGER - NO SWIMMING' warning signs, which were made available to councils on 10th July, for immediate erection at highest risk sites (a further 1,000 warning signs were subsequently produced, for use by councils);
- commissioned the production of 1,500 campaign posters for display in public buildings, supported by media relations activities, social media activities, information on NIDirect and other relevant websites (councils, Northern Ireland Local Government Association, NI4Kids etc) and internal communications in Department of the Environment and the wider Northern Ireland Civil Service;
- established a new web-page on both the Department of the Environment and NIDirect websites warning of the dangers of swimming in disused quarries; and
- wrote to councils, asking them to give consideration to the potential for dyeing quarry water to dissuade swimming.

The District Council review of disused quarries across Northern Ireland is expected to be completed in the autumn. Following this I will assess the scale and precise nature of the problem. Only then will I be in a position to identify all the longer term options available and fully explore their implications with a view to minimising the risk of future loss of life.

Planning Applications for Mineral Extraction

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has permitted any applicants to withdraw any planning applications for mineral extraction following refusal on Environmental Impact Assessment grounds since 2000; and to provide further details.

(AQW 25727/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I am aware of one application which is procedurally listed on the Planning Portal as having been withdrawn, following refusal in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

I can confirm that this application relating to minerals extraction at Mobouy Road, Derry (planning reference A/2009/0400/F) is deemed refused as opposed to withdrawn.

Wind Turbines Colours

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment whether planning staff have the authority to ensure that wind turbines erected in the countryside are painted in appropriate colours in order to reduce their visual impact.

(AQW 25741/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 Policy RE1 Renewable Energy Development sets out the main considerations that the Department will take into account in assessing planning applications for renewable energy developments, including wind turbines.

The policy is accompanied by a Best Practice Guidance document which is also a material consideration to be taken into account when assessing wind turbine proposals.

Policy RE1 states that visual amenity and landscape character are among the material considerations which will form part of the assessment of a wind turbine planning application. The outcome of this assessment will however differ depending on the nature and scale of each application and, in particular, the location of each proposal and the ability of the landscape to absorb the turbine.

Paragraph 1.2.13 of the Best Practice Guidance advises that wind turbines are usually semi-matt white, off white or grey in colour, often as a condition of planning permission. In the event that it is considered that a different coloured turbine would assist with the integration of the proposal, the Department's planning officers can use their professional judgement to request that the colour is changed. It is

important to note, however, that changing the colour of a turbine will not allow an unacceptable proposal to become acceptable; it may merely assist with the integration of an already acceptable proposal.

Planning decisions are made on the individual merits of each application on a case by case basis and after all planning policies and other material considerations have been taken into account.

Leisure Services in Local Councils

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment how much was spent by leisure services in each local council on (i) the disposal of waste by recycling; and (ii) conventional waste disposal, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 25830/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department does not hold these figures. I have asked my officials to request councils to provide this information.

It will take several weeks to compile the information and I will forward it to you as soon as it has been received from the councils.

Carrier Bag Levy

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how much revenue has been raised from the Carrier Bag Levy to date.

(AQW 25844/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The 5 pence single use carrier bag levy has raised £902,000 to date. These proceeds relate to single use bags distributed by retailers during the first three months of the levy (8 April to 30 June 2013 inclusive).

I intend to allocate the net proceeds of the levy to help fund community groups, charities, schools and businesses in delivering local projects to improve the environment for everyone. I will identify some of these projects in the coming weeks.

Municipal Waste

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment why Becon/ARC21 is seeking planning permission for a 300,000 ton per annum facility when it is estimated that it will receive a maximum of 250,000 tons of municipal waste per year from the participating councils.

(AQW 25934/11-15)

Mr Durkan: No formal planning application for a Waste Treatment Facility at Hightown Quarry has been received by DOE Planning from Becon/arc21

There however have been ongoing pre application discussions between the Department, arc 21 and key statutory consultees.

If an application is received, it will be advertised and robustly assessed against relevant planning policy and all other relevant planning considerations including public representatives and the views of elected representatives.

The onus will be on the applicant to demonstrate and justify the scale of the proposal in the Environmental Statement.

Environmental Impact Assessment Determination

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment at what stage in the processing of a planning application would his Department normally be expected to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment Determination.

(AQW 26000/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Under Regulation 10 of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, the Department must make a determination on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement within 4 weeks from the date of receipt of the application or such longer period as may be agreed in writing with the applicant.

The requirement under Regulation 10 relates to the categories of development set out in Schedule 1 and 2 of the 2012 Regulations.

Maze/Long Kesh: Listed Buildings

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment whether, at the time of listing of the retained buildings at the Maze/Long Kesh site, there was any architectural quality or interest in the physical fabric of the buildings, that was anticipated would exist by the then prevailing Planning Policy Statement 6, before a listing on the grounds of historical associations would be justified.

(AQO 4614/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Listing decisions are based upon Article 42 of the Planning (NI) Order (1991) which states that the Department shall draw up lists of buildings of ‘*special architectural or historic interest*’ i.e. there is no presumption that architectural interest is required to list a building.

Quoting from the version of PPS6 prevailing at the time that the Maze was listed - ‘*In the case of historical associations, there will generally need to be some additional quality or interest in the physical fabric of the building to justify listing*’. It also went on to explain ‘*Either the building will have architectural merit in itself or it should be preserved in a form which directly reveals its historical associations.*’

In this case, the buildings are preserved in a form which directly reveals their historical associations. However, the listing reports, which are published on the Northern Ireland Buildings Database also make clear that the structures are considered to possess architectural interest. For example, the evaluation of H Block 6, reads as follows ‘*A structure which represents a significant development in the construction history of British Penal architecture and a form which is synonymous with The Maze Cellular.*’ It also records that ‘*Its structural system and internal details are of interest*’ as well as noting that ‘*Its setting and surroundings add to its penal character.*’

Planning: Three Rivers Project, Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of the Environment what actions he has taken to progress consideration of the application for the Three Rivers Project in Strabane.

(AQO 4615/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Three Rivers project is a proposed mixed-use development in Strabane which raises a number of fundamental planning concerns. These require careful consideration before a determination can be made. I have previously stated that I intend to make the right decisions as quickly as possible to ensure that planning delivers a better environment and stronger economy.

I met the developer and his agents last month to discuss the project and when I have fully considered all the aspects of the proposed development I will make a final decision on the way forward with this particular planning application.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Surveying of Properties Prior to Purchase

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has any plans to change legislation in relation to the surveying of properties prior to purchase.

(AQW 25397/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): I am assuming that this question relates to the commissioning of a survey, rather than the professional standards which may be expected of a surveyor.

There is no legislative requirement in Northern Ireland to have a property surveyed prior to purchase. However, because of the principle known as caveat emptor (buyer beware), and the general conditions of sale contained within the standard form property contract issued by the Law Society of Northern Ireland, a purchaser in Northern Ireland will generally be advised to obtain a survey prior to entering into contract. My Department is currently working on provisions which will give effect to the Northern Ireland Law Commission's recommendations in respect of the general land law. However, I have no plans to review conveyancing law in Northern Ireland.

Central Procurement Directorate

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline what efforts have been made within the Central Procurement Directorate, to take into consideration the aim of building community capacity, when addressing tenders for self-harm and suicide support services.

(AQW 25437/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) is the lead professional procurement body for Northern Ireland with responsibility for formulating policy proposals, reviewing procurement policy and disseminating policies and monitoring their implementation.

CPD also supports the NI Public Sector by helping NI Departments and their funded bodies obtain best value for money in the procurement of the supplies, services and construction works needed to deliver their Programme for Government and business objectives.

When a department requires CPD to undertake a tendering competition, the procurement process is carried out in line with NI Public Procurement Policy and the relevant legislation.

CPD would not be involved in building capacity within any sector likely to submit a tender for the contract.

The department commissioning the work may review several delivery options before deciding to go out to tender. These options could include whether the services could be funded by way of a grant. It would be at this point that building community capacity would be considered by the relevant department.

General Register Office

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) when the historic indexes of the General Register Office will become available online; and (ii) any costs associated when accessing the indexes.

(AQW 25449/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The General Register Office online genealogical facility is currently due to be launched in March 2014.

Charges for all services associated with access to and receipt of historic GRO records will be governed by Managing Public Money NI (MPMNI) guidelines. A Fees Order will be brought before the Assembly in due course which will include the detail of these.

Land and Property Services

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what mechanisms exist for Departments to challenge the advice received from Land and Property Services.

(AQW 25511/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: LPS provides such advice and guidance where options to acquire, lease, sell, transfer or refurbish property are being considered and in connection with applications for grant aid and social

security benefits, claims for compensation following schemes of public works, the assessment of capital taxes, and many other statutory and extra-statutory schemes.

Where the advice is provided in connection with compulsory purchase or capital taxation, a third party may challenge it by referring the matter to the Lands Tribunal for Northern Ireland. Other valuation schemes either make no provision for formal challenge or provide for resolution of disputes by an arbitrator or other tribunal e.g. the Social Security Appeals Tribunal may determine the value of property owned by a claimant.

Where LPS advice is in relation to a discretionary transaction there will not normally be a formal challenge mechanism. Frequently however, preliminary valuation advice on a proposed discretionary sale or acquisition is sought from LPS for budgetary purposes. If the transaction is to proceed then LPS will be further instructed to negotiate the price. If the initial offer by LPS is not acceptable, then the third party may appoint their own valuer in order to seek a negotiated settlement.

A Department or Minister may also of course commission an independent review of any LPS valuation. All LPS valuers preparing market valuations are professionally qualified members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and are registered under the RICS Valuer Registration Scheme. The RICS Valuation Standards, 'the Red Book' provides guidance for members appointed to review another surveyor's valuation.

Productivity Compared to the rest of the UK

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the overall productivity of (i) the financial services sector; (ii) the retail sector; (iii) the manufacturing sector; and (iv) the agri-food sector compared to the rest of the United Kingdom, since 2007.

(AQW 25530/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Official Productivity data for the UK is produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) but is not available for countries or regions of the UK disaggregated by industry sector. However, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) publish regional information on Gross Value Added (GVA) per workforce job by broad industry sector² and figures are currently available up to 2009. Table 1 overleaf presents NI data expressed as a percentage of the UK estimate for 2007-2009.

TABLE 1: NI GVA PER WORKFORCE JOB BY BROAD INDUSTRY SECTOR AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE UK

Sector / Year	2007	2008	2009
All industries	84.1%	80.9%	81.6%
Manufacturing	99.6%	98.5%	100.2%
Services	86.6%	82.8%	83.1%
Other industries	57.0%	52.9%	54.3%

Source: BIS Regional Economic Performance Indicators 2012 Report

Gross Value Added

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the geographical spread of Gross Value Added generated by local businesses.

(AQW 25531/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Information on the geographical spread of Gross Value Added (GVA) is produced by the Office for National Statistics but is not available for countries or regions of the UK disaggregated by local and non local businesses.

However, information on approximate¹ GVA from locally owned businesses in the private sector by geographical spread in Northern Ireland is available from the Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry for 2011, the most recent information available. The statistics are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: APPROXIMATE¹ GROSS VALUE ADDED FOR LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS SITES IN NORTHERN IRELAND BY NUTS3 SUB REGIONS

NUTS3	Approximate Gross Value Added (£million)	Coefficient of Variation²
Belfast	1,489	9.5
East	1,714	4.9
North	967	6.2
Outer Belfast	1,349	8.0
West and South	2,068	5.4

Source: NI Annual Business Inquiry 2011 Local Unit Results

1. The Annual Business Inquiry measure of GVA is referred to as approximate because it does not fully allow for some National Accounts concepts such as taxes, subsidies or income earned in kind. In addition, the National Accounts estimate of GVA covers the whole UK economy, whereas ABI does not include some parts of the agriculture and financial activities sector, or public administration and defence.
2. The coefficient of variation measures the variability of the values by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the parameter estimate. A larger coefficient of variation implies a larger variability.

Local Business Start-Ups

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of local business start-ups compared to the rest of the UK, for each year since 2007.

(AQW 25545/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) contains information on all businesses in the United Kingdom which are either VAT registered or operating a PAYE scheme. A business start-up is defined as a business that is active on the IDBR in the current year, but was not present (as an active business) in either of the previous two years. The location of the business is determined by the registered UK address for the business which is usually the main operating site or head office within the UK. Businesses operating in Northern Ireland will only be included (under Northern Ireland) if their registered UK address is in Northern Ireland

The number of business start-ups for Northern Ireland compared to the rest of the UK, for 2007 to 2011, is provided in Table 1 overleaf.

TABLE 1: NUMBERS OF BUSINESSES START-UPS¹ 2007-2011

Country	Number of Business Start-ups				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
United Kingdom	280,730	267,445	236,025	235,145	261,370
Northern Ireland	5,960	5,655	3,945	4,590	3,745
England	246,700	236,345	209,030	207,520	232,460
Scotland	18,165	16,225	14,725	15,530	16,940
Wales	9,905	9,220	8,325	7,505	8,225

1. A business start-up is identified as a business that was present in year t, but did not exist in year t-1 or t-2.

Local Productivity (Output Worked Per Hour)

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline local productivity (output worked per hour) compared to the rest of the UK, for each year since 2007.

(AQW 25546/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Official regional productivity figures are published by the Office for National Statistics. Information on nominal Gross Value Added per hour worked for Northern Ireland, expressed as a percentage of the UK estimate for each year since 2007, is provided in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: NI PRODUCTIVITY RELATIVE TO THE UK – NOMINAL GVA PER HOUR WORKED

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
NI/UK	80.7%	80.5%	79.7%	80.9%	84.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics: Labour Productivity Q1 2013

Innovation Active Firms

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the percentage of innovation active firms compared with the rest of the UK, for every year since 2007.

(AQW 25548/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) runs on a biennial basis, with figures produced for a three year period in each survey cycle. Statistics are therefore not available on an annual basis. Table 1 presents findings from the Northern Ireland analysis.

TABLE 1: PERCENTAGE OF INNOVATION ACTIVE¹ COMPANIES IN NI AND UK

Survey period	Percentage Innovation Active: NI	Percentage Innovation Active: UK
2008-2010	27%	31%
2006-2008	31%	38%

The definition of ‘innovation active’ for the period 2008-2010 (UKIS 2011) included businesses that had engaged in any of the following activities:

- Introduction of a new or significantly improved product or process;
- Engagement in innovation projects not yet complete or abandoned;
- New and significantly improved forms of organisation, business structures or practices and marketing concepts or strategies;
- Activities in areas such as internal research and development, training, acquisition of external knowledge or machinery and equipment linked to innovation activities.

The definition used for the period 2006-2008 (UKIS 2009) referred to businesses that had engaged in any of the activities ‘a’, ‘b’ and ‘d’.

Massey Avenue

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel on why parking is no longer permitted along the driveway leading from Massey Avenue to Carson’s Statue, Stormont Estate.

(AQW 25669/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Massey Avenue entrance is the busiest entry point to the Stormont Estate with over 2000 vehicles and 30 tour and sightseeing buses entering and exiting the Estate via this route on Assembly sitting days.

Prior to the current parking restrictions being introduced Massey Avenue had become extremely congested with parked vehicles on both sides of the road making passing difficult.

The Stormont Estate Management Unit monitors car parking on the Estate in order to ensure that effective usage is made of all spaces and if overspill parking for visitors to the Assembly is required this will be accommodated on the Prince of Wales Avenue.

The situation with Massey Avenue being designated as a no parking zone will be kept under ongoing review.

Bank Lending to Businesses

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has made any progress in obtaining the regional data on bank lending to small and medium-sized enterprises.

(AQW 25773/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: As you may be aware, my Department currently receives a quarterly 'bank support for businesses in Northern Ireland' report on a confidential basis which provides high level data on deposits and lending to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises locally.

This data relates to the activities of the four main banks operating locally and my Department has been pressing for some time now for this to be widened to include other banks with a presence in Northern Ireland. We have also been calling for the scope of the data provided to be extended, and in particular for a sectoral breakdown to be provided.

And in this regard I met with the Chief Executive of the British Bankers Association (BBA) earlier this month to stress the importance of this data and to seek an update from him on when and how the banks could deliver on this. Mr Browne indicated to me that he hoped that an improved dataset would be available before the end of the year and that he would update me on the precise detail of this in due course.

Stormont Estate Cyclists

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what plans he has to make the Stormont Estate more facilitative for cyclists.

(AQW 25780/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: My Department is currently working with the Department for Regional Development through its Travelwise NI initiative, and in conjunction with the Stormont Estate Travel Plan, to actively encourage staff who work on the Estate to consider all sustainable travel methods as alternatives to using cars to travel to work.

A survey will shortly be issued to all staff who work on the Estate to help identify their current travel means and to ask them that if relevant support services were available, whether they would cycle to work. If the results of this survey identify sufficient need my Department will act on providing support services.

Gross Domestic Product

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the rationale behind his conclusion that the public sector accounts for two thirds of Gross Domestic Product.

(AQW 25823/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Total Identifiable Expenditure in Northern Ireland as detailed in Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (PESA) stood at £19.2bn in 2010/11. This represented approximately 66 per cent of Northern Ireland's total Gross Value Added (GVA) - which is the standard measure of output at a regional level - in that year.

Barnett Consequentials

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what are the Barnett Consequentials of the Government announcement of £600 million for free schools meals in England.

(AQW 25941/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, announced on 17 September 2013 that all children in England in reception and year 1 & 2 will receive free school meals from September 2014. He also announced that the UK Government will extend free school meals to English disadvantaged students in further education and sixth form colleges. Together these two initiatives are estimated to cost approximately £600 million.

Discussions with HM Treasury indicate that the funding arrangements for these initiatives will not be determined until the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. It is therefore currently unclear how much, if any, of this is additional funding or indeed to be covered from within the English Department of Education's existing baseline. This will, of course, determine the extent of any Barnett Consequentials for Northern Ireland.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Sale of Tobacco

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of convictions there have been for the (i) illegal sale of tobacco; and (ii) sale of illicit tobacco, in the last three years.

(AQW 25590/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The enforcement of tobacco control legislation is the responsibility of district councils. Information provided by the councils in relation to part (i) of the question has indicated that between 2009/10 and 2012/13, there were a total of 70 convictions in Northern Ireland for the sale of tobacco products to children and young people under the age of 18.

In relation to part (ii), the issue of illicit tobacco is primarily a matter for HM Revenue and Customs. Information received from HMRC, through the Department of Justice, has confirmed that in Northern Ireland there have been 12 convictions for excise evasion in relation to tobacco in the last three years.

Cancellation of Clinics

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the clinics which have been cancelled due to the annual leave of Health and Social Care Trust staff in each of the last twelve months, broken down by Trust.

(AQW 25593/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR), which is the present methodology for the collection of consultant-led outpatient activity, was introduced by my Department's Hospital Information Branch from the beginning of 2008/09, as a direct result of a comprehensive review of collection of outpatient activity undertaken in 2007/08. Primarily the methodology changed from the reporting of the number of clinics held and cancelled to the reporting of the number of appointments held and cancelled.

Information on the number of hospital cancellations, in Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, is collected and published broken down by regionally agreed reasons for cancellation. Cancellations due to the annual leave of HSC staff are sub-regional codes under the regional reasons 'Consultant unavailable' and 'Medical Staff/Nurse Unavailable'.

It should be noted that the variable on the Patient Administration System (PAS) that provides the breakdown of the variable 'reason for cancellation' was not a mandatory field until March 2013 and as such the rate of coverage varied across Trusts.

Information on the number of consultant-led appointments cancelled by hospitals due to the annual leave of Health and Social Care staff, in each of the twelve months of the financial year 2012/13, is shown in the table overleaf. This is the latest position for which official statistics are available.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CONSULTANT-LED APPOINTMENTS CANCELLED BY HOSPITALS DUE TO THE ANNUAL LEAVE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STAFF, APRIL 2012 – MARCH 2013

HSC Trust	2012/13											
	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13
Belfast	1,150	716	977	1,982	1,383	794	766	942	910	959	973	1,196
Northern	477	170	167	370	232	177	201	241	207	127	451	366
South Eastern	540	257	281	411	542	361	308	262	405	448	401	441
Southern	148	109	183	169	85	145	140	61	169	130	127	147
Western	441	302	357	334	497	297	280	287	291	298	412	310

Source: HSC Trusts

Dental Graduates

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many dental graduates were awarded a Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 2013 from Queen's University, Belfast.

(AQW 25595/11-15)

Mr Poots: 52 dental graduates were awarded a Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 2013 from Queen's University Belfast.

Foundation Dentists

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the maximum number of funded practice-based training places available for Foundation Dentists.

(AQW 25597/11-15)

Mr Poots: The maximum number of practice based training places available in 2013 for Foundation Dentists was 34. NIMDTA aim to increase the number of training places from 34 in 2013 to 36 in future years.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety pursuant to AQW 23778/11-15, was there a Service Level Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding between his Department and the Central Investigation Service.

(AQW 25636/11-15)

Mr Poots: DARD's Central Investigation Service provides an investigation and counter fraud service which can be accessed by other Government Departments, providing specialist expertise and advice on fraud related investigations. There was no Service Level Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding between my Department and the Central Investigation Service.

Licensed Manufacturing Sites

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to Health and Social Care Trusts that are listed on the Medicines Care Products Regulatory Agency's Register of Licensed Manufacturing Sites, (i) to list the Site Identification numbers and addresses of all Licensed Manufacturing Sites; and (ii) to list the (a) IV Fluids; and (b) other Pharmaceutical Products manufactured at, or imported to, each Licensed Manufacturing Site.

(AQW 25660/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has confirmed that there are two types of licensed manufacturers. Companies who manufacture or import medicines which are the subject of a Marketing Authorisation do so under a Manufacturing and Import Authorisation (MIA) licence. Companies who manufacture or import medicines which are not the subject of a Marketing Authorisation and produce unlicensed medicines for a special clinical need, do so under a Manufacturing Specials (MS) licence.

- (i) The site Identification numbers and addresses of all Manufacturing Sites in relation to Health and Social Care Trusts that are listed on the Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Agency's Register of Licensed Manufacturing sites are set out at Tab 1.
- (ii) A list of (a) IV Fluids; and (b) other Pharmaceutical Products manufactured at or imported to, each Licensed Manufacturing site is set out at Tab 2.

TAB 1

Site Identification numbers and addresses of all Manufacturing Sites in Health and Social Care Trusts that are listed on the Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Agency's Register of Licensed Manufacturing sites

Licence Holder MS 32485

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

**First Floor, King Edward Building, The Royal Hospitals,
Grosvenor Road, Belfast, United Kingdom, BT12 6BA**

***Site ID: 29397** Victoria Pharmaceuticals Specials Manufacturing Unit
77, Boucher Crescent, Belfast, United Kingdom, BT12 6HU.

***Site ID: 91260** Victoria Pharmaceuticals Specials Manufacturing Unit
Grosvenor Road, Royal Hospitals,
Belfast, United Kingdom, BT12 6BA.

Site ID: 333727 Cyclotron Production Facility
Level 1, Imaging centre,
Royal Victoria Hospital
Grosvenor Road, Belfast, United Kingdom, BT12 6BA

Site ID: 1226848 Regional RadioPharmacy
Royal Victoria Hospital
Ferguson Building
Royal Victoria Hospital
Grosvenor Road, Belfast, United Kingdom, BT12 6BA

Site ID: 1683129 The Plenum Building, Victoria Pharmaceuticals and Regional
Quality Assurance,
Royal Group of Hospitals Site,
Grosvenor Road, Belfast, United Kingdom, BT12 6BA

- * Site IDS – 29397 (Victoria, 77 Boucher) and 91260 (Victoria, Grosvenor Road) are no longer in use. Plenum is a new building and the other two licenses were retained until MHRA were satisfied Plenum was functioning in accordance with the legal requirements and best practice. Decommissioning has taken place.

Licence Holder MS 33876**Western Health and Social Care Trust**

Pharmacy Department, Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Glenshane Road, Londonderry, Co Londonderry, United Kingdom, BT47 6SB

Site ID: 817524

Western Health and Social Care Trust
Pharmacy Department
Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Glenshane Road
Londonderry, Co Londonderry, United Kingdom, BT47 6SB

TAB 2**Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

The Belfast Trust has five sites on its manufacturing specials licence (MS 32485).

Two of these departments are operated by the Regional Medical Physics Service. They are:

- (1) Regional Radiopharmacy Department, Ferguson Building, RVH (site ID: 1226848)
- (2) Cyclotron Production Facility, Level 1 Imaging Centre, RVH (site ID: 333727).

Both departments prepare small volume liquid diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals, administered mainly by injection.

The third site is a regional pharmacy service and is managed within Pharmacy Services BHSCT;

- (3) Victoria Pharmaceuticals and Regional Quality Assurance, Plenum Building, RVH, (site ID: 1683129)

MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS STERILE

Sterile Medicine (still manufactured)	Sterile Medicine (ceased manufacture)
Baclofen Injection 1000mcg/ml 12ml	Chlorhexidine Sterile Solution 2% 20ml
Baclofen Injection 2000mcg/ml 12ml	Chlorhexidine Sterile Solution 0.1% 10ml
Baclofen Injection 3000mcg/ml 12ml	Digoxin Injection 10microg/ml 5x1ml
Diamorphine Injection 500microg/ml 3x1ml	Dipotassium Hydrogen Phosphate Infusion 1mmol/ml 500ml
Levobupivacaine 0.1% Fentanyl 5mcg/ml Infusion 250ml	Phentolamine–Papaverine Injection 2ml 1x5
Levobupivacaine 0.1% Fentanyl 2mcg/ml Infusion 100ml	Rotring Marking ink 0.5ml
Levobupivacaine 0.1% Fentanyl 2mcg/ml Infusion 250ml	Sodium Chloride for nebulisation 3% 4ml
Morphine Sulphate Infusion 1mg/ml 100ml	Sodium Chloride for nebulisation 4.5% 4ml
Morphine Sulphate Infusion 1mg/ml 250ml	Sodium Chloride for nebulisation 7% 4ml
	Sodium Dihydrogen Phosphate Injection 1mmol/ml 5x10ml
	Vancomycin Injection 10mg/ml 2ml

NON STERILE MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS— (CEASED MANUFACTURE)**

Alcohol Solution 70% 500ml
Chlorhexidine Solution 1:200 ,0.5% 100ML
Chlorhexidine Solution 2% 500ml
Chlorhexidine Solution 2% 100ml
Coal Tar Solution 5% in White Soft Paraffin 200g
Coal Tar Solution 10% in White Soft Paraffin 200g
Coal Tar Solution 5% and Betamethasone 0.02375% in White Soft Paraffin 200g **
Coal Tar Solution 10% and Betamethasone 0.02375% in White Soft Paraffin 200g **
Keltrol suspending agent 0.4% 500ml
Lidocaine and Adrenaline solution 2%, 1:2000 2ml
Lidocaine and Adrenaline solution 2%, 1:2000 60ml
Liquid Paraffin in White Soft Paraffin 1:3 200G
Metoprolol Suspension 25mg/5ml 50ml
BT-PABA Tests **
Propylene Glycol in Aqueous Cream 40% 500g
Salicylic Acid in Emulsifying Ointment 5% 200g
Tar Pomade 200g
Tar Pomade Forte 200g
Tar Pomade Special 200g
Ung 108 ointment 100G
WHO Powders
WHO Powders Potassium Free

Site IDS – 29397 (Victoria, 77 Boucher) and 91260 (Victoria, Grosvenor Road) are no longer in use. Plenum is a new building and the other two licenses were retained until MHRA were satisfied Plenum was functioning in accordance with the legal requirements and best practice. Decommissioning has taken place.

**UNLICENSED MEDICINES NOTIFIED FOR IMPORT BY BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
32485**
**TOTAL VALID NOTIFICATIONS 43
01-AUG-2010 TO 31-AUG-2013**
AUG/10

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	1	1
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	3	2

OCT/10

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	1	1
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	1	2
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	1	2

NOV/10

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	2	1

DEC/10

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	Republic of Ireland	1	1
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	Republic of Ireland	1	3
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	Republic of Ireland	2	8

FEB/11

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	2	2

MAY/11

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG 370 MBQ 1 X 5	Republic of Ireland	1	2
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG 370 MBQ 1 X 5	Republic of Ireland	1	2

JUN/11

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	1	1
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG	Republic of Ireland	1	2

OCT/11

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG 370 MBQ 1 X 5	Republic of Ireland	1	2
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG 370 MBQ 1 X 5	Republic of Ireland	1	4

FEB/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F]	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG Injection BP 1X1	Republic of Ireland	1	4

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG Injection Bp 1 X 1	Republic of Ireland	1	6

MAR/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F]	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG Injection BP 1X1	Republic of Ireland	1	4
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG Injection BP 1 X 1	Republic of Ireland	1	5
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	F-FDG 370 MBQ 1 X 5	Republic of Ireland	1	2

APR/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	4	4

JUN/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	1	5

JUL/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F]	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG Injection BP 1X1	Republic of Ireland	1	5
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	1	5

AUG/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	2	5

OCT/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	2	5

NOV/12

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	1	5

JAN/13

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection BP 1X1	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	1	5

FEB/13

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection BP 1X1	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	1	5

MAR/13

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-Fdg 4Mbq/Kg	Republic of Ireland	1	4

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-Fdg 4Mbg/Kg Injection BP 1 X 1	Republic of Ireland	1	5

MAY/13

Non-Proprietary Product Name	Proprietary Name	Exporting Country	Number of Notifications	Number of Packs Imported
Fludeoxyglucose [18F] Injection	18F-FDG 4MBQ/KG	Republic of Ireland	1	4

Western Health and Social Care Trust

The Western Health and Social Care Trust has one site for its manufacturing specials licence (MS 33876).

1. Altnagelvin hospital, Glenshane Road, Londonderry, BT47 6SB has a licensed specials manufacturing unit (Site ID: 1817524)
2. List of products manufactured or repackaged in Altnagelvin Hospital under Specials Manufacturing License MS33876.

Fluids - Sterile Injections / Infusions

5- Fluorouracil Eye Injections

5 -Fluorouracil Infusors

Cefuroxime Intracameral Injection

Desferroxamine Infusor

Diamorphine 500 micrograms in 1ml Sodium Chloride 0.9%

Glucose 3% in 500ml Hartmanns Solution

Insulin Syringes

Intralipid Infusions

Piperacillin and Tazobactam 4.5mg in 73ml Injection (Syringe)

Potassium 10mmol, Phosphate 10mmol in 500ml Sodium Chloride

Other Pharmaceutical items - Non Sterile Pre-packaged Tablets

ASPIRIN 75mg Enteric coated Tablets 28 Tablet Overlabelled Pack

AZITHROMYCIN 250mg Capsules 4 Capsule Overlabelled Pack

BREVINOR 35 micrograms/500microgram Tablets 63 Tablet Overlabelled Pack

CANESTEN COMBI 500mg / 2% Pessary/Cream 1 unit Overlabelled Pack

CEFIXIME 200mg Tablets 4 Tablet Pre-Pack

CHLORPHENAMINE MALEATE 4mg Tablets 8 Tablet Pre-Pack

CLARITHROMYCIN 500mg Infusion 1 Vial Pre-Pack

DOMPERIDONE 10mg Tablets 30 Tablet Overlabelled Pack (HIV)

ERYTHROMYCIN 250mg Enteric coated Tablets 56 Tablet Pre-Pack

FEMODENE 75 micrograms/30 micrograms Tablets 63 Tablet Overlabelled Pack

KALETRA TABLETS 200mg/50mg Tablets 28 Tablet Pre-Pack (HIV)

LEVONORGESTREL 30micrograms Tablets 105 Tablet Pre-Pack

LOGYNON ED Tablets 3 x 28 Tablet Overlabelled Pack

LOPERAMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE 2mg Capsule 30 capsule Overlabelled Pack (HIV)

METRONIDAZOLE 400mg Tablets 10 Tablet Pre-Pack

NORETHISTERONE 350 MICROGRAMS Tablets 84 Tablet Overlabelled Pack

OFLOXACIN 400mg Tablets 28 Tablet Pre-Pack

OXYTETRACYCLINE 250mg Tablets 56 Pre-Pack

PARACETAMOL 120mg in 5ml Sugar-free Oral Suspension 200ml Overlabelled Pack

PARACETAMOL 250mg in 5ml Sugar-free Oral Suspension 200ml Overlabelled Pack

PARACETAMOL 500mg Soluble Tablet 6 Tablet Pre-Pack

The Trust does not import pharmaceuticals

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust, 68, Lurgan Road, Portadown, BT63 5QQ has one site for manufacturing specials. (MS33400).

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust do not manufacture on site. The Licence is for repackaging and assembly only.

The Trust does not import pharmaceuticals directly.

Licensed Manufacturing Sites

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list (i) the name; and (ii) Licence Holder Number of any Health and Social Care Trust currently listed on the Medicines Care Products Regulatory Agency's Register of Licensed Manufacturing Sites.

(AQW 25661/11-15)

Mr Poots: The name and Licence holder number of the Health and Social Care Trusts currently listed on the Medicines Care Products Regulatory Agency's Register of Licensed Manufacturing Sites are set out in the table below.

Name of Health and Social Care Trust	Licence Holder Number
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	MS 32485
Western Health and Social Care Trust	MS 33876
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	MS 33400

Compulsory Redundancies

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the amount spent on (i) Other Departures Agreed; and (ii) Compulsory Redundancies by each Health and Social Care Trust, in each year since 2009.

(AQW 25663/11-15)

Mr Poots: There have been no compulsory redundancies in Health and Social Care Trusts since 2009. Information on 'Other Departures Agreed' is not held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Directorate of Legal Services

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the Directorate of Legal Services; and whether he has any plans to contract out legal services through procurement.

(AQW 25683/11-15)

Mr Poots: The main function of the Business Services Organisation is to provide a range of support services, including legal services, to health and social care bodies, in line with the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (NI) 2009. I have no plans to change this arrangement.

Rathmoyle Care Home

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on what date was the last patient admitted to Rathmoyle Care Home, Ballymoney.

(AQW 25703/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Trust has advised that the last permanent resident was admitted on 17th December 2011 and the last respite resident was admitted on 8th September 2013.

Prisoners Being Given Medication

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether consideration has been given to prisoners being given medication in liquid form with supervised swallowing, particularly those who are vulnerable and/or at risk of being bullied for medication.

(AQW 25728/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust is currently running a trial of the administration of liquid medications for abusable/tradable supervised swallow medications in HMP Magilligan.

This trial has been in place from the beginning of September 2013 and has so far proven successful in reducing the potential diversion of these supervised swallow medications. Once this trial is complete, the Trust intends to roll this trial out to HMP Hydebank Wood and HMP Maghaberry.

People Living with Chronic Pain

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what his Department is doing to assist people living with chronic pain.

(AQW 25746/11-15)

Mr Poots: GPs provide appropriate treatment and support for patients presenting with chronic pain. If appropriate, patients may be referred to specialist pain management clinics, various support groups or practice counsellors. Pain management services are delivered in each Health and Social Care Trust area, with the Belfast Trust delivering specialist pain management services and procedures.

In April 2012, I launched "*Living with Long Term Conditions*", my Department's Policy Framework to provide strategic direction for the reform and modernisation of services for adults with long term conditions. The Framework is designed to be relevant across a wide range of long term conditions,

including chronic pain. The Framework focuses on six key areas of care including supporting self management, medicines management and improving care and services.

A Regional Implementation Steering Group has been established and is in the process of developing an action plan identifying how the good practice outlined in the policy framework can be implemented and extended regionally and at a local level, working in partnership with the voluntary, community and independent sectors.

Child Obesity

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what new or additional strategies are being employed to combat the issue of child obesity.

(AQW 25782/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department launched the current obesity prevention strategy, known as “A Fitter Future for All” in March 2012. This framework encompasses the actions set out in the original Fit Futures Implementation Plan (which dealt specifically with childhood obesity) and includes outcomes designed to tackle obesity throughout the entire life course of the population of Northern Ireland.

This framework also makes links to existing and forthcoming strategies and policies that can have a beneficial impact on the issue of obesity including:

- Start Active, Stay Active – A report on physical activity for health from the four home countries’ Chief Medical Officers – Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (2011).
- Breastfeeding: A Great Start – A Strategy for Northern Ireland 2013-2033 DHSSPS.
- The new Public Health Strategic Framework (anticipated to be launched in 2013) DHSSPS.
- A new Food in Schools Policy – Department of Education (anticipated to be launched in September 2013)
- Sport Matters – The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019 – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.
- An Action Plan for Active Travel in Northern Ireland 2012-2015 – Department for Regional Development.
- Play and Leisure Policy – Office of the First Minister and the deputy First Minister.

The Public Health Agency also fund a range of initiatives, programmes, and schemes delivered in local communities that seek to prevent and address obesity, these include: allotment schemes, programmes to support the development of cooking skills, and initiatives that promote walking, cycling and active play.

Child Protection Issues

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what communication takes place between schools and social services in child protection cases or the suspicion of child protection issues.

(AQW 25786/11-15)

Mr Poots: Responsibility for schools in communicating child protection matters is outlined in the Department of Education Circular 9/99 Pastoral Care in Schools – Child Protection. My Department’s expectations on how agencies should share information with social services, where there are child protection concerns, are set out in the extant Departmental guidance Cooperating to Safeguard Children (2003), (which is currently being revised) and the Area Child Protection Committee’s Regional Policy and Procedures (2005).

One of the statutory functions of the Safeguarding Board is to develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Once developed, these will replace the extant Regional Area Child Protection Committee’s Policy and Procedures.

Western Health and Social Care Trust: Second Mental Health Unit

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the process, and the timeline, to determine the location of the second acute mental health unit in the Western Health and Social Care Trust, including any remaining consultations with key stakeholders.

(AQW 25792/11-15)

Mr Poots: In my statement to the Assembly on 19 March 2013, I confirmed that the business case for the second acute mental health unit will examine fully the options for the location of the unit.

In line with this, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) is currently undertaking an appraisal of the two suggested locations for the second Mental Health in-patient unit. Consultation has taken place with local clinicians, and further consultation is planned with the Western Local Commissioning Group which includes representation from local council, health professionals and the community and voluntary sector.

The HSCB are due to report to me with their advice before the end of December 2013.

Legal Costs

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on legal costs associated with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's challenge to adoption law since the papers were filed, and including the original High Court case.

(AQW 25824/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department has spent circa £40K to date. This figure includes the costs associated with the High Court proceedings.

Hospital Food and Outsource Catering Services

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is a central departmental policy guiding Health and Social Care Trusts in how they produce hospital food and outsource catering services.

(AQW 25856/11-15)

Mr Poots: In April 2012 my Department published "A Strategic Framework for the Delivery of Health and Social Care Catering Services". This strategy sets out the Department's policy on the future development and delivery of catering services. Whilst this framework focuses on catering services to patients, staff and visitors on hospital sites, many of the principles are also applicable in community and day-care provision. The Strategy is fully accessible on my Departments website.

Barnado's Report

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department has taken since the publication of the Barnardo's report, which was commissioned by his Department in 2011, to protect children; and what measures his Department has taken to address the concerns contained in the report.

(AQW 25864/11-15)

Mr Poots: Since the publication of the Barnardo's report *Not a World Away: The Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People in Northern Ireland*, which was published in 2011, a number of actions have been taken, the aim of which is to strengthen the protection arrangements for children in Northern Ireland and to address the concerns contained in the report. These include:

- the establishment of a statutory Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) which has agreed that a multi-agency plan on Child Sexual Exploitation should be developed;
- ongoing implementation of new statutory vetting and barring arrangements to prevent unsuitable individuals obtaining work and volunteering opportunities with children and vulnerable adults;

- ongoing revision of government's key children's safeguarding policy guidance, Co-operating to Safeguard Children, which is a Programme for Government commitment;
- through the Commissioning Plan Direction, directing the Health and Social Care Board to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are looked after effectively across all services. The Direction makes specific reference to looked after children and includes targets and performance indicators relating to looked after children;
- the introduction of a range of therapeutic support approaches across children's homes in Northern Ireland to assist social workers to develop a better appreciation and understanding of the complex needs of the young people in their care;
- the establishment of a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre, which accepts referrals relating to both children and adults from a range of sources, including self-referrals;
- the development of an untoward events reporting mechanism which requires each episode of a young person missing for over 24 hours to be reported to a single point in the Health and Social Care Board for review;
- a revision of the Delegated Statutory Functions reporting system, which now reports not only on young people missing for more than 24 hours but also on the number of contacts between a children's home and the police and the reasons for contact;
- increased funding of the Barnardo's Safe Choices project, which provides information, training and support to staff working in residential care and the direct provision of services to children who may be at risk of child sexual exploitation;
- investment by the Public Health Agency (PHA) to provide information support and signposting on drugs and alcohol, mental and sexual health and other matters as well as youth treatment, specialist drug and alcohol posts with Child and Adolescent Mental Health services, targeted education programmes for at risk young people and services for families;
- a revision of guidance (originally published in 2009) issued jointly by PSNI and the Health and Social Care Board in 2012 which sets out what action should be taken by the PSNI and the relevant Health and Social Care Trust when a child goes missing and what action should be taken when the child is located;
- new children's homes standards, which are in the process of being finalised;
- a major review by the Health and Social Care Board of residential care provision in Northern Ireland, which is in its final stages;
- the establishment of an Early Intervention Fund by April 2014 focusing on embedding early intervention into professional training and development, in our mainstream children's services and delivering an early intervention service portfolio, accessed through the Family Support Hubs, which are being put in place across Northern Ireland; and more recently
- the publication of a number of child sexual exploitation awareness-raising leaflets for children, parents/carers and professionals in contact with children and young people; and the establishment of a Helpline dedicated to responding to concerns about child sexual exploitation from children, parents and carers.

Direct Payments

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in each Health and Social Care Trust area are in receipt of Direct Payments.

(AQW 25910/11-15)

Mr Poots: This information is not centrally available.

Information on the number of direct payments paid during each quarter and the amount paid can be found on the DHSSPS website at the following address:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-guide/statistics_and_research-cib-direct-payment.htm

Rathmoyle Nursing Home

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the closure of Rathmoyle Nursing Home, whether the Northern Health and Social Care Trust has secured new premises for its day care centre.

(AQW 25971/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Rathmoyle site has been earmarked for several years for a Supported Living facility and was subject to a previous consultation in 2009.

However, it is recognised that the development of this supported living facility may have implications for the attached day centre which also occupies the site. Before any final decisions are made my Department will seek the assurance of the HSC Board that suitable alternatives are in place for day care to meet the current and future needs of the local population.

Missed Appointments

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many missed appointments there have been at GP practices, in the North Down, area in the last twelve months.

(AQW 26014/11-15)

Mr Poots: General Practitioners (GPs) are independent contractors who contract with the Health and Social Care Board to provide Primary Medical Services to their patients. As independent contractors, GPs are responsible for the day to day management of their practice, including patient appointment arrangements, therefore information on missed appointments is not collated centrally and therefore could only be available at disproportionate cost.

The issue of missed appointments is dealt with by practices on an individual basis.

Barnardo's Report on 'The Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People in Northern Ireland'

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the Barnardo's report on 'The sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland', to detail (i) when he received the report, either in draft or final form; (ii) the action he took as a result, including dates.

(AQW 26050/11-15)

Mr Poots: I received an invitation from the Director of Barnardo's Northern Ireland to speak at the launch of the Barnardo's research report 'Not a World away', the sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland. The launch of the report took place on Monday 7 November 2011 in Parliament Buildings.

A draft of the report was received on 4 August and the final report received in the Department on 27 October 2011.

I attach a table which details both the actions taken to date and ongoing work by my Department, the Health and Social Care Board, Health and Social Care Trusts and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland. All actions relate directly to the recommendations of the Barnardo's report.

Annex A

Barnardo's Report "Not a World Away" the sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland – Recommendations, action taken to date and ongoing work by DHSSPS, HSCB, HSCTs and SBNI

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
1	<p>When established, the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland [SBNI] should, as part of its work plan, consider the issue of child sexual exploitation and the effectiveness of current responses to it.</p>	<p>The SBNI was established on 17 September 2012 and within 3 weeks (on 04 October 2012) wrote to Directors of Children's Services within all five HSC Trusts to seek information on prevalence of CSE, how Trusts identify it and respond to it in risk management terms and to ask Trusts to identify any particular problems experienced in connection with CSE. This information was used to inform the action plan now being taken by the SBNI.</p> <p>The SBNI draft Strategic Plan was issued for consultation in April 2013 with an end date in July 2013. This draft plan indicated that the SBNI would work with member agencies to develop a coordinated strategy and working model to protect and safeguard children who go missing from home and care and/or at risk of sexual exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A range of actions is now planned by the SBNI. They include: ■ The Establishment of a sexual exploitation Strategic Partnership Group; ■ The identification of the scale and nature of the problem in NI; ■ The development of an awareness raising campaign for children, families and professionals (the launch of the leaflets is the start of the campaign); ■ A review of the risk assessment tools currently being used; ■ The development of an information sharing agreement for CSE; ■ A review existing procedures / guidance to establish any gaps; <p>Working with the Knowledge Transfer Hub to identify education requirements for children, parents and professionals</p> <p>Working with the Knowledge Transfer Hub to scope and research good models of practice and how this can be translated to Northern Ireland;</p> <p>Evaluating and/or piloting a co-located multi-disciplinary/multi-agency team focusing on children who go missing.</p>	Ongoing

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
2	<p>DHSSPS should revise existing Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidance to explicitly reference the complex nature and impact of sexual exploitation. This should be supported by the development of detailed inter-agency procedural guidance for practitioners to assist them to respond appropriately to instances where the sexual exploitation of children or young people is confirmed or suspected. The latter will be a matter for the SBNI to consider when established.</p>	<p>There are a number of child protection guidance documents which the department is in the process of developing. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A revision of extant Departmental guidance Co-operating to Safeguard Children, first produced in 2003. The revision is a Programme for Government commitment. This is due to be published by March 2015, after a period of public consultation. While this is a DHSSPS-led exercise, child safeguarding is a cross-government activity as effective safeguarding requires interdepartmental, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary support. ■ This guidance will be supplemented by operational child protection policies and procedures, which will also deal with child sexual exploitation. This is a statutory responsibility of the SBNI. ■ Departmental guidance on safeguarding children and young people who are sexually active is currently being developed by a multi-agency working group. The guidance will be issued for consultation by March 2014. <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In April 2012, the HSCB published Regional Residential Child Care Policies issued By Health & Social Care Board, which includes chapters on safeguarding, with a specific section on Child Sexual Exploitation, a section on misuse of substances which also assists in that it specifically addresses the relevant issues of Alcohol and Drugs counselling, and there is also a guidance chapter on Physical Restraint. ■ In May 2012, the guidance document “Police Involvement in Residential Care Safeguarding of Children Missing from Home and Foster Care” was further revised by the HSCB, directly as a result of the Barnardo’s report. 	Ongoing

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
3	<p>The HSC Board should progress the development of a targeted and fully resourced action plan on sexual exploitation that includes, but is not limited to, consideration of the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ data collection and monitoring ■ professional competency and capacity ■ best-practice models for responding to sexual exploitation, including the merits of a co-located inter-agency model of response ■ regional implementation of the sexual exploitation risk assessment tool ■ resourcing of a regional specialist support service. 	<p>A number of fully resourced actions were taken by the HSC Board and HSC Trusts which respond to the elements of the action plan identified in this recommendation in the Barnardo's report.</p> <p>1 Data collection and monitoring</p> <p>The Barnardo's report identifies a strong (although not absolute) link between children going missing and the risk of child sexual exploitation. In recognition of that fact, the Board collects data on missing children through the Delegated Statutory Functions reporting mechanism. The system of data collection was revised in April 2011 and again in April 2013. Information is now collected on the numbers of children who go missing and the number of times a child goes missing. Initially information related to periods of absence of more than 24 hours. Information is now recorded on contact between children's homes and the police relating to children who go missing for less than 24 hours, including absences of a relatively short duration.</p> <p>The Board has also introduced a Regional Untoward Events reporting mechanism which includes the provision of a report for each event where a young person is missing for more than 24 hours. These reports are collected centrally to allow for professional oversight and follow up on individual incidents and for data collation and analysis.</p> <p>Within Trusts, a range of data collection and monitoring systems have been established. By way of example, in the South Eastern Trust, a Safety, Quality and Experience project regarding missing children has been ongoing since October 2012. In the Western Trust, a Senior Management Risk Monitoring meeting takes place on a monthly basis to consider trends and patterns that come from the Team Health Checks; as a result of those meetings, corrective action is taken if necessary.</p> <p>Finally, data collection relating to identification of the scale and nature of the problem of child sexual exploitation will be taken forward under the auspices of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.</p>	Ongoing

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<p>2 Professional competency and capacity</p> <p>The HSCB and Trusts plan, commission and provide a wide range of training initiatives for staff working Children's Services based on identified priorities and service needs on an annual basis. The following are examples of the broad range of training which has particular relevance to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the professional competence issues raised in the Barnardo's report. This is not an exhaustive list.</p> <p>Competence</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation</p> <p>Specific training by Safe Choices, commissioned by the HSCB, has been provided across all Trust on signs, symptoms and preventative strategies in respect of CSE. Such training has been commissioned since 2008. In 2012/13 356 staff and carers received this training. Safe Choices also provide detailed consultations on specific cases. Since 200?, over 4000 people in the statutory and voluntary sectors have received training on CSE by Safe Choices.</p> <p>Individual Trusts have commissioned additional training in CSE including 'Keeping Safe Training' and 'CSE and Missing from Home'.</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>A wide range of child protection training is provided within Trusts. This includes recognition of signs and symptoms of all forms of abuse, responses to abuse and neglect and specialist training in joint protocol investigations with the PSNI.</p> <p>Missing From Home and Foster Care</p> <p>Training on implementation of HSC/PSNI regional guidance on Safeguarding Children Missing from Home and Foster Care. The link between children's increased vulnerability to CSE when missing is covered by the guidance.</p>	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<p>Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)</p> <p>Residential care staff are trained in TCI to develop professional competence in engaging with young people, managing the environment and de-escalation of crises as well as use of physical restraint (holds). All children in care will have an Individual Crisis Management Plan which indicates if the use of TCI physical restraint should not be used (eg. Medical conditions, re-traumatising the young person). TCI should not be used as a preventative measure, for example, to stop a child leaving a children's home without permission. However, if an angry outburst were to occur as a result of such a refusal, then TCI may be a legitimate response. Staff will use their professional judgement in response to each individual and the circumstances.</p> <p>Risk assessment, management and care planning</p> <p>All Trusts provide training for staff on assessing and managing risk and professional judgement/decision-making.</p> <p>Therapeutic approaches to working with children and young people</p> <p>Residential care staff have been trained in specific therapeutic approaches in working with children in care to develop professional competence in working with children who have experienced trauma and disadvantage and to develop understanding, skills and techniques in working with young people who present with challenging behaviour. This training was evaluated by the Social Care Institute for Excellence and QUB and findings indicated a positive impact on practice including more sensitive/appropriate use of language and improvements in managing challenging situations.</p> <p>A range of other training in specific therapeutic approaches and techniques including Motivational Interviewing, Model of Attachment Practice and Restorative Practice have also been provided to improve professional competence in working directly with young people.</p> <p>CSE Related Risk Factors</p> <p>A range of training on factors which can increase young people's vulnerability and risk generally but to CSE in particular is also provided by all Trusts – Substance Misuse; Internet/Social Media; Mental Health; Resilience.</p>	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<p>Human Trafficking</p> <p>There have been a number of regional and local training initiatives to raise staff awareness about human trafficking.</p> <p>Postgraduate Qualifications in Child Care</p> <p>Each year, Trusts also fund a number of staff to undertake specific accredited post-graduate training leading to post graduate Certificates, Diplomas and Masters in Child Care Practice.</p> <p>Capacity</p> <p>Working in Children's Services, in particular in child protection and residential child care, is challenging and a number of actions have been taken to strengthen supports for all staff and improve retention of experienced staff in these areas. Such initiatives include:</p> <p>All newly qualified social workers (NQS) must undertake an assessed year in practice to consolidate their professional competence. There are specific requirements including induction, training, supervision, managed workloads. Similar models for support of NQS are now being rolled out elsewhere in the UK.</p> <p>Appointment of senior social work practitioners to undertake more complex work and to provide mentorship/consultation to less experienced staff. There are 222 senior practitioners in Children's Services;</p> <p>Appointment of 15 Principal Social Work Practitioners since 2009 in each Trust to ensure availability of expertise in specific practice areas, including with looked after children. NI is the first country in the UK to introduce a Principal Practitioner social work grade.</p> <p>Referrals to social services have been increasing over the past number of years. Workforce data indicates a 5.8% increase in numbers of social workers employed by Trusts over the past 3 years.</p> <p>The Department launched a Social Work Strategy in 2012 which identifies workforce capacity and employer supports as key issues for frontline social workers and team leaders. Work has commenced to review the use and deployment of senior and principal practitioners to inform future workforce planning.</p>	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<p>Similar to the findings from the Munro Review of Child Protection Services in England, the compliance culture and focus on procedures and targets at the expense of child-centred service provision have been identified in the Social Work Strategy as issues in NI. There is a similar commitment in NI for the Department and associated agencies to review reporting and regulatory requirements, reduce bureaucracy and re-establish the child at the centre of the social work process and relationships at the heart of practice. Work has begun on a number of small scale initiatives to reduce bureaucracy which will increase staff capacity to engage in direct work with children, young people and families.</p> <p>Professional supervision is an important element of support for social workers in carrying out their work. Compliance in the provision of supervision with a regional policy and standards is monitored by each Trust. There are Departmental targets for training supervisors and funding to support such training across all Trusts.</p> <p>A regional caseload management model was developed and endorsed by the Department and was issued in February 2012. This model is designed to assist social workers and their managers in Children's Services in the HSC Trusts to allocate and prioritise cases and associated tasks within manageable workloads.</p> <p>The North/South Child Protection Hub is available to social workers in all Trusts – this provides a single portal to access information, up-to-date research and developments in child protection practice to support evidence-based practice and professional decision-making.</p> <p>There has been an increase in the funding of Barnardo's Safe Choices reflecting the rise in young people identified at risk of CSE by Trust staff.</p> <p>Looked after Children (LAC) Therapeutic Services provide services in each Trust delivered by a range of professionals including psychologists and SPs. Their role is provide specialist wrap-a-round therapeutic services for individual young people in the care system as well as expert advice to staff.</p> <p>A review of residential child care provision has been undertaken by the HSCB and Trusts and among its recommendations is one for smaller residential homes to accommodate no more than 4 young people. This will increase the staff/child ratio.</p>	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<p>Development of Family Support Hubs and increased investment in early intervention is intended to provide non-stigmatising help to families at an earlier stage and is part of an overall strategy to improve outcomes for all children by preventing the development and/or escalation of difficulties at an earlier stage in children's lives.</p> <p>The Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership (established in 2011) brings together a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies and aims to maximise the investment in services to children's and their families through more effective joined up working and collaboration. This contributes to increasing capacity in the system for early intervention and services for children in need.</p> <p>3 Best-practice models for responding to sexual exploitation, including the merits of a co-located inter-agency model of response</p> <p>There are now a number of best practice models in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Co-location of police officers and social workers is one practice model for responding to cases of child abuse, including child sexual exploitation. The model has been used in the past and indeed in the present – the ongoing police investigation into child sexual exploitation is using a co-location model of practice. Social workers and police officers do not necessarily have to be co-located to work effectively together. We have a joint protocol in place which sets out how the police and social services work will together to investigate cases of child abuse and we have guidance in place which governs how the police and social services will respond to children who go missing from home and foster care. ■ There are also a number of excellent Trust-specific models of practice which are reflective of the quality of the relationship between police and social services at a locality level. For example, in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area, each residential unit has a dedicated community police officer who regularly visits the unit and completes (in conjunction with residential staff) education programmes for children and young people, for example, keeping safe, drugs awareness and respect/citizenship programmes. Also, 'a Children Missing from Care' Special Interest Group has been established on which the South Eastern HSC Trust, the Belfast HSC Trust, PSNI, the Safe Choices Project and VOYPIC are represented. The Group meets on a bi-monthly basis and shares trends analysis, good practice and initiatives relating to child sexual exploitation. 	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<p>■ In the Northern Trust, residential units hold quarterly meetings with PSNI to discuss the high-risk young people and the management of their cases. This is an acknowledgement of the importance of working relationships to try and protect as best we can these vulnerable young people. Also in the Northern Trust, an intensive support outreach team provides support to young people on the edge of care. This year, two of the team worked specifically on child sexual exploitation, producing leaflets and drama production (Break the cycle) which was ran in the Waterfront Hall.</p> <p>4 Regional implementation of the sexual exploitation risk assessment tool</p> <p>A child sexual exploitation assessment tool, the same tool which was used in the course of the 'Not a World Away' research, has been implemented across all five HSC Trust areas.</p> <p>5 Resourcing of a regional specialist support service</p> <p>■ Between 2008 and 2011, the Department provided funding of around £222k to Missing Children's Project of the Barnardo's-run Safe Choices Service. [This is in addition to circa £142k provided to Barnardo's to undertake the 'Not a World Away' research.] The aim of the Missing Children Project is to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of children and young people in care by reducing the number of missing episodes of children; to increase the skills and knowledge of staff in children's homes and foster carers in relation to the issue of sexual exploitation; and to develop and disseminate a risk assessment model to children's homes on the issue of young people missing from care.</p> <p>■ Funding for the Safe Choices Service was picked up by the Health and Social Care Board from April 2011. The Board has committed additional resources to the project to enable it to meet additional demand, including that generated by the ongoing PSNI investigation into child sexual exploitation. The contract with the Project includes the direct provision of services to children who may be at risk of child sexual exploitation.</p>	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In addition, the Department invests in a Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, a Regional Secure Care Service and an Intensive Support Service, which operates across the region. A range of self harm services funded under the Protect Life Strategy are regionally available. They include Lifeline (a 24/7 regional crisis response helpline established in January 2008); Card Before You Leave bereavement support and self-harm counselling and support. This is in addition to a range of specialist supports to address alcohol and substance misuse, self-esteem issues and transitions out of care and into adulthood. ■ In the Regional Secure Care Centre a therapeutic support service with a dedicated clinical psychologist and systemic social work practitioner is in place. The HSCB had provided additional funding for the development of a therapeutic support service for all looked after children, in addition to that provided in children and young people in secure care. 	

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
4	<p>The HSC Board should consider how best to co-ordinate and prioritise the provision of specialist drug and alcohol counselling services to young people who display signs of drug and alcohol abuse, which may make them vulnerable to sexual exploitation, in particular to children living in residential care;</p>	<p>Drug and alcohol misuse adds to the vulnerability of looked after children and further heightens their exposure to risk of sexual exploitation. There has been investment in a range of services aimed at tackling the drug and alcohol problems. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Around £1m has been invested by the HSC in One Stop Shop services providing information, support and signposting on drugs and alcohol, mental and sexual health, relationship issues, resilience, coping with school/employment. The One Stop Shop model of drop-in services was set up by PHA to provide young people with accurate, up-to-date and objective information about personal and lifestyle issues, choices, where to find help and advice, and how to access it. The model was developed by the PHA following the establishment of four pilot projects in different areas across Northern Ireland (North Down and Ards, Enniskillen, Banbridge and East Antrim) to test a range of potential models. The pilots were positively evaluated, and the PHA subsequently tendered for a range of new one-stop-shops across Northern Ireland, primarily focused on areas that have a need and / or a lack of services. A network has also been put in place to spread learning between the services. <p>£2.5m has been invested in Services for Young People, Children and their Families. This includes youth treatment, specialist drug and alcohol posts with Child and Adolescent Mental Health services, targeted education programmes for at risk young people and services for families.</p> <p>Work is underway, led by the HSCB, to extend existing service provision to ensure ease of access to drug and alcohol services, including counselling services, by children in care (including children in residential care) who are in need of those services.</p>	Ongoing

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
5	<p>The Public Health Agency should develop a campaign to raise public awareness of the sexual exploitation of children and young people.</p>	<p>Barnardo's will engage in discussions with the PHA in the near future, however, in advance of those discussions, the PHA has been involved in a number of initiatives relating to improving children's sexual health. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The development of a Sexual Health Promotion Strategy and Action Plan covering the period 2008-2013. The aim of the Strategy/Plan is to improve, protect and promote the sexual health and well-being of the population of Northern Ireland. The Strategy recognises that some groups are particularly vulnerable and require particular action. They include young people under 25 years and children and young people who are looked after or leaving care. ■ The establishment of a Regional Sexual Health Improvement Network in 2010. The Network has reviewed the evidence base related to reducing teenage pregnancy and the rates of STIs and HIV. ■ PHA is a key funder of the HSC Knowledge Transfer Scheme, Improving the Impact of Research, which is based on the findings of the Barnardo's Research on Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland. The proposed impact of the project is: increased awareness and understanding of CSE amongst HSC professionals; increased consistency in identification and risk assessment; increased access to practice-based CSE resources; greater awareness of risk amongst young people; increased user services engagement; and greater inter-disciplinary working. ■ With the establishment of the SBNI, on which the PHA is represented, leaflets to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation among parents, professionals and young people have been produced. Also, an NSPCC helpline is in place which will provide advice and support to parents, carers, and children and young people who have concerns relating to child sexual exploitation. ■ Awareness-raising of child sexual exploitation is a core activity of the Barnardo's Safe Choices Project, which continues to be funded by the Health and Social Care Board. Prior to funding by the HSCB, the Safe Choices Project was funded directly by the Department. The PHA also provided £5k to Barnardo's in 2012/2013 to fund a Sexual Health Group Work project. 	Ongoing

Rec.	Recommendation	Action taken	Current Status
6	The NI Policing Board should incorporate child protection (including sexual exploitation) as a priority in forthcoming Policing Plans, in reflection of the critical importance of this area of work.	This is a matter for the Policing Board.	

Department of Justice

Legal Highs

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Justice to outline that action that he has taken, and the further action he is planning to take, to tackle the issue of legal highs.

(AQW 25384/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): The issue of legal highs, more appropriately known as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), falls within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which is a reserved matter for the UK Government.

The Northern Ireland Executive's New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs 2011-16 (NSD), led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, aims to reduce alcohol and drug related harm in Northern Ireland and identifies this issue as one of emerging concern. My Department has a number of drug related outcomes within the NSD and, to ensure consistency and continuity of activity in tackling drug related harm, those outcomes are also reflected in the Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland which I published earlier this year.

My Department works closely with DHSSPS, the Public Health Agency and the PSNI in the operation of an early warning system, the Drug and Alcohol Monitoring and Information System. It has been established to identify NPS and provides an opportunity for organisations to share information about new and emerging drugs of concern. This system also assists in identifying substances that may be made subject to a UK wide Temporary Control Banning Order, under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

This matter can only be tackled by working in partnership and I remain committed to continuing to work alongside key stakeholders.

Cyber-Bullying

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to companies or persons owning websites that permit cyber-bullying or internet trolling, what legislation does he intend to introduce to allow prosecution for (i) corporately causing and /or permitting the death of persons by suicide following online abuse; or aiding and abetting corporate manslaughter and/or unlawful killing; and (ii) corporately causing and/or permitting grievous bodily harm or aiding and abetting causing grievous bodily harm, as well as harassment, in cases of attempted suicide.

(AQW 25479/11-15)

Mr Ford: Legislation on internet services is a reserved matter under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. As indicated in my answer to AQW/25158/11-15, current legislation in Northern Ireland already allows for prosecutions in relation to protecting people from harassment or bullying whether directly or in the form of "cyber-bullying". Courts also have the authority to direct the removal of inappropriate or offensive material from websites.

NI Forensic Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, following criticism by judges in several jurisdictions as to the long delay in some cases currently awaiting analysis results and/or reports from NI Forensic Service, to outline the cause of the delay and whether a backlog has accumulated.

(AQW 25483/11-15)

Mr Ford: FSNI is currently issuing 98% of all criminal casework reports within the agreed overall target times with customers. This figure has remained fairly constant and therefore backlogs are not, in general, accumulating across the Agency.

However, PSNI and FSNI are working together on several fronts to best manage available capacity and to prioritise cases as necessary.

Compromise Agreements

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 24920/11-15, to detail (i) why existing baselines can afford to fund the budget for effecting Compromise Agreements and if monies are (a) slippage; (b) transfers from within the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS); or (c) transfers from other Departments; and (ii) the Headings and the Accounting Notes that these monies are accounted for in NIPS annual audit sheets.

(AQW 25484/11-15)

Mr Ford: There was provision within NIPS Accounts for a number of payments, and the remaining monies were funded as a result of easements elsewhere within the HR Directorate as a result of under-spends.

The payments are included in the Annual Report and Accounts under the note 'Staff Numbers and Related Costs'.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission Staff

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the outstanding pay remits that are due to Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission staff, will these staff be treated differently by his Department to those agreed for the Probation Board Northern Ireland, and if so, to outline the reasons for any difference in approach.

(AQW 25501/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC) and Probation Board are separate employers and each is responsible for developing appropriate pay strategies and pay remits. It is NILSC's intention to advance a pay strategy similar to that in place for the Probation Board. The NILSC pay strategy will require Departmental and DFP approval.

Firearms Storage Arrangements

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline why it was necessary to abolish the category of Repair Firearms Dealer and increase the security storage specification on all firearms dealers in light of the current social climate and lack of threat posed by the previous arrangements.

(AQW 25506/11-15)

Mr Ford: Firearms Dealers' stocks of firearms are regulated by the Ministerial Directive of July 2009. There is a maximum number of handguns and rifles set down in the Directive that each category of firearms dealer may keep for any reason (including repair). The previous Directives did not have a repair dealer category as the Member suggests but rather a wholesale dealer category. At that time the number of handguns and rifles which could be held was significantly lower.

The Directive stated that there was no limit on the number of firearms that could be held for repair as long as the total holding (i.e. repair plus stock) did not exceed overall limits. As the 2009 Directive significantly increased the permitted holdings of handguns and rifles for category 1 and 2 dealers, the "wholesale" dealer category was removed (as now the smaller category 1 dealers could hold more than wholesale dealers could under the previous Directive).

It is the responsibility of the Chief Constable to determine the appropriate security measures required for each category of dealer.

Firearms Storage Arrangements

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether an impact audit was conducted on the viability of the trade of firearms dealers before proposals to change the firearms storage arrangements were introduced.

(AQW 25509/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is a matter for the Chief Constable of the PSNI to determine the appropriate firearms security arrangements for Registered Firearms Dealers. It would be for the PSNI to consider if any impact audit were required.

Fintona

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of convictions for drugs related offences in the Fintona area, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 25518/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is not available at levels below the Court Division in question (in this case, Fermanagh and Tyrone Court Division).

Fintona

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of (i) he recent comments by District Judge Bernadette Kelly, referring to Fintona as “our drugs capital”; and (ii) the hurt and offence caused by these remarks to the residents of Fintona.

(AQW 25519/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is an accepted principle that the courts are completely independent and therefore it would be inappropriate for me to comment on any aspect of court proceedings including any comments made by the judiciary in court.

Community Safety College at Desertcreat

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Justice to outline the outstanding approvals needed before work commences on the new Community Safety College at Desertcreat.

(AQW 25529/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I stated in the Assembly on 24 September 2013 in my answer to your question, formal Executive approval is required if the project is to proceed.

Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice whether the construction contract has been awarded for the new Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat.

(AQW 25567/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I stated in the Assembly on 24 September, the Project is now at the point at which it requires formal Executive approval, having been given approval by my Department. It will then be a matter of the final details being sorted out in order for the construction contract to be awarded.

Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice to detail the latest date that construction contractors can be appointed within the current contract quotation for the new Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat.

(AQW 25568/11-15)

Mr Ford: The procurement process began on 21 December 2012. The formal period whereby the Preferred Bidder is committed to hold their tender prices lasts until 21 December 2013. Material costs have begun to rise and the forecast is for this trend to continue. The tenders are competitively priced, meaning that the contractor is under pressure to hold the original tender price against a backdrop of increasing material costs.

Legal advice is that it is not possible to insist on the preferred tenderer keeping his tender open beyond 21 December 2013. Nor would it be permissible to agree an increase in the preferred tenderer's price after that date. However if the preferred tenderer is happy to keep his price open for a

reasonable period after that date, then, in the absence of any statement in the tender documentation to the contrary, there seems no reason why the authority is prohibited from entering into a contract with him at that price at a later date, provided there is no unfairness to other bidders.

Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice when he expects the on-site work to commence on the new Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat.

(AQW 25569/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I stated in the Assembly on 24 September I have already approved the business case and sought Executive approval for the Desertcreat project by way of an Urgent Procedure. Assuming that it is approved in the immediate future, on-site works could begin in February 2014.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Self harm

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 24598/11-15, to outline (i) why the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) were not tracking and trending patterns of all self harm incidents in prisons prior to 2010; and (ii) why it was not considered as a useful learning tool in an effort to reduce self-harm, given the continual increase of such incidents, the number of high profile cases and the copious number of external reports criticising NIPS on a regular basis.

(AQW 25571/11-15)

Mr Ford: Prior to 2010 the Prison Record Information System (PRISM) did not support the electronic recording of self-harm incidents.

Following the introduction of the Supporting Prisoners At Risk process in December 2009, PRISM was developed to initiate the recording of all incidents of self-harm with effect from January 2010. Managing self-harming behaviour within prisons is a very difficult and challenging issue. The implementation of a better recording system to capture important data on self-harm underpins NIPS commitment to reducing self-harm and keeping prisoners safe. NIPS continues to record all incidents of self-harm to allow for trends to be analysed and to support local operational decision-making.

Safety of Female Prison Officers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) to outline the steps that are being taken to ensure the safety of female prison officers working alone at night in the Sex Offenders wing at Magilligan Prison, with prisoners who have a key to their own room, commensurate with Health and Safety at Work Legislation, in which particular attention is drawn to the safety of employees working alone at night, and given the statements made by the Director General to the Committee for Justice on 16 May 2013 in relation to female colleagues; and (ii) whether the highest possible degree of protection for staff is paramount to best practice and that best practice is the aim of the Northern Ireland Prison Service; and (iii) for his assessment as to the removal of keys from prisoners.

(AQW 25573/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service ensures that equality of opportunity exists for all staff regardless of gender. (i) There are no circumstances whereby any prison officer would have to work alone at night in a residential landing when prisoners are unlocked. Procedures are in place to allow emergencies to be managed safely. (ii) The safety of NIPS staff is paramount. Procedures for the operation of all areas are risk assessed; these assessments take full account of the safety of staff and the security of the establishment. (iii) Prisoners who hold keys for their own cells are selected on the basis of risk. Staff are not required to enter alone any area where prisoners hold keys. In all cases staff may override the locking mechanism.

National Crime Agency

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, as the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is being replaced by National Crime Agency (NCA) which is continuing the strategy established by SOCA on

human trafficking, how this can be implemented effectively given Northern Ireland does not, and as matters currently stand will not, have the NCA; and for his assessment of whether this will create legal loopholes which could actively be exploited by human traffickers to operate locally and operate a portal to other jurisdictions.

(AQW 25574/11-15)

Mr Ford: The lack of agreement reached here on the National Crime Agency means that the NCA will be significantly restricted in Northern Ireland. I believe that we need a fully functioning NCA in Northern Ireland, which sits within policing structures here, and I have not given up on securing a wider role.

Northern Ireland is likely to lose out in terms of the international reach and specialist capabilities of NCA. However officials from my Department are currently working with law enforcement agencies and others to try and mitigate the effects of this.

The Organised Crime Task Force Immigration and Human Trafficking subgroup will continue to bring together statutory partners, whether devolved or non-devolved, to ensure a joined up response to tackling this crime. I will ensure that arrangements continue to be effective in protecting victims, disrupting the activities of traffickers and bringing them to justice.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) how many claims have been lodged by victims of human trafficking to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, broken down by year and type of exploitation since 2009; (ii) how many claims have been successful since 2009; and (iii) the average amount of compensation awarded in each year.

(AQW 25620/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- i This information is only available from 2013 as prior to this Compensation Services' IT system did not identify this type of claim separately from other claims. From the beginning of 2013 a total of six claims has been lodged by alleged victims of human trafficking, four of which are recorded as labour exploitation and two for sexual exploitation.
- ii. These claims are still under consideration.
- iii. No compensation has been awarded to date.

Illegal Possession of Drugs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) any plans he has to ensure defendants caught and charged with suspected illegal possession of drugs, who await full forensic results to be provided before pleading guilty are made financially liable for the testing costs of their forensic results; and (ii) can he clarify that these costs are not currently met by Legal Aid if the defendant has been granted Legal Aid for their defence.

(AQW 25622/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are currently no plans to make defendants who await full forensic results financially liable for forensic testing costs.

I can confirm that forensic tests commissioned as part of a police investigation are not paid for from Legal Aid.

Prisoner Temporary Release

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, following the temporary release of Mr Noel Parker to attend a wedding, were any concerns raised, reported or recorded by staff to any Northern Ireland Prison Service Department, including the Life Management Unit, into any aspect of his release.

(AQW 25624/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no record of any concerns being raised following the Accompanied Temporary Release of Mr Parker.

Central Investigation Service

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Justice if the Central Investigation Service in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has ever been used to conduct an investigation in (i) the Public prosecution Service; or (ii) the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

(AQW 25629/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service has used the services of the Central Investigation Service (CIS) in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to carry out investigations on two occasions. The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is independent from me as Minister of Justice but I am advised that PPS has not used the CIS to conduct an investigation.

Prison Population

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice what is the prison population.

(AQW 25647/11-15)

Mr Ford: On 17 September 2013 the prison population was as follows:

Maghaberry	1089
Magilligan	541
Hydebank Wood (Female)	61
Hydebank Wood (Male Young Offenders)	171
Total	1862

A weekly population report is provided on the NIPS website at www.dojni.gov.uk/index/ni-prison-service/situation-reports.

NI Legal Services Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, given the effect on staff morale within NI Legal Services Commission from the ongoing outstanding pay remits, as acknowledged in the latest annual report, when he will intervene directly to ensure that these outstanding pay remits are sent to the Department of Finance and Personnel.

(AQW 25649/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have made clear throughout this process that I want the pay strategy business case finalised and submitted to DFP for approval as quickly as possible. We are at the stage where final checks are being made to the business case with NILSC. Once those checks are complete and the business case finalised, the case can be submitted to DFP for their consideration.

NI Legal Services Commission

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice for an estimate of the time spent by departmental officials and those in the NI Legal Services Commission (NILSC), at Deputy Principal grade or above, on the outstanding NILSC pay strategy to date, broken down by grade.

(AQW 25678/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department does not record time spent by officials on specific projects in a way that would allow this question to be answered in the format requested. However, officials from the Department's Public Legal Services Division, Personnel and Office Services Division and Financial

Services Division have been involved in supporting the NI Legal Services Commission in preparing a pay strategy business case.

Convictions for Driving Without Insurance

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of convictions for driving without insurance in Fermanagh and South Tyrone Court Division, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 25698/11-15)

Mr Ford: Uninsured driving is an offence under Article 90(4) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. The information requested is not available for the last two years. The most recent two years for which the information requested is available are 2008 and 2009.

In 2008, there were 599 convictions for this offence, in courts in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Division. In 2009, there were 823 convictions for this offence, in courts in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Division.

Note:

- 1 Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.
- 2 The figures provided relate to convictions for all classifications of the offence specified.

Magilligan Prison

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice to detail the timetable for the rebuild of Magilligan Prison.

(AQW 25713/11-15)

Mr Ford: Following my update to the Assembly on March 19th, NIPS Officials continue their work in developing the plans for all the projects included in the Estate Strategy including that of the rebuilding of Magilligan.

In the intervening period, a Strategic Outline Business Case for Magilligan's redevelopment has been prepared in-house and approved by colleagues in the Department of Finance and Personnel. NIPS Officials are in the process of developing the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the project with a deadline for completion by the end of this year. The future programme is dependent on the OBC being approved and capital funding being made available. Until the Business Case is approved and capital funding made available, I am unable to provide any further details of the timetable.

Access NI Criminal Records Checks

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Justice what consideration he has given to the expense incurred by individuals as a result of multiple Access NI criminal records checks when applying for jobs.

(AQW 25733/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have accepted a recommendation made by Sunita Mason, the Independent Advisor for Criminality Information in England and Wales, that a system of portable disclosures and updated online checking be introduced in Northern Ireland. The change requires legislation provision and the introduction of changes to the current computer system. I am planning to introduce the former in the next Justice Bill. The work on the changes to the computer system has begun.

Once the change is implemented, citizens may not need to re-apply for an AccessNI check as they move between employers, thereby reducing cost for those that are currently required to pay for checks. It should be noted that those requesting a portable disclosure will pay an additional annual fee, except those who are volunteers.

Prison Service: Environmental Allowance

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) why there is a disparity in some prison staff receive the Environmental Allowance whilst others do not; and (ii) the percentage of prison staff that are in receipt of the allowance.

(AQW 25761/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are no prison grade staff (uniform grades or governor grades) in receipt of an Environmental Allowance.

There are 552 staff (35.5% of 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.

Emergency Allowance Payments to Prison Officers

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to Emergency Allowance payments to prison officers, to detail (i) the circumstances when payments are provided; and (ii) the number of officers in receipt of the allowance.

(AQW 25820/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are no prison grade staff (uniform grades or governor grades) in receipt of an Emergency Allowance.

There are 552 staff (35.5% of 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.

Operational Prison Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 25020/11-15, whether the cost of the Northern Ireland Prison Service and Northern Ireland Civil Service supplying staff to investigate alleged and suspected misconduct for operational prison staff commensurates with annual averages against the employment of a small pool of retired police officers to draw from, required on a case by case basis.

(AQW 25865/11-15)

Mr Ford: Such a costing has not been made. The Northern Ireland Civil Service already has a large pool of staff to draw from so it would not be appropriate for the Department of Justice to employ retired police officers to investigate internal employment related matters.

Pritchard Test

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the criteria contained within the Pritchard test as applied for fitness to plead trial cases.

(AQW 25877/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Pritchard Test is a common law approach to determining a defendant's fitness to plead. In accordance with the test, fitness to plead is determined on the basis of the defendant's capability to comply with the following six criteria:

- Understanding the charges;
- Deciding whether to plead guilty or not;
- Exercising his or her right to challenge jurors;
- Instructing solicitors and counsel;
- Following the course of proceedings; and
- Giving evidence in his or her own defence.

If it is determined, on the balance of probabilities, that any one of the six criteria is beyond the capability of the accused, then he or she must be found to be unfit to plead.

Magilligan Prison

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 25404/11-15, if he intends to bring the timetable for the rebuilding of Magilligan Prison on its existing site, as contained in the Outline Business Case, before the Assembly in January 2014.

(AQW 25999/11-15)

Mr Ford: Further to my response to AQW/25404/11-15, the timetable for the redevelopment of Magilligan Prison will be dependent on the Department of Finance and Personnel's approval of the Outline Business Case and subject to the availability of funding. Until the Business Case is approved and capital funding made available I am unable to provide any further details of the timetable.

Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the progress of the Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness programme.

(AQO 4631/11-15)

Mr Ford: The wider prison reform programme encompasses the 40 PRT recommendations and the work of the Strategic Efficiency and Effectiveness Programme (SEE). The Northern Ireland Prison Service is currently half way through this three year programme, which will run until April 2015. A clear pathway for delivery has been developed to ensure all recommendations are implemented, with the remaining recommendations due to be completed at various stages over the next 18 months.

To date, nine recommendations have been approved as complete by the Prison Review Oversight Group, which I Chair. The Group provides oversight and scrutiny of the reform programme and includes a robust and challenging independent element.

Prison Reform Oversight Group

Mr Milne asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the Prison Reform Oversight Group.

(AQO 4637/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Prison Review Oversight Group, which I chair, provides oversight and scrutiny of the prison reform programme and includes a robust and challenging independent element. The Oversight Group meets on a quarterly basis and provides an update to the Justice Committee after each meeting. These updates are also published on the Prison Service website.

Good progress is being made against the extensive programme of end to end transformational reform, guided by the 40 recommendations made by the Prison Review Team (PRT).

To date, nine recommendations have been approved as complete by the Prison Review Oversight Group.

Prisoners: Supervision

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice where, as part of the sentence imposed on someone convicted of a terrorist offence, the prisoner is subject to licence in the community, who actually provides supervision of the prisoner while on licence.

(AQO 4641/11-15)

Mr Ford: Where licence conditions are imposed on persons released from prison they are monitored by the Probation Board with support, where appropriate from the PSNI, Prison Service and my Department.

Individuals released on licence are subject to a combination of standard conditions set out in legislation, and where relevant, additional conditions. The aim of these conditions is to reduce the risk of harm to the public, reduce reoffending and support the resettlement of the offender.

A licence may be revoked and the offender recalled to custody where it is considered the risk of harm posed by an individual can no longer be safely managed within the community.

Parades Commission

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Justice how many meetings he has held with Parades Commission officials in the past six months.

(AQO 4630/11-15)

Mr Ford: At the outset I want to welcome the efforts of all those who are working to secure a peaceful outcome to the parading disputes. Resolution of contentious parades is possible. I hope that those who have influence will continue to show leadership and work with their communities and the police to ease tensions where they exist. We do not want to see violence, with the cost it brings to communities, to policing and to our image.

The talks, led by Dr Richard Haass, will provide an important focus as we attempt to resolve this and other contentious issues.

Within the past six months I have attended three meetings, chaired by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, at which the Chair and the Secretary of the Parades Commission were present.

Historical Enquiries Team

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Justice what discussions he has had with the Chief Constable on the impact of the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report on the Historical Enquiries Team.

(AQO 4638/11-15)

Mr Ford: I met with the Chief Constable following publication of the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report on the Historical Enquiries Team to discuss the report and its findings and to be updated on the work he is taking forward in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Policing Board Working Group

Department for Regional Development

East Bridge Street Junction, Belfast

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Roads Service have consulted with cycle groups regarding proposed changes to the East Bridge Street junction, Belfast.

(AQW 25259/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): My Department proposes to amend road markings and traffic lane designations at the junction of Oxford Street with East Bridge Street, Belfast.

This is a routine minor local amendment which is considered will benefit all road users and does not require legislative changes. In these circumstances, no specific consultation was carried out.

I would also advise the Member that I have recently instructed my officials to give increased and focused priority to the needs of cyclists, to encourage greater participation in this healthy and sustainable form of transport. To that end, I am establishing a new cycling unit to ensure cycling issues and initiatives are progressed in a more coherent and coordinated manner across my Department, in partnership with local government, voluntary bodies, public transport operators and the health and education sectors.

Cyclists

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development if he has any plans to allow cyclists to bring their bicycle on to trains at all times.

(AQW 25264/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink's current cycling policy has been in place since 2005 and was developed following consultation with rail customers and key stakeholders. Translink has agreed to discuss these matters going forward with relevant stakeholders and did so recently when the Class 4000 trains were introduced.

Given the significant increase in rail passenger journeys since the policy was introduced, and the peak loadings carried before 09:30 each day, Northern Ireland Railways do not envisage a relaxation of the existing policy, as to do so would be at a significant detriment to current passengers. Furthermore in comparing its policy to that of National Rail, Translink is in line with other GB operators with regard to restrictions to cycle carriage before 09:30/10:00.

A comparison of the National Rail Cycle policy with that of Translink highlights the following:

- Like NIR, GB operators either apply restrictions to cycle carriage before 09:30/10:00 hours and during pm peak or alternatively make reservations compulsory.
- Like NIR, GB operators generally carry cycles free of charge.
- Most GB operators have a maximum cycle capacity of 2-4 compared to NIR's 4-8 cycles per train.

On very early trains and on contra-commute trains, i.e. trains operating out of Belfast in the mornings, Translink do already regularly carry passengers with bicycles. This is done at the Conductor's discretion and Conductors have been briefed to accept cycles where capacity permits, i.e. no expectation of standing passengers in the cycle area. However the majority of trains to Belfast operating before 08:00 are already carrying significant numbers of passengers. For information there are no travel restrictions placed on the number of folding bicycles which may be carried on trains. These may be carried at any time, including prior to the normal 09.30 restriction. In addition there are currently 208 bicycle storage spaces across the rail network. Currently this is more than adequate to meet demand.

In general, evening service loadings are more spread out than morning services. This means that NIR will generally seek to accept bikes without restriction in the evening commute. It is Translink's intention that they will seek to maintain this position where possible.

I am fully supportive of measures to facilitate cyclists but believe that the Translink policy has merit when we consider the overall needs of rail passengers.

Parking Violations in Coalisland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 24921/11-15, given that five years have lapsed since proposals were last provided and in view of recent concerns as to parking violations in Coalisland, if his officials will re-engage with the relevant Regeneration Partnership to review the current parking provision.

(AQW 25313/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I should advise that the Coalisland Regeneration Group has not met for over two years. Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and the Department for Social Development consider this group to have been discontinued.

However, Roads Service has requested a meeting with the Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council's town centre manager and Coalisland area councillors to discuss parking issues in Coalisland.

Translink Student Discounts

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to encourage Translink to address the disparity between student discounts offered to mature students, aged 23 years or older, and younger students on all Translink bus services.

(AQW 25343/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has attempted, as far as possible to harmonise the approach to discounts available to students through the yLink card. This provides all 16-23-year olds, student or otherwise, with one-third off on all bus and rail services (but not in addition to all other discounted fares types).

A range of Smartlink value/multi-journey/period and promotional fares are available to all passengers across the various modes of public transport including the Uni-Link bus service which offer mature students the same level of discount as those students who avail of the yLink card. There is therefore no disparity on bus services.

Public Transport

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what percentage of the total roads budget was spent on public transport, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 25354/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Public Transport budget is not drawn from the Roads budget, they are two separate elements of the total Departmental budget.

However, the tables below show the percentage breakdown of the total of roads and transport expenditure in terms of the total Departmental budget, excluding water, for each of the last nine years (2004/05 to 2012/13) together with the June Monitoring budget position for 2013/14.

Resource:

	04/ 05	05/ 06	06/ 07	07/ 08	08/ 09	09/ 10	10/ 11	11/ 12	12/ 13	13/ 14
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Roads	73.2	71.6	69.4	69.3	70.1	67.3	66.7	68.5	68.0	71.9
Transport	26.8	28.4	30.6	30.7	29.9	32.7	33.3	31.5	32.0	28.1

Investment:

	04/ 05	05/ 06	06/ 07	07/ 08	08/ 09	09/ 10	10/ 11	11/ 12	12/ 13	13/ 14
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Roads	66.6	63.9	71.4	62.0	75.1	83.3	82.0	60.5	73.2	87.8
Transport	33.4	36.1	28.6	38.0	24.9	16.7	18.0	39.5	26.8	12.2

It should be noted that the road network is an essential conduit for Public Transport in Northern Ireland; over 85% of Translink's total passenger journeys are made on roads. It is therefore essential that the road network is improved to ensure user safety and the reliability of journey times.

Price of Train Travel

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail how the price of a train fare from (i) Derry; (ii) Coleraine; (iii) Ballymena; and (iv) Ballymoney to Great Victoria Street, Belfast, compares to the cost of a car journey from the same starting point.

(AQW 25355/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: For each of the four rail stations Translink have provided a comparison against petrol and diesel cars for (a) weekly; and (b) monthly fares. The cost of a car journey is estimated based upon standard Automobile Association methodology for car running costs and excludes standing costs such

as insurance and road tax. Even with these additional costs excluded, travelling by train is cheaper for each of the four stations.

The detailed analysis and the assumptions underpinning the calculations are shown below:

Journey	Great Victoria Street to Londonderry Train Station		Great Victoria Street to Coleraine Train Station		Great Victoria Street to Ballymena Train Station		Great Victoria Street to Ballymoney Train Station	
	Petrol £	Diesel £	Petrol £	Diesel £	Petrol £	Diesel £	Petrol £	Diesel £
Weekly Cost by Private Car (Travelling 5 Days per Week)	149.81	129.86	107.61	93.28	59.08	51.21	101.28	87.80
Weekly Ticket on NI Railways	58.00	58.00	55.00	55.00	50.00	50.00	53.00	53.00
Total Savings per Week	91.81	71.86	52.61	38.28	9.08	1.21	48.28	34.80
Monthly Cost by Private Car (Travelling 20 Days per Month)	599.24	519.44	472.64	409.70	236.32	204.85	405.12	351.17
Monthly Ticket on NI Railways	195	195.00	187.50	187.50	175.00	175.00	182.50	182.50
Total Savings per Month	404.25	324.44	285.14	222.20	61.32	29.85	222.62	168.67

*A 33% reduction is available on all standard NI Railways Day Return tickets (adult or child).

Assumptions on which the figures in above table are based:-

Figures are based on AA basic running costs of a new car priced up to the value of up to £13,000 and current petrol prices of 135.7 pence per litre and diesel of 139.7 (NI cheapest price – Source CCNI as at 12 Sept 2013). Based on these details, the AA calculates a Petrol Car running cost of 21.10 pence per mile Diesel Car running cost of 18.29 pence per mile (including fuel, tyres, servicing & parts).

Source: http://www.theaa.com/allaboutcars/advice/advice_rcosts_petrol_table.jsp

<http://www.consumerCouncil.org.uk/cost-of-living-consumer-tips/fuel-price-watch>

Great Victoria Street to Londonderry Train Station

- Single - 71 Miles
- Return - 142 Miles
- Weekly based on 5 Return Journeys - 710 Miles
- Monthly based on 20 Return Journeys - 2,840 Miles

Great Victoria Street to Coleraine Train Station

- Single - 56 Miles
- Return - 112 Miles
- Weekly based on 5 Return Journeys - 560 Miles
- Monthly based on 20 Return Journeys - 2240 Miles

Great Victoria Street to Ballymena Train Station

- Single - 28 Miles
- Return - 56 Miles
- Weekly based on 5 Return Journeys - 280 Miles
- Monthly based on 20 Return Journeys - 1120 Miles

Great Victoria Street to Ballymoney Train Station

- Single - 48 Miles
- Return - 96 Miles
- Weekly based on 5 Return Journeys - 480 Miles

Monthly based on 20 Return Journeys - 1920 Miles

Speed Limit of Less Than 30mph

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of roads that have a designated speed limit of less than 30mph.

(AQW 25359/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that a 20mph speed limit applies to 567 roads in Northern Ireland. In addition, three roads have a part time 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of schools. There are no other speed limits of less than 30mph which have been legislated for.

Speed Limit of Less Than 30mph

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria that is used when designating a speed limit of less than 30mph.

(AQW 25361/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: All speed limits, other than those on Restricted Roads, are made by order under Article 38 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

When designating any speed limit for a road, including those under 30 mph, Roads Service traffic engineers should comply with the Department's policy guideline document, RSPPG E051 Setting Local Speed Limits in Northern Ireland. This document is available to download from the Department's web site as part of its Publication Scheme.

Craigantlet Hills Area

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on proposed road works for the Craigantlet Hills area.

(AQW 25363/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Member will be aware I instructed Roads Service to consider all of the alternative proposals for a road improvement scheme in Craigantlet which were put forward by local residents.

Roads Service has received a draft of the Consultant's report, which is currently being considered after which it will be finalised.

No further decisions will be taken before the findings of this report have been given careful consideration.

Cyclists on Public Highways

Mr Storey asked Minister for Regional Development to outline the legislation that is applicable to cyclists on public highways.

(AQW 25394/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Highway Code for Northern Ireland contains a specific section entitled 'Rules for Cyclists' and these rules are in addition to subsequent sections in the Code, which apply to all vehicles. It also contains a section entitled 'You and your bicycle'. The Highway Code can be accessed from the NI Direct internet site at the following web address: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/highway-code.pdf>.

Many of these rules are legal requirements and such rules are identified by the use of the words 'MUST/MUST NOT'. Where these words appear in a rule, an abbreviated reference to the legislation which creates the offence is provided at the end of the rule. An explanation of the abbreviations is provided on page 125 of the Code.

Cycling Infrastructure in Belfast

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department has invested in cycling infrastructure in Belfast, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 25413/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The information requested by the Member is not available in the form requested, as my Department does not maintain details of investment in cycling infrastructure by individual Council area.

Public Transport

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will increase the proportion spent on public transport in comparison to roads in future budgetary periods.

(AQW 25419/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In supporting the Executive's Programme for Government priority of 'Growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future'. DRD plays a lead role through improving the transport infrastructure within the available funding.

As part of the New Approach to Regional Transportation my Department is currently developing a Transport Spending Plan which will feed into the next Executive Budget process.

This will identify those transport schemes relating to roads or public transport which will best achieve the strategic objectives of the Executive.

Cycling Infrastructure Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development whether any cycling infrastructure schemes are planned for North Down in the next three years.

(AQW 25420/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

I can advise that the detailed budget for subsequent years has not yet been finalised and so it is not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

Park and Ride Facility in Dungiven

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he, or any departmental officials, have had discussions regarding the acquisition of a site for a Park and Ride facility in the Dungiven area.
(AQW 25451/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In 2010, my Department explored the possibility of acquiring part of the former controlled secondary school site on Main Street to provide a dedicated Park and Ride site. However, it became clear during initial consultations with local residents that there was strong opposition to the proposal and it was not developed any further.

As part of the development of the dualling of the A6 between Londonderry and Dungiven, opportunities to provide a number of Park and Ride sites have been considered. One of these is located on the eastern side of Dungiven, in the Magherabuoy townland, and would provide approximately 100 Park and Ride spaces. This facility would be developed along with the construction of the Dungiven Bypass element of the A6 scheme.

Ballycastle to Ballymena Bus Service

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to improve the Ballycastle to Ballymena bus service.
(AQW 25469/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that the local bus operations management team meets with Moyle District Council on a quarterly basis to discuss services in the area.

One of the key services which is discussed is the Ballycastle to Ballymena corridor which, between services 131 and 217, provides 7 return journeys Monday to Friday, rising to 8 in July and August.

The possibility of increasing the service level on this corridor has been discussed at length at previous meetings and Translink has advised Council representatives that current patronage on this corridor would not justify additional journeys at present.

Translink has however agreed to keep this matter under review.

Train Halts Between Derry and Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of miles between each train halt between Derry and Great Victoria Street, Belfast.
(AQW 25470/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below provides the detail on the number of miles between each train halt between Londonderry and Great Victoria Street, Belfast as requested.

Station	Station	Distance between Stations (miles)
Londonderry	Bellarena	20.25
Bellarena	Castlerock	7.50
Castlerock	Coleraine	5.75
Coleraine	Ballymoney	8.25
Ballymoney	Cullybackey	17.00
Cullybackey	Ballymena	3.00
Ballymena	Antrim	11.75

Station	Station	Distance between Stations (miles)
Antrim	Mossley West	11.75
Mossley West	Whiteabbey	3.25
Whiteabbey	Yorkgate	4.50
Yorkgate	Belfast Central	1.25
Belfast Central	Botanic	1.00
Botanic	City Hospital	0.25
City Hospital	Great Victoria Street	0.50

Park and Ride Facility

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans for a Park and Ride facility for commuters from North Antrim, including those travelling from the A44 Drones Road.

(AQW 25471/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I understand, based on the number of cars parking at various points along the road, there is evidence of the need for a Park and Share/Ride car park along the Glarryford to Drones Road corridor.

The proposed A26 Glarryford to A44 Drones Road dualling scheme will include the provision of a 50-100 space Park and Ride/Share facility. This will be located adjacent to the Drumadoon Road junction.

Although funding for construction of the dualling scheme is not currently provided for in the current budget period, my Department will continue to develop the A26 scheme to a procurement-ready position.

As you may be aware, following a Strategic Review of Park & Ride in 2011, my Department established a Park and Ride Programme Board which is responsible for co-ordinating and prioritising the implementation of 'Park and Ride' and 'Park and Share' projects, in line with the Department's strategy.

The Programme Board has produced a 'Park and Ride Strategic Delivery Programme 2013-15', which is a prioritised schedule of new Park and Ride projects with clearly defined responsibilities for funding, implementation, maintenance and operation. This Programme plans to create at least an additional 1,000 'Park and Ride' and 'Park and Share' spaces across Northern Ireland in the next two years. Details of the Programme are available on my Department's website at:

www.drdni.gov.uk/index/publications/publications-details.htm?docid=8996

Funding has been secured for 'Park and Ride' projects in my Department's budget. However, the implementation of Park and Ride schemes will take place in a constrained budgetary context and this may impact on the ability to deliver all the priority projects identified in the Programme.

In relation to North Antrim, the Programme has recently delivered an additional 45 spaces at Coleraine Bus and Train Centre. Proposals for the delivery of additional spaces at Ballymena railway station and at Cullybackey halt are also being moved forward.

Parking Tickets

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development whether traffic wardens can cancel a parking ticket once it has been issued.

(AQW 25476/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: A Traffic Attendant cannot cancel a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) which has been issued. A PCN can only be cancelled by the Parking Enforcement Processing Unit.

Cycling Infrastructure

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department has invested in cycling infrastructure in (i) North Down; and (ii) Ards in each of the last five years.

(AQW 25487/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The information requested by the Member is not available in the form requested, as my Department does not maintain details of investment in cycling infrastructure by individual Council area.

Ballymenoch Park, Holywood

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether consideration has been given to implementing parking restrictions on one side of Ballymenoch Park, Holywood.

(AQW 25513/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I refer to the answers I provided to AQW25512/11-15 and AQW 25514/11-15.

Officials regard the parking situation in Ballymenoch Park as similar to Seapark Road and do not intend to provide waiting restrictions at this location.

Seapark, Holywood

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to commission a survey of residents in the Seapark area of Holywood to gauge if they would like (i) speed bumps on the Seapark Road; (ii) parking restrictions on one side of the Seapark Road; and (iii) parking restrictions on one side of Ballymenoch Park.

(AQW 25514/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my replies to his related questions, AQW25512/11-15 and AQW 25513/11-15. Given that officials have already considered these matters, I do not believe that a survey of residents is needed.

Street Lighting in Residential Areas

Mr Clarke asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) when the current policy regarding the removal of street lighting in residential areas came into effect; (ii) what consultation procedure took place; and (iii) what savings will be made as a result.

(AQW 25528/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member the policy for not renewing lighting on existing paths, which would no longer be eligible for lighting under the current policy, has been in place since at least 1994.

In 1994, there was no requirement for consultation on policy.

The estimated capital and operating savings per annum, based on an annual renewal of 200 lights that have reached, or are nearing, the end of their safe working life, is £313,000.

Railway Line Damage

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development, following the incident where 150 tonnes of embankment beneath a railway line near Lisburn, County Antrim, were washed away by rain in June 2012, why this line was used to provide a train service from Belfast to Portrush since it had not been in use for several years; and to detail the measures taken to ensure that (i) the inspection of earthworks and structures are carried out before journeys; (ii) adequate safety procedures are in place to deal with adverse weather conditions; (iii) a sufficiently formal communication system is in place with the Rivers Agency; (v) Rail Accident Investigation Branch is informed rather than the current two-step approach; and (vi) adequate weed control is put in place.

(AQW 25532/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: This incident occurred on the 27th August 2012 when a train carrying spectators to the Irish Golf Open at Portrush came upon a washed out section of line close to the Knockmore junction. As a result of the prompt action of the train crew on the day no injury arose to any passengers or crew and no damage was caused to the train. This railway line was used regularly over the past number of years for a combination of non-scheduled and scheduled services. It was, and is, frequently used by Northern Ireland Railways in driver training, for the movement of rolling stock for operational and maintenance purposes and as a relief line to be used for diversionary purposes. On this occasion, the railway line was being used to provide additional capacity and operational flexibility in response to high demand in passenger numbers for those attending the Irish Open. This incident was subject to an investigation and a report by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB), the independent accident/incident investigator for the United Kingdom. In relation to the remaining points raised I would advise as follows:-

- (i) Earthworks, structures and track are inspected in accordance with National and Local Railway Standards.
- (ii) The RAIB report makes clear that the weather that gave rise to the incident was at least a 1 in 200-year event and that actual rainfall far exceeded weather predictions. Northern Ireland Railways has in place procedures and processes to manage a wide range of weather conditions to cope with weather-related risk. However as a consequence of the report Northern Ireland Railways has reviewed and where reasonably practicable has further strengthened its weather management procedures.
- (iii) With regard to drainage in and around the Brokerstown area, Northern Ireland Railways had not been made aware of a previous incident of flooding or of the Rivers Agency's Risk Assessment. Arising from the investigation and report Northern Ireland Railways have enhanced communication channels with the Rivers Agency and will keep these under review.
- (iv) Northern Ireland Railways in conjunction with other rail operators in UK conforms to reporting regulations and reports directly to RAIB. On this occasion, as the RAIB report shows, the matter was not initially correctly reported. My Department, as Safety Authority, the Health & Safety Executive and the RAIB jointly conducted Seminars with NIR to ensure a better understanding of reporting protocols.
- (v) Northern Ireland Railways has adequate weed control processes for mainline track and branch lines. When weather conditions are particularly wet such as occurred during the 2012 weed spraying programme, spraying is not effective. In those circumstances Northern Ireland Railways puts in place a risk-based priority spraying programme which ensures that weed on mainline track will be adequately managed by maximising any dry spells.

My Department, acting as the Safety Authority, will work closely with NIR on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Report.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development whether any funding allocated to the A5 road scheme has been reinvested in cycling.

(AQW 25535/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Following the Court ruling on the A5 scheme, and in accordance with financial procedures, I declared a reduced requirement of £108m in relation to the A5 allocation to the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The A5 funding was reallocated in the June 2013 monitoring round for the 2013-14 financial year. I secured over £33m in funding for roads maintenance and for the purchase of around 80 new buses. In addition, around £40m has been agreed to enable work to start on the Magherafelt Bypass next year.

A proportion of the overall maintenance funding will be used to improve cycling provision. Road repairs and resurfacing generally will enhance safety and provide other improvements for all road users, including cyclists.

I made an unsuccessful bid in the June Monitoring Round for £4m for Local Transport and Safety Measures (LTSM), which includes cycling infrastructure measures, and a further bid of £3m has been included for LTSM in the October Monitoring Round. I have also promoted a bid of £1m in the 2014/15 Capital Budget Exercise, which relates solely to cycling infrastructure.

A decision on this funding will only be realised once the outcome of the budget reviews are announced by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

As the Member will be aware, I have recently instructed officials in my Department to give increased and focussed priority to the needs of cyclists, to encourage greater participation in this healthy and sustainable form of transport. I have also asked for a new cycling unit to be established, to ensure the effective progress of a range of cycling initiatives.

Giro d'Italia 2014

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department will ensure that the Giro D'Italia 2014 leaves a lasting legacy for everyday cycling.

(AQW 25537/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is represented on the Northern Ireland Local Steering Group, which is the overseeing committee organising the event. Officials from my Roads Service are involved in the operational aspects of the event through the Race Committee.

The delivery structure of the event has targeted 'legacy' as one of the primary objectives of the event. Whilst the Northern Ireland Tourist Board is leading this aspect of the event organisation, my Department will assist wherever possible.

Travelwise officials have contributed to a draft Legacy Plan which among other things seeks to encourage school's participation in the event and on-going promotion of Active Travel for the journey to school as well as to encourage the wider local population to engage with cycling as a means of transport and a fun activity to get fit.

Programme for Government 2011-2015

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development what progress has he made towards meeting the targets of children walking and cycling to school, as set out in the Programme for Government 2011-2015.

(AQW 25538/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department in partnership with the Public Health Agency has put in place an Active School Travel Initiative to engage with a range of schools across N Ireland to deliver a walking and cycling skills training programme.

The contract to deliver this initiative was awarded to Sustrans in July 2013 and involves the delivery of a programme of cycle and walking skills training to pupils in 180 schools across Northern Ireland over a three year period. The objective of this programme is to encourage school children to adopt cycling and walking as their main mode of transport to school which will help to increase numbers identified in the Programme for Government (PfG) target.

A robust programme of monitoring and evaluation is being developed to ensure compliance with the PfG targets and improved information.

Prior to award of this contract my Department commissioned a one year interim sustainable school travel proposal delivered to 40 schools which began the process of delivering increases in sustainable transport choices made by school children in advance of the introduction of the full Active School Travel Programme.

I aim to bid for £2m in October monitoring to support this programme with investment in infrastructure (often safety measures at schools) and I am keen to develop a long term marketing campaign to develop behavioural change to further promote the benefits of sustainable alternatives to the car.

My Department is also working with other Stakeholders in the forthcoming Giro d'Italia Big Start to ensure that it provides a lasting legacy for cycling among our school children.

Cycle Route from Victoria Park to Holywood

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has plans to develop a cycle route from Victoria Park to Holywood.

(AQW 25539/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that cycling facilities already exist along the A2 between Victoria Park and Holywood.

In the longer term, my Department's preferred option for improving the A2 Sydenham Bypass between the M3 Lagan Bridge Junction and the Tillysburn Junction proposes widening the existing carriageway from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. Pedestrian and cycle facilities will also be enhanced through a high quality shared-use facility on one side of the A2 Sydenham Bypass, adjacent to both the Belfast City Airport and Victoria Park. This shared-use footway and cycle track will be segregated from the carriageway by the provision of a barrier. However, the progression of this scheme is dependent upon the successful completion of the statutory procedures, a satisfactory economic appraisal and the availability of finance beyond the current budget period.

Capital Work Schemes

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the capital work schemes aimed at increasing (i) pedestrian; and (ii) cyclist travel in each of the (a) last; and (b) next five years.

(AQW 25542/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is committed to providing safer roads for the growing number of vulnerable road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, by utilising a range of measures. Such measures include: road safety engineering, education, traffic calming, and enhancement of the pedestrian and cycling network.

It would be impractical to list all the capital works schemes completed over the past five years, however, details of all the transportation and minor works schemes, aimed at improving safety for these vulnerable users, which have been carried out in each of the Council areas can be found in the 'Roads Service reports to Councils' page on the DRD website, www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information.htm

In respect of investment over the next five years, detailed budgets have yet to be determined for future years and as such, details of the specific programmes of works have not been finalised. I can confirm, however, that cycling and pedestrian schemes will continue to be identified and it is my intention to continue to invest in and improve the infrastructure as far as available resources permit.

As the Member will be aware, I have recently instructed officials in my Department to give increased and focussed priority to the needs of cyclists, to encourage greater participation in this healthy and sustainable form of transport. I have also asked for a new cycling unit to be established, to ensure the effective progress of a range of cycling initiatives.

Cycling Safety and Infrastructure in Ballymena

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development how he plans to improve cycling safety and infrastructure in Ballymena.

(AQW 25543/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Sub Regional Transport Plan, published by the Department in 2007, contained blueprints to guide the future development of cycling infrastructure in a number of key towns including Ballymena.

Work completed in the Ballymena area to date includes the development of National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 97 from Ballymena to Glenarm, NCN Route 96 from Toome towards Ballymoney, and links along parts of the A26 Larne Road Link, Crebilly Road and Galgorm Road from County Hall to Gracehill.

Officials from my Department have been working with counterparts from Ballymena Borough Council over the past year to consider future cycle routes within the town and have agreed on three main routes to be developed as finance becomes available over the coming years. These routes will combine sections adjacent to existing roads with sections through council owned parkland and include:

- providing links to NCN Route 97 (Ballymena to Glenarm) via Fry's Road, Grove Road, Doury Road, Sentry Hill and The People's Park to Ballymoney Road;
- completing links to NCN 97 along parts of the A26 Larne Road Link; and
- linking route NCN 97 towards Route 94 Loughshore Trail via Moat Road, Pennybridge Footpath, Ballee Way and Ballee Road West as well as along the Antrim Road.

I am aware that cyclists are particularly vulnerable road users and their safety needs to be treated as a high priority. I am also aware that the perception of danger is a key factor that discourages greater use of cycling, as a mode of transport. I have therefore asked my officials to ensure the new cycling unit, which is being established in my Department, ensures greater priority and increased focus is given to safety issues, relating to cycling.

Charge Point Usage

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to e-car charging points, to detail (i) the location of each charging point in Fermanagh-South Tyrone; and (ii) the number of times each has been used since their installation.

(AQW 25572/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The data provided below represents charge point usage from the date of commissioning up until the 22nd of August in Fermanagh-South Tyrone.

Charge Point Location	Charge Point ID	Charger Ref	Approx. Date of Installation	Total Charging Events to 22nd August 2013
Belleek	Main Street	SC12	March 2012	3
Enniskillen	Down/Market/Cross Street	SC18	March 2012	10
Enniskillen	Eden Street Car Park	SC13	March 2012	16
Enniskillen	Quay Lane North Car park	SC11	March 2012	4
Enniskillen	Wellington Street	SC16	March 2012	22
Enniskillen	Queen Street Car Park	SC17	March 2012	6
Enniskillen	Spar Car Park, Main Street BT92 8JW	SC140	June 2013	(MPRN Terminated) No Information Available
Lisnaskea	Newbridge Road/Cross Street	SC31	June 2013	8
Irvinestown	Main Street	SC29	June 2013	2

Charge Point Location	Charge Point ID	Charger Ref	Approx. Date of Installation	Total Charging Events to 22nd August 2013
Irvinestown	Not on CPMS yet. - Topaz Service Station, 236 Irvinestown Road, BT74 6DN	RC09	June 2013	3 *Total Charging Events For 2013 (as at 30th June)
Maguiresbridge	DRD Carpark, Maguiresbridge	SC66	June 2013	1
Coalisland	DRD Carpark (Free), Cornmill	SC72	June 2013	0
Dungannon	Oak Shopping Centre	SC122	June 2013	0
Dungannon	M1, Junction 15 Rapid Charger at Donnelly Group Garage BT71 7DT	RC01	March 2012	88 *Total Charging Events For 2013 (as at 30th June)
Dungannon	DRD Carpark (Free), Scotch Street South	SC76	June 2013	1
FiveMileTown	Car Park, Edfield Way, BT75 0QN	SC134	June 2013	(MPRN Terminated) No Information Available
Ballygawley	Ballygawley Park and Ride, BT70 2	SC124	June 2013	(MPRN Terminated) No Information Available

yLink Applications

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average length of time taken to process yLink applications; and how many have been issued since the introduction of the scheme.

(AQW 25608/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that it sub-contracts with a Bureau Service to produce all photo-personalised Translink Smartpasses including: yLink cards; Senior Smartpasses; 60+ Smartpasses; Blind Smartpasses, War Pensioner Smartpasses, Half-fare Smartpasses and TaxSmart cards.

Translink have a Service Level Agreement in place with the Bureau service that it will process 95% of all applications (regardless of card type) within less than 5 days from the date of receipt of the customer application form to the date it posts the card to the customer.

For the year 01 September 2012 to 31 August 2013 statistics for the processing of all cards, including ylink, were as follows:-

- Processes in less than 5 days = 97%
- Processed in 5-10 days = 1%
- Processed in more than 10 days = 2%

Since the y-link scheme started on 1 July 2012 a total of 11,290 yLink cards have been processed.

International Cycling Conference

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to apply to bring the international cycling conference, Velo City, to Northern Ireland.

(AQW 25633/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have asked officials to consider the benefits and costs associated with this conference and looking at the possibility that it may be held in Northern Ireland in future years.

Main Street, Millisle

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development when the footpath at the shops in Main Street, Millisle will be replaced.

(AQW 25645/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the Member that information on proposed and completed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

As detailed budgets for subsequent years have not yet been finalised, I am unable to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

Masonic Avenue, Millisle

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development when Masonic Avenue, Millisle will be resurfaced.

(AQW 25646/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

I can advise that the detailed budget for subsequent years has not yet been finalised and so it is not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

Building an Active Travel Future for Northern Ireland

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development why there are no measurable targets on the percentage of cycling journeys in its publication, Building an Active Travel Future for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 25652/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Active Travel Strategy 'Building an Active Travel Future for Northern Ireland' is the result of the work undertaken by the inter-departmental Active Travel Forum informed by the results of the public consultation exercise and agreed by the Executive in 2012. It aims to provide a high level framework for a more integrated approach across government and in partnership with key stakeholders to deliver our vision for walking and cycling.

The Strategy should provide the foundations, over the longer term, to build a travel culture in which walking and cycling are seen as the natural choice for most of the journeys most of us make. Currently the proportion of trips made by bicycle in Great Britain is at least twice the level recorded in Northern Ireland. The proportion of trips by bicycle in Great Britain is set to increase to an as yet unspecified

level. I wanted the Strategy to capture the aspiration for NI to rise faster to a comparable level over the next ten years, rather than limiting our ambition to achieving parity with current levels of cycling in Great Britain. For that reason, the Strategy sets a number of relative targets as follows:

- Increase the average distance cycled to be in line with our UK counterparts by 2020, and
- Increase the percentage of trips taken by cycling to be in line with our UK counterparts by 2020.

Our targets are not static and therefore will increase further over the lifetime of the Strategy, taking account of any future growth in cycling rates in Great Britain. While challenging, I believe this is the correct approach if cycling is to become the natural choice for most of the short journeys we make and if we are to avoid constraining our ambitions.

In addition, the Strategy also sets specific targets to increase the rates of cycling among school pupils as follows:

- by 2015, 36% of primary school pupils and 22% of secondary school pupils should be walking or cycling to school as their main mode of travel;
- by 2019, 40% of primary school pupils and 25% of secondary school pupils should be walking or cycling to school as their main mode of travel.

A great deal has already been achieved under the Active Travel Strategy. In support of the Strategy, the Active Travel Action Plan sets out measures that will be taken forward by government departments, local authorities and voluntary bodies over the next few years to encourage more cycling and walking and less dependency on private cars.

I remain determined to build on this and ensure a renewed focus on cycling within my Department. For that reason I recently announced the establishment of a new cycling unit in my Department. The unit will answer to me directly and will co-ordinate the wide range of initiatives within my department and engage cycling bodies and groups to ensure a clear focus on delivering my ambitions for cycling.

Journeys by Bicycle

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the initiatives in place to increase the percentage of journeys taken by bicycle.

(AQW 25653/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: When I launched the Active Travel Strategy in January of this year I undertook to publish an Action Plan which sets out actions that will be taken by government departments, local authorities and voluntary bodies to encourage more cycling and walking.

The Action Plan which was published at the beginning of August lists many of the initiatives planned up to 2015 and includes those delivered to-date such as:

- Opening of the Comber Greenway to Titanic Quarter Cycle Route;
- The Northern Ireland Civil Service "Cycle to Work Scheme" which has helped 700 staff to obtain bicycles;
- £2.4 million spent by my Department in providing 8km of new footway, 3.7km of cycle lanes, 22 new pelican crossings and 19 safe routes to school schemes.

My Department is also providing £4.3m to fund active travel Demonstration projects in Belfast, Londonderry, Craigavon and Strabane. I have also more recently committed £50k for my Department to undertake a Feasibility Study into a cycle / pedestrian footbridge over the River Lagan close to the gasworks site. Furthermore, my Department's Roads Service plans to implement around 4.5km of new cycle lanes.

Another very recent initiative is The Active School Travel Programme which will provide a programme of cycle and walking skills training to pupils up to 180 schools across Northern Ireland over a three year period. The objective of this programme is to encourage school pupils to adopt cycling and walking as

their main mode of transport to and from school. We need to support this programme with investment in infrastructure (often safety measures at schools) to encourage participation. I aim to bid for £2m in October Monitoring to kick start this programme and I am keen to develop a long term marketing campaign to develop behavioural change.

I believe we need an increased focus on cycling if we are to keep pace. For that reason I recently announced the establishment of a new cycling unit within my Department that will answer to me directly and will co-ordinate the wide range of initiatives within my department and engage cycling bodies and groups to ensure a clear focus on delivering my ambitions for cycling

I look forward to the continuing co-operation of all interested stakeholders over the coming years to deliver our vision for walking and cycling, which is to put walking and cycling at the heart of local transport, public health and well-being.

Cycling Infrastructure

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans for strategic long term infrastructure for cycling.

(AQW 25654/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's three Transport Plans, the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP), the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) and Sub-Regional Transport Plan, set out the proposals for strategic long term infrastructure for cycling. These proposals, where they involve the roads infrastructure, are delivered primarily through the Local Transport and Safety Measures programme, as available resources permit.

My Department is committed to promoting cycling as a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transport and will continue to work, in partnership with local government, voluntary bodies, public transport operators and the health and education sectors, to promote this pursuit across Northern Ireland and develop cycling initiatives further.

Recently, I have published an Action Plan for Active Travel, which will, in the period 2012-2015, promote walking and cycling across all Executive Departments and by local authorities and other interested bodies to take forward the Active Travel Strategy. This Action Plan includes a range of proposals to improve the infrastructure for cycling up to the end of the current budget period.

Beyond 2015, as part of the New Approach to Regional Transportation, my Department is developing transport spending proposals which will feed into the next Programme for Government budget process. This is being undertaken through a policy fit process which will identify those transport schemes which will best achieve the strategic objectives of the Northern Ireland Executive. The assessment process includes consideration of sustainable modes of travel, including cycling.

Also, I am establishing a new cycling unit within my Department, which will be tasked to identify and invest in new cycling schemes to complement the existing National Cycle Network in accordance with the Northern Ireland Cycling Strategy.

Waste Water Treatment Works

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to Waste Water Treatment Works, to detail the number that (i) require upgrading due to overloading; (ii) will be upgraded; and (iii) have had additional connections refused due to the current system being overloaded, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 25668/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NI Water) that it operates and maintains a wide range of Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs), from septic tanks serving 2 or more houses to the large Belfast WwTW at Duncrue Street. NI Water collects and treats domestic wastewater, stormwater and trade effluent discharges which are measured in terms of the equivalent population (PE).

Out of the total of 1028 WwTWs, 250 WwTWs serve population equivalents (PE) greater than 250 people, 164 WwTWs serve populations between 250 and 50 and 614 WwTWs serve populations less than 50. The 778 WwTWs serving less than 250 PE serve less than 2% of the total population, generally in rural areas.

NI Water continues to invest in improving and maintaining wastewater treatment and is currently achieving its highest ever wastewater discharge compliance. In 2012 over 98% of the population was served by compliant works and this compares with 84.5% in 2007.

- (i) Of the 1028 WwTWs that NI Water operates, 130 currently require to be upgraded due to overloading. It is important to note that these works may be currently complying with their discharge consent but need to be upgraded due to increased risk to compliance or to provide additional capacity. These 1028 Works can be split into two distinct groups, those above 250 Population Equivalent (PE) (82no.) and those between 250PE and 50PE (48no.). With reference to the 614 WwTWs below 50PE it would be anticipated that headroom would be limited at many of these sites. However, given the rural nature of these very small works any significant new development is likely to require an increase in treatment capacity.
- (ii) The funding for the upgrades of the WwTWs is determined by the Utility Regulator during the Price Control (PC) process based on the public sector capital funding available. The funding available and the priority for investment is set out in the Social & Environmental Guidance prepared by the Department for Regional Development. For the PC13 period, 2013-2015, funding is available for the upgrade of 15 sites above 250PE that are currently overloaded and for 11 sites between 250PE & 50PE. For the PC15 period (2015-2021) NI Water plan to upgrade a further 34 sites above 250PE threshold that are currently overloaded and an additional 25 sites in the band between 250PE & 50PE. It should be noted that the final list of WWTWs to be upgraded during PC15 will be confirmed following further stakeholder engagement and a final determination by the Utility Regulator in December 2014.
- (iii) Additional connections have been refused at 70 of the 82 WwTWs above 250PE and 22 of the 48 of the WwTWs between 250PE and 50PE.
- (iv) The decision to permit or refuse development rests with Planning Service. NI Water's responsibility as a Consultee within the planning process is to consider the impact of additional loading on the WwTWs and the sewerage system and the impact on the ability of the WwTW to meet the discharge standards. Where NI Water does not recommend a connection to the system it is generally accompanied with a statement on alternatives such as the provision of a private treatment works by the developer, subject to NIEA approvals. Alternatively, if NI Water is confident of completing an upgrade at a WwTW where headroom constraints apply, and is within two years of substantial completion it will recommend connection to the system either in an unconstrained recommendation or with a negative condition approval whereby properties can be built but not occupied until completion of the WwTW upgrade.

The detail of WWTWs by constituency can be seen within the two tables attached:

WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS ABOVE 250PE THAT ARE CURRENTLY OVERLOADED

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period 2013-15	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period 2015-21	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Aghanloo (1)	S02989		Y	Y	East Londonderry
Annacloy (WWTW)	S00292		Y	Y	South Down

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period 2013-15	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period 2015-21	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Ardstraw (WWTW)	S02997				West Tyrone
Armoy (WWTW)	S01172		Y	Y	North Antrim
Artigarvan (WWTW)	S03002	Y		Y	West Tyrone
Augher (WWTW)	S03005			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Aughnacloy	S03007			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Ballintoy (Retention Tank)	S01174		Y	Y	North Antrim
Ballybogy	S01087		Y	Y	North Antrim
Ballycastle (WWTW)	S01071		Y	Y	North Antrim
Ballycranbeg	S00218	Y		Y	Strangford
Ballygawley (WWTW)	S03013			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Ballygowan	S00247		Y	Y	Strangford
Ballymagorry (WWTW)	S03018	Y		Y	West Tyrone
Ballyronan (WWTW)	S01558		Y	Y	Mid Ulster
Ballyvoy	S01177		Y	Y	North Antrim
Ballywalter (Retention Tank)	S05189		Y		Strangford
Belleek (Fermanagh)	S03024				Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Blackwatertown (WWTW)	S02552			Y	Newry And Armagh
Cabragh (WWTW)	S02834			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Carrowdore	S00236		Y	Y	Strangford

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period 2013-15	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period 2015-21	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Clabby (WWTW)	S03051	Y		Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Clarehill	S01039			Y	East Londonderry
Clogher (WWTW)	S03056			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Cranfield (Down)	S02721		Y	Y	South Down
Dernaflaw	S03072		Y	Y	East Londonderry
Derrycrin	S01567		Y	Y	Mid Ulster
Dervock (WWTW)	S01102		Y	Y	North Antrim
Desertmartin	S01614		Y	Y	Mid Ulster
Donaghmore (WWTW)	S02840	Y		Y	Mid Ulster
Donemana	S03103		Y	Y	West Tyrone
Dromore (Tyrone)	S03083	Y		Y	West Tyrone
Drumaness (WWTW)	S00293			Y	South Down
Drumquin (WWTW)	S03098			Y	West Tyrone
Drumsurn	S03100	Y		Y	East Londonderry
Dundrum (Down)	S00297		Y	Y	South Down
Dunloy	S01108				North Antrim
Ederney (WWTW)	S03106		Y	Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Eglish (Tyrone)	S02843		Y	Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period 2013-15	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period 2015-21	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Fivemiletown (WWTW)	S03113		Y	Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Garrison (WWTW)	S03115		Y	Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Gortin (Tyrone)	S03124			Y	West Tyrone
Grange (Taylorstown)	S01442		Y		North Antrim
Greyabbey (WWTW)	S00214		Y		Strangford
Killinchy (WWTW)	S00252		Y	Y	Strangford
Killough (Retention Tank)	S00275			Y	South Down
Kilmore (Down)	S00285	Y			South Down
Kilrea	S01156		Y	Y	East Londonderry
Kircubbin (WWTW)	S04881		Y	Y	Strangford
Knockloughrim	S01623		Y	Y	Mid Ulster
Lawrencetown	S02142			Y	Upper Bann
Liscolman	S01191				North Antrim
Lisnarrick	S03170	Y		Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Lough Macrory (WWTW)	S03174			Y	West Tyrone
Loughguile	S01115				North Antrim
Maghaberry	S02412		Y	Y	Lagan Valley
Magheramason	S03177	Y		Y	West Tyrone
Markethill	S02591			Y	Newry and Armagh
Martinstown	S01445	Y		Y	North Antrim
Moneyreagh (WWTW)	S00337		Y		Strangford

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period 2013-15	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period 2015-21	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Moneyslane (WWTW)	S02151			Y	South Down
Moorfields	S01446			Y	North Antrim
Moss-side (WWTW)	S01194		Y	Y	North Antrim
Mountfield (WWTW)	S03192		Y	Y	West Tyrone
Mounthorris	S02248			Y	Newry And Armagh
Moy (WWTW)	S02859			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Mullanahoe (WWTW)	S02043			Y	Mid Ulster
Mullans (Antrim)	S01118		Y	Y	North Antrim
Newmills (WWTW)	S02852			Y	Mid Ulster
Newtownbutler (WWTW)	S03200			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Nixons Corner (WWTW)	S03203	Y		Y	Foyle
Poyntzpass (WWTW)	S02156			Y	Newry And Armagh
Redford	S02853				Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Robinsonstown	S02419	Y		Y	Upper Bann
Rosslea (WWTW)	S03213			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Seskinore	S03217			Y	West Tyrone
Spamount	S03221			Y	West Tyrone
Stoneyford (WWTW)	S00328	Y		Y	Lagan Valley
Stranocum	S01123			Y	North Antrim

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period 2013-15	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period 2015-21	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Tamlaght (WWTW)	S03224				Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Tempo (WWTW)	S03229	Y		Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Victoria Bridge (WWTW)	S03236		Y	Y	West Tyrone

WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS BETWEEN 250PE & 50PE THAT ARE CURRENTLY OVERLOADED

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Aghinlig (WWTW)	S02554			Y	Newry and Armagh
Aghory	S02547			Y	Newry and Armagh
Ardgarvan (WWTW)	S02987				East Londonderry
Ballymaderphy	S02728			Y	South Down
Ballynadolly	S00327				Lagan Valley
Ballynafie	S01431				North Antrim
Bankside Shinn	S02692	Y			South Down
Cappagh (WWTW)	S02857		Y	Y	Mid Ulster
Carmean	S01608				Mid Ulster
Carnduff (Retention Tank)	S01180		Y	Y	North Antrim
Church Hill	S03050			Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Cladymore	S02566			Y	Newry and Armagh
	S01418			Y	South Antrim
Culcrow	S01146		Y		East Londonderry

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Donaghey (2)	S01569		Y		Mid Ulster
Dromore Highlands	S03085	Y			East Londonderry
Drumilly	S02268	Y			Newry and Armagh
Drumlegagh Church Road	S03987			Y	West Tyrone
Dundrod	S00326		Y		Lagan Valley
Dunserverick (Retention Tank)	S01185		Y	Y	North Antrim
Edencrannon (WWTW)	S02858		Y	Y	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Edenderry (Tyrone)	S03104	Y			West Tyrone
Glassdrumman (Armagh)	S02271				Newry And Armagh
Glen Villas	S02723				South Down
Glenoe	S01462		Y	Y	East Antrim
	S00225				Strangford
Killeen (Armagh)	S02294		Y	Y	Newry and Armagh
Killybaskey	S01581		Y		Mid Ulster
Kilskeery	S03148	Y		Y	West Tyrone
Legacurry (Down)	S00321		Y		Lagan Valley
Locard Park	S02144			Y	Upper Bann
Longs Glebe	S01160		Y		East Londonderry
Mayboy	S01163		Y	Y	East Londonderry
Milltown (Aghory)	S02593	Y		Y	Newry and Armagh
Moneydig	S01167	Y		Y	East Londonderry
Moneyglass	S01423		Y		South Antrim

Name of Works	SITE CAR ID	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC13 Period	WWTWs Identified for Upgrade during PC15 Period	Refused Connection to Catchment	Parliamentary Constituency
Mountain View (Drumintee)	S02278	Y			Newry and Armagh
Mounthill	S01465	Y		Y	East Antrim
Mulderg (WWTW)	S03194				Foyle
Mullaghglass (Antrim)	S00325		Y		Lagan Valley
Newtown-Crommelin	S01447		Y		North Antrim
Noones Vale	S01632		Y		Mid Ulster
Oliver Plunkett Park	S02284				Newry and Armagh
St James	S00322				Lagan Valley
Tartaraghan	S02421				Upper Bann
The Loup (WWTW)	S01588		Y	Y	Mid Ulster
Tullyroan	S02600			Y	Newry And Armagh
Waterfoot Road (WWTW)	S01643		Y	Y	Mid Ulster

Farmers Near the New A26

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development how farmers will be accommodated adjacent to the new A26.

(AQW 25672/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The A26 Dualling scheme will provide an all-purpose dual carriageway with landowners and farmers accessing it from either left in - left out junctions, or one of the adjacent full movement side road junctions.

Appropriate accommodation works will also be provided and will include the provision of fencing, hedging, gates and laneways.

Where land is required for the scheme, landowners will be compensated in accordance with the Land Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 1982. The purpose of this monetary compensation is to ensure the landowner is put in a similar position to what he would have been had the land or property not been taken for the scheme. Compensation matters are dealt with directly by the Department of Finance and Personnel's Land and Property Services (LPS), on behalf of my Department.

More Underpasses on the Proposed A26 Road Scheme

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development whether underpasses will be made available to local farmers along the proposed A26.

(AQW 25675/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The provision of cattle creeps, which may take the form of either an underpass or an overbridge, have been considered as part of landowner accommodation works on the proposed A26 dual carriageway. The needs of individual farms, for example, their layout and management, as well as details of the frequency and type of movement of cattle, size of the herd, the degree of severance, the opportunity to share facilities and road user safety, have all been assessed.

I should explain my Department has no legal obligation to carry out accommodation works, as liability is limited to monetary consideration only. If, and when, accommodation works are carried out, the effect is to mitigate the compensation payable in respect of land taken and injurious affection to land retained by the landowner. In this respect, the cost of accommodation works, in terms of value to the property, is taken into account by DFP's Land & Property Services (LPS) in assessing the overall compensation payable in respect of land and/or rights acquired.

When taking all of this information into account, my Department concluded that the provision of any agricultural crossing for landowners along the proposed A26 road scheme would not be economically viable.

I am aware that requests by local farmers for agricultural underpasses were discussed at the A26 Public Inquiries in November 2012. My Department is currently giving consideration to the Inspector's recommendations and I hope to be in a position to publish the Departmental Statement soon.

Secure Bicycle Parking Spaces

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of secure bicycle parking spaces at each (i) train halt; (ii) train station; and (iii) bus station.

(AQW 25681/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The number of bicycle parking spaces at each train station and bus station is set out in the tables below. Translink's intention is to expand cycle storage capacity over the next year.

BICYCLE SPACES AT NI RAILWAY STATIONS

Location	No. of Spaces
Antrim	10
Bangor Rail	40
Ballymena	6
Ballymoney	10
Belfast Central	12
Carrickfergus	6
Coleraine	12
Greenisland	4
GVS	6
Hollywood	12
Jordanstown	6
Larne Town	2

Location	No. of Spaces
Lisburn	16
Londonderry	4
Lurgan	12
Moirá	6
Newry	4
Portadown	28
Whiteabbey	6
Whitehead	6
Total	208

BICYCLE SPACES AT BUS STATIONS

Location	No. of Spaces
Antrim	6
Ballymena	6
Bangor	Nil
Coleraine	12
Larne	Nil
Newtownards	1 + (2 planned for)
	25
Armagh	Nil
Banbridge	4
Craigavon	4
Downpatrick	20
Laganside	5
Lisburn	16
Newcastle	20
Newry	10
	79
Dungannon	6
Enniskillen	Nil
Limavady	8
Londonderry	6
Magherafelt	Nil
Omagh	4

Location	No. of Spaces
Strabane	Nil
	24
Total	128

Cycle-Proof Transport Policies

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the plans she has to cycle-proof new transport policies.

(AQW 25690/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's new Approach to Regional Transportation includes a policy fit assessment on future transport interventions which will identify those transport schemes which will best achieve the strategic objectives of the Northern Ireland Executive. The assessment process includes consideration of sustainable modes of travel, including cycling.

In addition I have recently decided to create a dedicated cycling unit within my Department. This unit will work closely with other government departments and key stakeholders to ensure cycling policies are effective and co-ordinated.

My Department will also continue to encourage the promotion of cycling and active travel solutions through the Active Travel Strategy and its subsequent Action Plan.

The Impact of Roadworks

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration is given to the time of year when assessing the impact of roadworks.

(AQW 25707/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: When considering the impact of road works, my Department considers a wide range of factors including:

- the urgency/nature of the works, for example, emergency works, may have to be carried out at short notice;
- variations in expected traffic volumes and impact to road users, such as the impact of school holidays and the Christmas period;
- availability of finance, including additional in-year allocations;
- likely conflict with large public or security events, for example, the North West 200 or the G8 Summit;
- resources available to contractors, potentially meaning large programmes of work need to be spread throughout the year;
- co-ordination of works by utilities, such as BT, NIE etc., or other nearby road works; and
- the proximity of residential properties and/or places of worship when, considering night time or weekend working.

NI Water

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development when NI Water plan to sell its reservoirs in Conlig.

(AQW 25712/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that while the reservoirs at Conlig have been declared surplus to requirements and are listed in its Annual Land Disposal Register, a timeframe for offering them to the market has not yet been identified.

In disposing of surplus assets, NIW must ensure that it obtains the best price, achieves value for money and maintains high standards of propriety. Any sale is dependent on a number of factors, not least the market conditions at the time of the sale and the level of expressions of interest. NIW is conscious of the amenity enjoyed by the local community at Conlig and other users of the facility, and will encourage any prospective purchaser to maintain this amenity. However, it is not NIW policy to include conditions of this nature within the contract for sale of any property.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps he is taking to promote the Cycle to Work scheme.

(AQW 25717/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Cycle to Work Scheme is a HMRC scheme.

My Department through its Travelwise initiative promotes cycling as a sustainable mode of travel to work and school. Travelwise regularly promotes the Cycle to Work Scheme in its campaigns: including reference to the scheme in press and media releases highlighting cycling matters; in Workplace travel plans prepared on behalf of Travelwise for employers in all sectors; and at promotional events held in workplaces. We have also provided advice on the Cycle to Work Scheme to a range of employers in all sectors.

Sewerage System in the North Down Area

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of upgrading the sewerage system in the North Down area, in the last three financial years.

(AQW 25759/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the cost of upgrading the sewerage system in the North Down area in the last three financial years, is as detailed in the table below.

Period	Expenditure (£000s)
April 2010 – March 2011	£1,036
April 2011 – March 2012	£734
April 2012 – March 2013	£877
Total	£2,647

Number of Miles Cycled

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of miles cycled in 2012 compared with 2011, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 25776/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) contains information on the average distance travelled per person per year by bicycle, however, information is not broken down to constituency level.

For all TSNI analysis, as the sample size is relatively small, 3 years of data need to be combined to ensure that the analysis carried out is robust.

Currently available information is provided in Table 1 of the Headline Report (2010-2012) and Table 3.5 of the In-depth Report (2009-2011) both of which can be found at:

www.drdni.gov.uk/index/statistics/stats-categories/northern_ireland_travel_survey.htm.

Annsborough Waste Water Treatment Works

Mr Rogers asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the cost of repairing the damage caused by vandalism at Annsborough Waste Water Treatment Works since 2010.

(AQW 25880/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that since 2011 there have been a number of incidents relating to trespass and vandalism at Annsborough Wastewater Treatment Works. The total cost of repairs and remedial works arising from these incidents is approximately £32,000. There were no recorded incidents before 2011.

NIW has been working closely with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and has increased staffing levels at the Works to deter further incidents.

Cost of Purchasing New Trains

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of purchasing new trains, in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 25928/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below details the cost of purchasing new trains in each of the last three financial years.

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
£31,059,916	£50,721,337	£422,846

The overall cost of the 20 new trains is estimated as £112m.

Cost of Purchasing New Buses

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of purchasing new buses, in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 25929/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below details the cost of purchasing new buses in each of the last three financial years.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
New Buses	£6,432,876	£12,744,018	£19,870,989 *
New Tour Buses	£730,098 (Self Funded by Ulsterbus)		

* includes £5.8m received through the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme Northern Ireland 2007-2013

Number and Percentage of People Cycling

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development how his Department measures the number and percentage of people cycling; and to detail the latest figures.

(AQW 25967/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) contains information on the percentage of people who have cycled in the last 12 months, broken down by age and gender.

Currently available information is provided in Table 5.4 of the TSNI In-depth Report (2009-2011) which can be found at:

www.drdni.gov.uk/index/statistics/stats-categories/northern_ireland_travel_survey.htm.

Detailed information on survey methodology, data quality and guidance on using the data can be found in the User Information section of the In-depth Report while definitions and survey notes are included in Appendix A.

A separate Technical Report is published annually which provides greater detail on the survey methodology and this can also be found at the link above.

Bicycle Racks

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 25213/11-15, what assessment was made of the extent to which bicycle racks obscure driver vision and affect driving performance; and whether his Department considered the experiences of other countries that introduced bicycle racks when making this decision.

(AQW 26029/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised my officials that an assessment was carried out using a fixture provided by the cycle rack supplier which simulated the position of the rack on the front of a bus.

Translink also looked at similar cycle racks as fitted to buses in North America, U.S.A. and Canada, as at the time of the tests there were no equivalent applications in the UK or Ireland.

The main difference in North America was the design of the buses which had smaller windscreens and higher floor levels which meant that the racks did not interfere with the view of the driver when fitted.

Most buses in the Translink fleet have large windscreens which take up typically about two thirds of the frontal area of the bus. Approximately 1/3 of this area would have been obscured by the rack, which was deemed unacceptable for safety reasons.

Department for Social Development

New Build Social Housing Developments

Mr Elliott asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the new build social housing developments completed in (i) 2012; and (ii) 2013 by (a) Clanmil; (b) Fold; (c) Apex; (d) Oaklee; and (e) Alpha Housing Associations, including the name of the development, the name of main contractor and the date of practical completion.

(AQW 25222/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Housing Executive has provided the tables below setting out details of the new build only social housing projects developed by the Housing Associations in 2012 and 2013. They have also advised that Alpha Housing Association did not have any developments over this period.

The Housing Executive advises that the table may not include all schemes completed by these Housing Associations during 2012 and 2013. This is because Housing Associations manage on site construction contracts and they only notify the Housing Executive at the point of submitting a claim for final payment of Housing Association Grant.

TABLE 1- PRACTICAL COMPLETIONS 2012

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Practical Completion Date	Main Contractor
Apex Housing	Garvaghy Crescent, Phase 1, Portglenone (T)	16	05-Jan-12	Brendan Loughran & Sons
Clanmil	North Rugby Club, Phase 3, Belfast	42	18-Jan-12	T & A Kernoghan Ltd
Clanmil	Templepatrick Library Site	2	19-Jan-12	M J McBride Ltd
Apex Housing	Martin's Lane, Newry	6	1-Feb-12	O'Hanlon & Farrell Ltd
Clanmil	155 Glen Road, Belfast	15	13-Feb-12	Dixons Contractors Ltd
Apex Housing	PSNI Site, Cullion Road, Tempo	4	07-Mar-12	Dixon's Contractors Ltd
Fold	Alliance Avenue, Belfast (T)	4	16-Mar-12	O'Hanlon & Farrell Ltd
Oaklee	PSNI Station Melmount Road, Sion Mills	6	28-Mar-12	Lowry Bros. Ltd
Fold	Lands at Oldpark Avenue (T)	4	19-Apr-12	Andrew Bradley Ltd
Oaklee	Lisnahull Road, Dungannon (T)	5	24-Apr-12	T&A Kernoghan Ltd
Apex Housing	Rosapenna Parade, Belfast	2	26-Apr-12	Kelly Bros
Oaklee	Blackmountain Bungalows, Ph2A, Belfast (Transfer)	2	08-May-12	Eden Contractors
Apex Housing	Moss Road, Millisle	10	11-May-12	T A Kernoghan & Son
Fold	Tesco Site, Broadway, Donegall Road, Belfast, Phase 2	31	22-May-12	O'Hanlon & Farrell Ltd
Oaklee	Stanhope Site Phase 2 (T)	11	30-May-12	M J McBride
Apex Housing	PSNI Site, 48 Main Street, Lisbellaw	12	05-Jun-12	T&A Kernoghan Ltd
Clanmil	North Infill Hatfield Street, Belfast (T)	4	06-Jun-12	T&A Kernoghan Ltd

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Practical Completion Date	Main Contractor
Apex Housing	Brookfield Gardens, Ahoghill (T)	9	21-Jun-12	Dixons Ltd
Clanmil	32 Whiterock Road/Whiterock Grove, Belfast	7	21-Jun-12	O'Hanlon & Farrell Ltd
Apex Housing	Orchard Park, Aughnacloy (Transfer)	15	25-Jun-12	McGurran Construction
Fold	Mullacreevie Phase 1 (T)	21	25-Jun-12	Kelly Bors
Oaklee	466 Shore Road, Rathcoole	10	27-Jun-12	M J McBride
Fold	Upper North Street, Newtownards	31	05-Jul-12	O'Hanlon & Farrell Ltd
Fold	Rashee Drive/Ballycorr Road, Ballyclare (T)	15	5-Jul-12	O'Hanlon & Farrell Ltd
Oaklee	Ballyduff Primary School, Ballyduff	20	05-Jul-12	Moss Construction
Apex Housing	Bligh's Lane, United Technologies Site, Londonderry	61	24-Aug-12	O'Hare & McGovern
Clanmil	Neilsbrook, Randalstown (T)	25	19-Sep-12	Brendan Loughran
Clanmil	Derrymacash, Craigavon (T)	14	24-Sep-12	M J McBride
Clanmil	Summerhill Road, Twinbrook (T)	14	25-Sep-12	Dixon's Contractors Ltd
Apex Housing	Rathcoole Gardens, Newtownabbey (T)	28	4-Oct-12	TAL Ltd
Apex Housing	Blenheim Drive, Newtownards (T)	15	11-Oct-12	Dixon Contractors
Oaklee	Crossbill Place, Pond Park Infill	10	23-Oct-12	Glasgiven Contracts
Fold	Lawnbrook URA, Belfast (T)	26	01-Nov-12	M J McBride
Oaklee	Glen View, Rathfriland (T)	2	15-Nov-12	Cunningham Contracts

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Practical Completion Date	Main Contractor
Apex Housing	Desmond's Factory Site, Aughrim Road, Magherafelt	30	06-Dec-12	Brendan Loughran
Apex Housing	Buncrana Road, Londonderry	67	12-Dec-12	Kevin Watson Contractors

TABLE 2 – PRACTICAL COMPLETIONS 2013

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Practical Completion Date	Main Contractor
Oaklee	Factory Site, Alliance Avenue, Belfast	29	09-Jan-13	Geda Construction
Oaklee	Longstone Road, Annalong	6	22-Jan-13	Kelly Bros
Fold	Rathkellan Park, Crossmaglen (T)	1	31-Jan-13	O'Hare & McGovern
Clanmil	St Patrick's Road, Raholp, Downpatrick	8	7-Mar-13	Moss Construction
Clanmil	North Rugby Club, Phase 4, Belfast	8	26-Mar-13	Hugh J O'Boyle
Apex Housing	Mountpottinger PSNI Site, Belfast (ALP)	10	27-Mar-13	Brendan Loughran & Son
Apex Housing	Tamlough Park, Ballykelly (T)	13	18-Apr-13	McGirr/Naylor & Devlin
Apex Housing	Ballymacarrett Library Site, Templemore Avenue, Belfast	4	25-Apr-13	Hugh J O'Boyle
Apex Housing	Brook Street Library Site, Ahoghill (ALP)	6	09-May-13	M.J McBride Construction
Apex Housing	Hass Road, Dungiven (T)	10	15-May-13	T A Kernaghan & Son
Fold	Eden Phase 3B, Carrickfergus (T)	22	16-May-13	Dixon's Contractors Ltd
Apex Housing	Ashleywood House, Phase 2, Ardmore Road, Londonderry	3	23-May-13	Lowry Bro's

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Practical Completion Date	Main Contractor
Clanmil	27-33 Queen Street, Ballymena	14	20-Jun-13	Connolly & Fee Ltd
Fold	School Road (MOD/PSNI Site), Forkhill	10	20-Jun-13	O'Hare & McGovern
Apex Housing	Castlewellan Road, Newcastle Phase 1	130	05-Jul-13	O'Hare & McGovern

Notes:

- 1 Practical Completion dates are provided to the Housing Executive by Housing Associations at the point they submit their final claim for Housing Association Grant.
- 2 The information provided in these tables relate to New Build projects only.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Housing Executive

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 22275/11-15, whether the Housing Executive has any plans to establish a scheme to deal with a number of houses in each of these council areas.

(AQW 25365/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the vast majority of tenants refusing to have work carried out relates to heating. In view of that, they operate a one off heating scheme each year to pick up on such properties at Change of Tenancy, or where appliances subsequently break down after the previous refusal of work.

Smoke alarm replacement refusals are rolled on each year until the replacement is completed.

External Cyclical Maintenance scheme work and kitchen refusals are kept under review by the Housing Executive's Area/Local office and put forward for programming when appropriate.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how much has been spent on Neighbourhood Renewal in each year since its inception.

(AQW 25408/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details my Departments expenditure in relation to Neighbourhood Renewal in each year since its inception. The budget for Neighbourhood Renewal in 2013/14 is £28m.

	Amount £000's
2003/04	727
2004/05	2,918
2005/06	7,880
2006/07	16,737
2007/08	22,084
2008/09	25,449

	Amount £000's
2009/10	27,355
2010/11	21,278
2011/12	25,467
2012/13	27,875

Notes:

- 1 A range of factors will influence expenditure including, the history of investment in the Neighbourhood Renewal areas from other initiatives or mainstream sources and the 'lead-in' period required to establish structures and produce Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans will also impact on ability to utilise funds.

Areas at Risk

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how much has been spent on Areas at Risk in each year since its inception.

(AQW 25414/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below details my Departments expenditure in relation to Areas at Risk in each year since its inception. The budget for Areas at Risk in 2013/14 is £1m.

	Amount £000's
2006/07	379
2007/08	962
2008/09	1,000
2009/10	2,925
2010/11	729
2011/12	719
2012/13	343

Notes:

- 1 The 'lead-in' period required to establish structures and produce Action Plans will impact on ability to utilise funds and will influence expenditure.

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to list the areas currently receiving Neighbourhood Renewal funding.

(AQW 25415/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The table below lists the 36 Areas currently receiving Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

Andersonstown	Tullycarnet	Bangor
Colin	Upper Ardoyne / Ballysillan	Brownlow
Crumlin / Ardoyne	Upper Springfield / Whiterock	Coalisland
Falls / Clonard	Limavady	Coleraine Churchlands
Greater Shankill	Outer North Derry	Coleraine East
Inner East Belfast	Outer West Derry	Downpatrick

Andersonstown	Tullycarnet	Bangor
Inner North Belfast	Strabane	Dungannon
Inner South Belfast	Triax - Cityside	Enniskillen
Ligoniel	Waterside	Lurgan
Outer West Belfast	Armagh	Newry
Rathcoole	Ballyclare	Omagh
South West Belfast	Ballymena	Portadown North West

Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Housing Association Tenants

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, given that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) has undertaken to ballot its tenants about transferring from the NIHE to housing association landlords, why Housing Association tenants are not balloted when mergers of associations are proposed.

(AQW 25440/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Housing Association tenants are not balloted prior to mergers between Housing Associations because they are remaining within the same regulatory framework with all its associated protection.

Empty Homes in the Upper Bann Constituency

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development how many of the 32,000 empty homes that his Department has identified are in the Upper Bann constituency; and how many of these homes are in (i) Lurgan; (ii) Portadown; and (iii) Banbridge.

(AQW 25456/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department of Finance and Personnel's Land and Property Services provided my Department with details of the number of empty homes across Northern Ireland. Of the 32,000 empty homes identified, 1,742 are in the Upper Bann constituency. My Department is seeking to obtain actual addresses of empty homes from Land and Property Services.

The table below shows a breakdown of the total number of empty homes in the Upper Bann constituency.

Council	Electoral Area	Number Empty
Craigavon	Central	342
	Loughside	267
	Lurgan	409
	Portadown	396
Banbridge	Town	186
	Knockiveagh	142
Total		1742

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Empty Homes Strategy

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development whether he intends to involve housing associations in developing his Empty Homes strategy.

(AQW 25457/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As stated in the recently published Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan, I am determined to maximise all opportunities to bring empty homes back into use. It is highly likely that Housing Associations will be involved in this effort.

In addition, as noted in the Action Plan, consideration will be given to bring forward legislation to enable Housing Associations to lease empty properties and then let them.

Empty Homes

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development what plans he has to involve local communities in regenerating empty homes in their area.

(AQW 25458/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department and the Housing Executive will work together to implement the Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan. It is envisaged that local communities will be involved in this action. A Housing Executive website will be available shortly to allow citizens in Northern Ireland to report empty homes in their community.

Empty Homes and the Incidence of Crime

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development what links his Department has established between empty homes and the incidence of crime.

(AQW 25459/11-15)

Mr McCausland: While I believe that bringing an empty property back into use can reduce anti-social behaviour my Department has not established any empirical links between empty homes and the incidence of crime.

You may wish to contact the Department of Justice to ascertain if it holds any data on incidence of crime around empty homes.

Meeting with Red Sky in June 2011

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development whether any departmental officials raised concerns about attending a meeting with Red Sky in June 2011.

(AQW 25480/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Officials provided full briefing in advance of the meeting. In full knowledge of that briefing, I decided to attend the meeting. Officials also attended the meeting along with me.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Contractors

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how many contractors have been released from their contracts with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive since 1 January 2011.

(AQW 25495/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that since 1 January 2011 six contractors have been released from Housing Executive contracts.

Funding for Community Workers

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how many community workers posts are currently funded by his Department.

(AQW 25496/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department supports a broad range of services within the community through various programmes such as Neighbourhood Renewal, Areas at Risk, Small Pockets of Deprivation, Community Support, Community Investment and Housing Community officers. The Departments funding arrangements are to provide support for the delivery of services within the community and not to fund community posts therefore we are not the employer. However, as a result of this funding, 984 individuals are employed as community workers.

You may wish to note for the purpose of this response my Department has defined 'community worker' as a worker who works within the community and for the benefit of the community.

Village Regeneration Scheme in South Belfast

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how much has been spent to date on the Village Regeneration Scheme in South Belfast; (ii) how much is still scheduled to be spent; (iii) when and how the remaining finance will be spent; and (iv) should the full original budget not be spent in The Village, then, where this will be spent.

(AQW 25599/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

Expenditure on the Village Regeneration Scheme comprises of two elements:

(i) vesting of existing properties, and a new build programme. The expenditure to date on both is:

Stage 1 Vesting

The estimated full cost of the Village vesting scheme is £50,859,000 with £42.248 million expenditure since 2008/09 as detailed below. Some of this will be an accrual but reflects the NIHE resources allocated to the project.

	£'000 expenditure per accounts including accruals
2008/09	3,898
2009/10	13,246
2010/11	20,071
2011/12	4,427
2012/13	562
2013/14 to date	44
Total	42,248

Stage 2 SHDP

The Village Regeneration Scheme is currently being delivered on the basis of five programmed new build/rehabilitation schemes by Fold Housing. These schemes will be delivered based on Housing Association Grant (HAG) supplemented by private borrowings by Fold Housing.

Housing Association Grant (HAG) across the 5 schemes is estimated at £8.1m (including public subsidy through transfer of Housing Executive lands).

£3.9m HAG has been paid to Fold Housing to date, in respect of the 3 schemes already started on site (see below for details).

Approximately £2.35m HAG remains to be paid to Fold Housing pending completion of the three phases on site. A further £1.8m HAG is estimated in respect of the two schemes programmed to start during this programme year 2013/14.

Three phases are currently on site and nearing completion. These are detailed below:

- Village Rehabs (9 units) onsite March 2013 and due to complete in January 2014 – Estimated total HAG £417,359 payable.
- Village Urban Renewal Area Phase 1 (37 units) onsite March 2012 and due to complete in December 2013. 21 units have been handed over already – Estimated total HAG £2,530,754 payable.
- Village Urban Renewal Area Phase 2 (50 units) onsite March 2012 and due to complete in February 2014. 11 units have been handed over already – Estimated total HAG £3,379,374 payable.

(ii) The amount that is still scheduled to be spent on the Village Regeneration Scheme is as follows:

Stage 1 Vesting

A balance of £8,611,000 relates to projected spend for compensation claims and will be spent over the next 2-3 years.

Stage 2 SHDP

A further two phases are programmed to start onsite before March 2014. These are:

- Village Urban Renewal Area Phase 3 (27 units) – Estimated total HAG £1,305,474 payable.
 - Village Rehabs (11 units) – Estimated total HAG £529,579 payable.
- (iii) The remaining finance will be spent up to March 2014 as outlined in points (i) and (ii) above. Finance for the construction of the 134 social housing units currently programmed for delivery as described above is drawn from the Housing Association Grant (HAG) budget.
- (iv) Should the full original budget not be spent in The Village, any unused HAG funding will be allocated to progress other social housing schemes.

Work Capability Assessment Appeals

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of work capability assessment appeals; and the number of successful work capability assessment appeals, in each year since the assessments were introduced.

(AQW 25627/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department is unable to provide the information requested, as it does not distinguish between appeals made against medical decisions (i.e. those based on the outcome of the Work Capability Assessment) and appeals made against non-medical decisions (e.g. failure to return medical questionnaires, excess income/capital etc). Employment Support Allowance was introduced in October 2008 and up to March 2013 41,360 appeals had been received. Appeals lodged with the Social Security Agency are subject to withdrawal or reconsideration and therefore not all appeals received will progress to The Appeals Service. Some appeals may be under consideration, awaiting further medical evidence or other supporting information. No Employment and Support Allowance appeals had been completed by the end of 2008/09, following introduction of the benefit on 27 October 2008. Of those that have proceeded to hearing in the last 4 years 6,601 were upheld in the claimant's favour and 11,670 in the Department's favour. The table below provides a breakdown of the total Employment and Support Allowance appeals received, along with outcomes:

Year	Appeals received	Appeals upheld in claimant favour	Appeals upheld in Department's favour
2008-09	133	0	0
2009-10	5,201	354	860
2010-11	6,498	1,410	3,374
2011-12	10,460	2,067	3,778
2012-13	19,068	2,770	3,658

Houses in Duke Street, East Belfast

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the total number of houses in Duke Street in east Belfast, broken down by those under the remit of (i) the Housing Executive; and (ii) a housing association; and the number of these houses that require roof maintenance.

(AQW 25662/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are a total of 16 properties at Duke Street in East Belfast. There are no houses under the remit of the Housing Executive, 3 properties are owner-occupied and 13 are under the remit of Habinteg Housing Association.

The Housing Executive is currently engaged in a procurement process to fit protective roofing to owner-occupied properties at numbers 8, 11 and 12 Duke Street. These properties were previously owned by Habinteg Housing Association. Some Habinteg Housing Association properties have had their roofs replaced with metal cladding. No other properties under the remit of Habinteg Housing Association require roof maintenance.

Polyframe Ltd

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has met with representatives of Polyframe Ltd; when any such meetings took place; and for what reason.

(AQW 25677/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I have had no meetings with Polyframe Ltd.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how many households are in fuel poverty.

(AQW 25711/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2011 reports that 42% of households in Northern Ireland are in fuel poverty.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the rationale for the exclusion of project running costs as part of Neighbourhood Renewal through the North West Development Office.

(AQW 25724/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department's North West Development Office does not exclude project running costs as part of Neighbourhood Renewal funding.

Since the introduction of Neighbourhood Renewal in 2003, the North West Development Office has funded project running costs.

Accommodation: Elderly Tenants

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the Department for Social Development's current capability to meet the accommodation needs of elderly tenants.

(AQO 4574/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The NIHE as the Strategic Housing Authority for Northern Ireland carries out research on an ongoing basis into all aspects of the housing market. It has specifically carried out research into the future need and demand for appropriate models of accommodation and associated services for older people. This was published February 2011 and is available on the NIHE website - www.nihe.gov.uk. Current policy is to build to Lifetime Homes standard to ensure a home is flexible, adaptable and accessible which allows older people to continue living as independently as possible in the community.

The NIHE consider trends in both social housing supply and demand and project what is considered to be the housing need requirement. NIHE Regional Planners also consider the available waiting list data, trends in supply and the wider demographic trends. These assessments include information on the various household groups, including older persons.

NIHE seek to ensure that a suitable housing mix for general social housing is provided by Housing Associations. This would normally reflect the proportion of household groups including elderly households that are in housing stress, subject to any constraints of the site or proposed development. Generally any "level access" accommodation (ground floor or with Lift Access) can be considered suitable for elderly applicants and does not always include bungalows.

On occasion, Housing Associations propose specific accommodation designed and managed for the "active elderly". These types of scheme are proposed by Housing Associations in line with the Department for Social Development's Housing Association Guidance and are referred to as "active elderly" (Cat1) accommodation.

Accommodation suitable for "frail elderly" (Cat2), or those with conditions such as dementia requiring additional support or care provision (Cat3) is assessed by the various Health Service Boards and Trusts and planned for within the Supporting People commissioning regime. Supporting People Commissioning involves a collaborative approach to identifying local need for supported living accommodation for those with a variety of more complex needs.

The Supporting People "Housing Related Support Strategy 2012-2015" identifies a total current provision of 10,300 supported elderly housing units (425 schemes) across Northern Ireland.

New Supply – General Need & Supported Elderly:

The NIHE's current 3 year Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) for Northern Ireland contains the following planned schemes / units exclusively classified for elderly applicants:

Client Group	Schemes	Unit Numbers
General Need Active elderly	5	81
Supported Frail Elderly etc	7	175

In addition to these exclusively elderly schemes, there is also a significant number of 1 & 2 bedroomed general need units programmed within the SHDP. Many of these may also provide suitable accommodation for elderly households. This is in keeping with current policy on providing independent living for as long as possible with care provided in the community. There are a total of just over 3,400 general need one and two bedroomed units either on site or contained on the current 3 year SHDP. (It is not possible to present a specific breakdown on the number of potentially "elderly suitable/level access" general need units on the SHDP).

In addition to the schemes contained on the SHDP, elderly households can be housed by a range of transfers or allocations to suitable existing properties.

Double Glazing Window Replacement Schemes

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development when the outstanding work on the double glazing window replacement scheme will be allocated.

(AQW 25783/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the low rise double glazing procurement is currently subject to a court injunction which has prevented them from proceeding. Work is underway to have the injunction lifted and the Housing Executive is hopeful that this will occur in the next week or so. If the Housing Executive is successful in having the injunction lifted they will proceed with the appointment to the Framework and in turn commence secondary competitions to award contracts as soon as possible. This should allow the programme to recommence during 2013/14.

It is still my intention to make sure that the commitment given in the Programme for Government to have double glazing installed in all Housing Executive properties by 2015 is achieved.

Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development what was the budget allocation for the Boiler Replacement Scheme in the 2012/13 financial year.

(AQW 25802/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The budget allocation for the Boiler Replacement Scheme for the 2012/13 year was £4 million with the overall budget allocation of £12 million over the three years of scheme.

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Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the actual spend on the Boiler Replacement Scheme in the 2012/13 financial year.

(AQW 25804/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The actual spend on the Boiler Replacement Scheme for the 2012/13 financial year was £2.65m. The Department of Finance and Personnel agreed that the remaining £1.35m of the budget for the 2012/13 year could be carried forward to the 2013/14 year as the scheme only commenced mid way through 2012.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the uptake of the Boiler Replacement Scheme among people earning under £20,000 per annum (i) in the 2012/13 financial year; and (ii) from the beginning of the financial year 2013/14 to the end of August 2013.

(AQW 25809/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In the 2012/13 financial year 70% of those applicants who received a boiler replacement grant had an annual household income under £20,000. From the beginning of the 2013/14 to the end of August 2013, 68% of applicants who received a boiler replacement grant had an annual household income of £20,000. This indicates that those most vulnerable to fuel poverty are being helped with the cost of installing a new efficient boiler.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority

Benefit Applicant: Medical Assessments

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development how many medical assessments have been made for each disability benefit in each financial year since 2006/07; and to list the organisations which carried out the assessments.

(AQW 25831/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Year	Employment and Support Allowance*	Industrial Injuries**	Disability Living Allowance***	Attendance Allowance***
2006/07	N/A	N/A	10,150	N/A
2007/08	N/A	N/A	9,713	N/A
2008/09	1,476	N/A	10,404	N/A
2009/10	12,924	1,424	10,619	N/A
2010/11	16,540	1,241	8,054	N/A
2011/12	42,789	1,504	5,808	N/A
2012/13	73,818	1,281	7,530	500

* Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit on 27 October 2008.

** The Department is unable to provide the information requested in relation to Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit prior to 2009/10 due to system limitations.

*** Figures from 2006/07 to 2011/12 include examinations carried out for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance. Information gathered for the majority of this period did not distinguish between Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance examinations. From 2012/13, it is possible to give a complete breakdown of medical examinations carried out for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance.

Since June 2011, medical assessments conducted on behalf of the Department by have been delivered by Atos Healthcare. Prior to this, medical assessments were conducted by the Department's Medical Support Services.

Shankill Lurgan Foyer

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development whether any schemes similar to the Shankill Lurgan Foyer have been subject to a tendering process.

(AQW 25889/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Supporting People grant is not subject to procurement procedure at present and there have been no schemes including Shankill Lurgan Foyer that have been subject to a tendering process.

Capita Business Services

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development on what date did he agree with the Department for Work and Pensions to initiate the tender process for the contract with Capita Business Services; and on what date did he inform the Committee for Social Development of his Department's decision to outsource Personal Independence Payment assessments.

(AQW 25915/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department started to consider the specific procurement options for securing the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Provider in January 2012. On 30 April 2012, I agreed with the recommendation of my officials that my Department would run a joint procurement competition with the Department for Work and Pensions. This procurement competition for a Personal Independence Payment Assessment Service was formally launched on 2 May 2012.

At the 14th May 2012 meeting of the Executive Sub Committee on Welfare Reform, I presented a paper to Executive colleagues which provided an update on the work carried out on the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment. At that meeting I advised Ministerial colleagues that it was important to plan to have a Personal Independence Payment Assessment Provider contract in place for June 2013. I followed this up by writing to each member of the Executive Sub Committee on 6th June 2012 confirming that my Department had joined the procurement competition with the Department for Work and Pensions and setting out the reasons for the decision. I did not separately advise the Social Development Committee of these emerging developments at that time although at evidence sessions of the Social Development Committee, as early as late 2011, officials had made it clear that Personal Independence Payment assessments would be conducted by independent assessors and that my Department was engaged in a procurement exercise with the Department for Work and Pensions to procure an Assessment Provider. On 2 November 2012 my Department issued a press release announcing the award of the contract to Capita Business Services Ltd.

Capita Business Services

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development why his Department has signed a contract with Capita Business Services to provide PIP Assessments before the enacting of the Welfare Reform Bill; and whether his Department is now contractually obliged to pay Capita regardless of whether Personal Independence Payment are introduced as part of the Welfare Reform Bill.

(AQW 25916/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The contract to provide Personal Independence Payment assessments was awarded to Capita Business Services Ltd on 20 November 2012, at which point the Welfare Reform Bill had moved to Committee Stage. The Department's planning assumption at that time was that Personal Independence Payment would be introduced in Northern Ireland on 10 June 2013, the same date as in Great Britain. The award of the contract was necessary to allow Capita Business Services to begin essential preparation and planning to deliver an assessment service for the expected go-live date of 10 June 2013. The key elements of this work were recruiting and training qualified assessors, securing premises and putting in place the necessary ICT and administrative arrangements. The go-live date for the introduction of Personal Independence Payment in Northern Ireland has subsequently slipped as a consequence of delays in the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill. I can however, confirm, that contractual payments for services provided by Capita Business Services Ltd are informed by an exclusively output based financial model which means that Capita will only be paid for assessment reports that are provided when Personal Independence Payment is introduced in Northern Ireland.

Valuation Process for Housing Associations

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the valuation process for Housing Associations that wish to purchase private properties.

(AQW 25933/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Housing Associations who wish to acquire private properties for social housing and apply for Housing Association Grant (HAG) to fund such purchases must obtain a valuation of the property prepared by an independent valuer. The association may employ either the District Valuer, Land & Property Services or an independent qualified valuer.

Any valuation should be based on the valuation and reporting requirements laid down in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) 'Red Book'.

Housing Associations are required to brief the valuer on known conditions or constraints and provide a location plan. A valuation must be no more than 12 months old at the date of execution of the contract

and at the date of Project Approval. The purchase price is negotiated between the purchasing Housing Association and the vendor and must not exceed the value of the property as assessed by the Valuer.

Properties acquired by Housing Associations for social housing are purchased either as:

- Existing Satisfactory Purchases (pre-occupied vacant properties); or
- Off-the-shelf (newly constructed dwellings purchased for first time occupation)

In order to secure Housing Association Grant, Housing Associations are required to submit an Application for Project Approval to the Housing Executive's Development Programme Group. Applications are assessed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Housing Association Guide in terms of design, cost, value for money, and location (social housing need).

Chairman of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development whether there has been a response to the complaint by the Permanent Secretary to the Northern Ireland Office regarding Mr Brian Rowntree's role as Chairman of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners.

(AQW 25959/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Permanent Secretary did not make a complaint to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), however he did draw to their attention a written report by the Internal Audit in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and has been advised that the NIO will consider the report to determine whether or not it has any implications for Mr Rowntree's role as Chairman of the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development whether administrators for the Tenancy Deposit Scheme have been appointed for the Holylands area of Belfast.

(AQW 25996/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Tenancy Deposit Scheme administrators were appointed to operate across Northern Ireland.

All deposits taken in respect of a private tenancy on or after 1 April 2013 must be protected in an approved scheme. Contact details for scheme operators are available on the Departmental website.

Public Realms Work in Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the timetable for the start of the public realms works in Bangor.

(AQW 26016/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Over the past 18 months my Department has been working with representatives from North Down Borough Council, town centre management and the local community to develop a major public realm scheme for Bangor. The works will address all aspects of street design including paving, kerbstones, street furniture, lighting and planting. The total value of the works is estimated to be £8 million, with my Department investing £3 million and Council investing £5 million. A contractor is due to be appointed in December 2013, onsite construction work will start in late March early April 2014 and the scheme will take two years to complete.

Capita Business Services

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) whether the contract with Capita Business Services has commenced; (ii) when the contract ends; (iii) when payments to Capita

Business Services will be made during the contract; and (iv) whether any of the cost of the service provided by Capita Business Services will be met by the Department for Work and Pensions.

(AQW 26036/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) The contract with Capita Business Services Ltd commenced on 20 November 2012;
- (ii) The initial contract period ends on 19 November 2017;
- (iii) Contractual payments will be made only when the service commences. Capita will be paid for completed assessment reports monthly in arrears; and
- (iv) There may be opportunities where development costs associated with a change that jointly affects the service in Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be met by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Running Costs of the Venue

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of the decision to seek a private owner for the Venue in Derry, to outline the current running costs for the Venue, and the projections his Department has made on the future running costs.

(AQW 26272/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department will have invested an estimated £4.8m in the Venue over the lifetime of the project. This figure comprises all initial construction and set up costs, recurrent costs throughout 2013 and the cost of taking the structure down in January 2014.

The recurrent costs covered by the Department include rental of the structure, rates, day-to-day management of the Venue and the basic costs of running the Venue – for example, power and heating and line rental for telephones – when it is not being used for an event. Running costs for the days when the venue is not in use fluctuate depending on the time of year, but they have so far averaged at £5,800 per month. The costs incurred when the Venue is in use are covered by the event promoter. These costs vary quite significantly depending on the nature of the event.

Future running costs of the Venue would depend on whether the Venue is purchased or rented. Subject to planning permission and the agreement of ILEX/OFMDFM who own the site, the cost of renting the Venue at its current location on Ebrington would be £1.45 million per year. In addition to that figure, rates are estimated at £100,000 per year and around £70,000 would be needed to run the structure when no events are being held and a Venue manager would be required. In total, the Department estimates that £1.6 million would be required to retain the Venue on its current site for an additional year. Event related costs would be additional to that.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Restaurant Facilities in Parliament Buildings

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission for an estimate of the amount of money that would be saved if the restaurant facilities in Parliament Buildings were not obliged to remain open for late plenary sittings.

(AQW 25304/11-15)

: I refer to the Assembly question which you tabled for written answer, namely:

To ask the Assembly Commission for an estimate of the amount of money that would be saved if the restaurant facilities in Parliament Buildings were not obliged to remain open for late plenary sittings.

AQW (25304/11-15)

Within the most recent parliamentary session (2012/13), 22 plenary sittings exceeded the standard closing time (7pm) of the one restaurant facility that remains open for late plenary sittings, the Blue Flax restaurant.

The following table provides a breakdown of net income, Gross Profit return to the Northern Ireland Assembly and labour costs beyond 7pm for these occasions:

(a) Net Income	£2,018.13
(b) Gross Profit Return @ 58% of (a)	£1,170.51
(c) Total Labour costs (22 sittings)	£2,708.13
(d) Net Cost (c)-(b)	£1,537.62

Therefore, if this restaurant facility in Parliament Buildings was not required to remain open for late plenary sittings in the 2012/13 session, savings would have amounted to **£1537.62** for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

In December 2010, a briefing paper to the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission on the structure of the “Support Services Contract and Pricing Mechanism” introduced potential opportunities that could result in cost savings. These included the review and reduction of opening hours and subsequent overtime labour costs in several catering outlets that remained open for late plenary sittings. These included the Members’ Dining Room, Brasserie (now defunct), Members’ Bar, Members’ Coffee Lounge and Café Recess.

Following approval by the Commission, from March 2011, only the Blue Flax restaurant remains open for late plenary sittings (30 minutes after the House rises). It is estimated that this has generated savings of approximately £11,000 per annum based on 2010 figures.

Live Feed Application

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission whether it will consider providing a live feed application to enable members of the public to watch a live feed of the Assembly business, via tablets or smart phones, as is available in the Dáil.

(AQW 25429/11-15)

: A business case has been developed to procure a new internet video streaming service that will address the issue of smartphone and tablet compatibility so that the Assembly’s video and/or audio streams can be made accessible on a wider range of devices and platforms. The new service will also increase the number of available feeds from two to three simultaneous live streams capable of carrying video and/or audio.

It is planned that the new service will be in place for the 2014/2015 session. Members will be advised via All Party Notice once the new service is available.

Temporary Hardstanding Area

Mr Wells asked the Assembly Commission if it has given any consideration to permitting the temporary hardstanding area to the rear of Parliament Buildings to be used for parking until building work commences.

(AQW 25655/11-15)

: The temporary contractor’s area to the rear of Parliament Buildings has been created to facilitate the major construction works associated with the roof project without impacting on the existing car parking provision.

Following the completion of the roof project it is planned to use the space created to rationalise and improve our recycling facilities, improve the delivery and access arrangements to the building and to provide some limited additional car parking space.

In the interim period, before the roof project begins, the Commission will give consideration to putting in place temporary arrangements for some of the benefits noted above, including temporary car parking, providing that it can be facilitated in a safe manner.

Promotion of Cycling

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission what plans it has to promote cycling to people based in Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 25779/11-15)

: The Assembly Commission introduced a 'Cycle to Work Scheme' for Assembly Secretariat staff in February 2013 to encourage staff to cycle to work. The uptake on was encouraging with 15 people joining the scheme and it will run annually with new applications accepted during February and March.

In addition to this, Building Services Branch has actively promoted the annual '10 Minute Cycle Challenge' and 'Active Belfast Workplace Cycle Challenge' to all building users.

Further information on cycling is available to all staff via the Sustainable Development Office page on the Assembly intranet, AsslSt.

Cycling Parking Provision

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission if there are any plans to increase the cycling parking provision within Parliament Buildings car parks.

(AQW 25781/11-15)

: Currently there is cycle parking provision located in the Lower East car park and recently a bicycle rack was installed along the back wall of Parliament Buildings in the upper car park.

In addition to this there are numerous cycle parks throughout the Stormont estate to encourage all estate users to cycle to work as part of the sustainable travel plan.

Consideration will be given to increasing the cycle parking provision in the upper car parks, following completion of the roof project.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 27 September 2013

(AQW 25857/11-15)

Registered entitlement to Free School Meals is a key indicator used within the Common Funding Formula to distribute additional funding to schools' delegated budgets under the Targeting Social Need (TSN) factor. In the current financial year almost £60.7 million was distributed to schools under the TSN factor, of which £44.2m used free school meal entitlements as an indicator – in full or in part – of social deprivation and additional need.

The level of funding per child with a registered entitlement that is distributed to schools will vary, due to the progressive weighting applied under the main element of social deprivation funding within the funding formula, as well as the phase of education.

For a nursery-age pupil, funding per pupil ranges from approximately £670 to £1,340, averaging around £755 per pupil. For a primary-age pupil, funding per pupil ranges from approximately £340 to £680, averaging around £605 per pupil*. For a post-primary age pupil funding per pupil ranges from approximately £380 to £760, averaging around £440 per pupil.

Note * primary-age funding includes both weighted funding under the social deprivation element and a flat rate of £210 per pupil under the educational under-achievement element.

As I announced in June, I am making £30million of additional funding available, over the next two years, to target support for pupils and schools; to break the link between social deprivation and low educational outcomes. I have also announced an extension to the free school meals eligibility criteria that will see, by September 2014, an additional 15,000 children entitled to free school meals and support with uniform costs.

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